A Peep to the Present and the Future :
Soliloquy in Librarianship

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Libray Movement is a social movement. It seeks to raise the general level of the life of the people as a whole by raising their standard of living through societal institutions(s)/ organisation(s). Library movement seeks to work through the mind. It emphasises that a prior cultivation of mind is necessary for physical, intellectual and social betterment. Library movement differs from the activities of formal education at school, college or university which are well known means of feeding the mind. Library movement does not require the pleasure of a teacher. It leads to the growth of mind through "self-education". "Strong determination" and "Tremendous Cultivation" of mind for ahieving major objectives of the society is essential to help the society move ahead in good stead. As new technological development is applied, it has its impact on libraries and information units, whether it is of direct application such as the development of more rapid communications by high speed telecommunication networks or less direct efforts, the library system acts on the way in which the users react. Libraries, being major elements in the chain of information flow are usually more affected than effecting in

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relation of these changes. Apart from changed education environment, the library infrastructure has also undergone a change. The convergence of telecummunication and computer technologies in the contest of libraries has been the product of continual development rather than a sudden movement. The networking of libraries has now given rise to information networks, information databases and information infrastructure. The information environment has changed the infrasturucture, the scope, the services and the goal of a library. The whole world is working today towards a Global Information Infrastructure.

Library movement has, therefore, to be a productive movement for generation, storage, processing and handling of information, through databases linked nationally and internationally. We cannot ignore the large scale networks and their impact on libraries.

Prof. P.N. Kaula who is an outstanding international Library and Information Scientist and the sign-qua-non in the entire Information Profession of the world today and present President of Indian Library Association is the rarest of the rare few of the whole world and on whose honour this International Special Number of the *Indian Journal of Information, Library and Society (IJILIS)* is being devoted; ventured to lament the contribution of this information giant with a peep to soliloquy in Librarianship and with a hope that motive force in Library, and Information Scientist would lead to change with the changing environment of the society.

The ways of knowing can be cross-classified with system components, so that kinds of research objectives are set forth which are logically adquate in the discourse of library and information science. Table 1 illustrates the resulting classes of discourse objectives and how these relate to system components. It also marks off the possible domain of research problems logically presentable as the subject matter of library and information science (1).

TABLE 1

Classes of research objectives in the discourse of library and information science

Ways of knowing	Librarian	System Components Reproduced Symbolic culture	User	Setting	Negasystem Society
	(L)	(C)	(U)	(S)	(Y)
Scientific (Sc)	ScL	ScC	ScU	ScS	ScY
Philosophical (Ph)	PhL	PhC	PhU	PhS	PhY
Praxiological (Pr)	PrL	PrC	PrU	PrS	PrY
Qualitative (Q)	QL	QC	QU	QS	QY
Performative (Pf)	PfL	PfC	PfU	PfS	PfY

No doubt the IJILIS has distinct scope to embrace all aspects of 'system component' confining to library, and 'negasystem' dealing with surrounding.

It is not a criticism if it is said that most of the Indian librarians are adict to 'system component'. Some of the librarians may proclaim it as their 'strength' but we recognise it as their 'weakness'. We wish, we were truly ADDICT (Analysis, Design, Develop, Implement, Control, and Test).

If "Failure is the mother of success (−Hideki Yukawa), it depends on how long we remain in confinement. Success will not shower on you unless you get alienated from your dear mother (failures). Indian librarians are great lovers of this mother (Oedipus complex), that is the very reason why non-librarians are daring to occupy top positions in librarianship. Librarians are being reduced to only one of the components of the 'Megamedia', which may also be discarded in due course to run the stystem most effectively and efficiently. In U.S.A. libraries are being merged with 'multi-media centres' ! And we are well known for imitating.

Major reasons why dinosaurs became extinct were that they could not cope-up with and adapt to the fast changing environment, were engaged in infightings and inbreedings. Hence, our adaptability to globalisation, liberalisation,

privatisation, professionalisation, vocationalisation, visualisation, conceptualisation, actualisation, dramatisation, etc. would only decide whether we will escape the threat of catastrophe by camouflaging and by evolving or accept extinction most peacefully. Are we suffering from death instinct ?

Some of our friends criticise the great Dr. S.R. Ranganathan also, that he had unnecessarily set vary high standards because even with very low standards their colleagues in other departments were on par with them or were even ahead of them by the criteria of payscales and facilities. We would say Ranganathan was aware that librarians would get extinct if they do not break the boundaries of library buildings. He wanted librarians to be intellectual leaders of society. We so called followers have woven more and more stronger silken threads around the cocoons of librarianship probably to safeguard ourselves, but unless we moult, tear it off, and get out of it we can not be visible and appreciated nor we will be able to prepare for next generation. We will die anonymously, a premature death. Cocoons will be used to draw the beautiful silken thread by someone else capable of doing so. In other words your unquestionable capability in your own subject alone is not sufficient today. Why librarians are not being consulted for the actions that are directly affecting librarianship ? The only well known reasons are the passive behaviour of librarians themselves, and in most cases their inferiority complex, their perseverance of non-controversial nature, their inaction in use of their expertise to take independent decisions, their complacent nature, their playing safe attitude, fear to become famous, lack of leadership qualities, and lack of daring to be in forefront, etc. Can you think of updating curriculum to the challenging needs of the 21st century ?

Our success lies in getting symbiotically integrated actively as current, comprehensive information component into the strategies to solve macro-objectives of comtemporary national problems :

- scientific temper,
- control of population,
- need for increased food production,
- protection of the environment,

- improving human health,
- control of hyper-urbanisation,
- reducing unemployment,
- literacy mission,
- AIDS prevention and counselling, etc.

Scope is wide and action needs determination to be helpful to every child to a person on death bed. "He who cannot see that which he finds shall never find that which he seeks." – **Simon Roman**. Librarians should use multi-media approach, do'Action research' and design 'intervention programmes'. Librarians have to act as active social change agents through active transmission of knowledge. It is high time that librarians should show their solidarity and demand for reserved constituencies for librairans. As far as we know, only one Librarian Mr. Saheb Singh Verma, the former Education Minister and present Chief Minister of Delhi State has entered successfully into politics. In domocracy, politics is the instrument to represent problems and solve problems. Hence, librarians should not have phobia for election process. You like it or not this is one of the best ways to gain popularity, visibility and public recognition. Time is now or never. "You may be disappointed if you fail but you are doomed if you don't try" – **Beverly Sills.**

Why Prof. S.R. Ranganathan and Prof. P.N. Kaula can be counted among the top librarians that our country could produce ? We would say country does not produce anything ! They were successful because they had broken the barriers of : academic disciplines, institutional bindings, politico-geographical borders, and dedicated their life for a cause. Every success depends mainly on individual (s). The enorts, the sacrifices, the courage, the ambitions, the wildest possible imaginations, the highest risk taking behaviour, etc. Revised **Terman's Law** : "If you want a track team to win the high jump you find one person who can jump seven feet, not seven people from different disciplines who can jump one foot." (2). Hence Indian librarianship today is in search of "The Lonely Wolf" (3, Fig.1).

There is no dearth of them in India. What is needed is actively support them by all possible moral and professional means so that they can achieve their latent potentials to become Bibliogiants and Librigiants. For those who are dwarfs at

present, also have a responsibility and role of supporting them in various combinations while supporting each other. Dwarfs of today may be Giants of tomorrow. Hence, Giants also have the
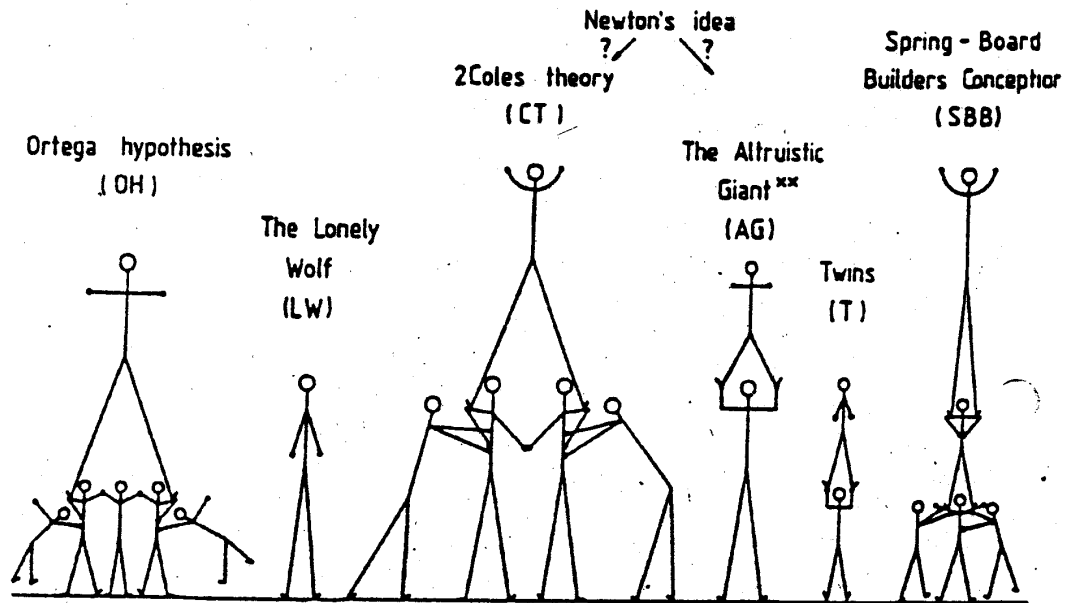

Fig. 1 Possible configurations of the dwarf-giant combinations

(Height of dwarfs is taken as half of that of giants)

responsibility to nurture todays dwarfs so as to develope future human resources who should be more competent than themselves. Let us accept integrated synergisic approach for the symphony of 'Libri-era'.

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