

Vol III Issue X April 2014

ISSN No :2231-5063

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# International Multidisciplinary Research Journal

## *Golden Research Thoughts*

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**RNI MAHMUL/2011/38595**

**ISSN No.2231-5063**

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## **GRT** LIBRARY COUNCIL OF INDIA (LCI): A PROPOSAL

**Jomy Jose**

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**Abstract:**-Library Council of India (LCI) is a conceptual idea with a view to improve the quality of library and information science professionals in India. This proposal plan is for the promotion and development library and information science profession in India.

**Keywords:** Libray Council Of India, Proposal, LCI

### **INTRODUCTION :-**

In the era of information, technology and information explosion, library professionals have played an important role in providing unhindered access to substantial quantities of information. This has been to individuals, organizations, and societies.

LIS profession comes under the service sector as LIS professionals are service oriented people. The 21st century library expert needs to acquire the necessary skills to manage libraries and information centers by means of the most recent technologies.

Subsequently, in order to improve the quality of library and information science as a profession, an authority at the national level is required. A Library Council of India is such an initiative for the better development of library science as a profession in India.

### **DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS**

Merriam Webster dictionary defines a Council as a group of people who are chosen to make rules, laws, or decisions about something.

As said by S.R Ranganathan, the famous mathematician cum librarian, a library as a public institution or an establishment, is charged with the care of a collection of books, the duty of making them accessible to those who require the use of them and the task of converting every person in its neighborhood into habitual library goers and readers of books.

So Library Council of India is aimed to be a professional body with certain statutory powers that does the same by promoting the library system in India by maintaining world class quality in LIS field.

### **SOME SIMILAR AUTHORITIES IN INDIA**

Some of the famous bodies of council which promote their respective professions are listed below:

**Medical Council of India:** The main functions of the Medical Council of India are:  
Establishing uniform standards of higher qualifications in medicine  
Recognition of medical qualifications in India and abroad

Established in 1934, under the Indian Medical Council Act of 1933 it has been actively functioning to promote health care in India.

**Institute of Chartered Accountants of India:** The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India was established under the Chartered Accountants Act, of 1949. It was passed by the Parliament of India with the sole objective of regulating accountancy profession in India.

**Bar Council of India:** The Bar Council of India, established by Parliament under the Advocates Act of 1961 is a statutory to regulate and represent the Indian bar. Advocating for the rights and regulating the working of professionals in the

same arena, the Bar council has become synonymous and indispensable to the justice catering system in India.

Indian Nursing Council is a national regulatory body for nurses and nursing education in India. Simply famous as the INC the autonomous body working under the Government of India, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, has changed the face of nursing in India. The impact has been great enough to take a traditionally shunned profession like nursing to the status of a globally sought after profession throughout the country.

#### **NEED FOR A LIBRARY COUNCIL OF INDIA (LCI)**

The library professionals in India are scattered both in the context of geography and qualifications. Coordination between these scattered library and information professionals is only possible through a National Level Council. The body will be able to generate ample opportunities to the profession and professionals. Below are listed some of the needs for establishing a Library Council of India (LCI).

Establishment and maintenance of standards for Library and Information Science education and LIS profession  
Improving the professional status of library staffs  
Recognition of foreign Library and Information Science qualifications in India.  
Accreditation of Library and Information Science Schools and Departments in India  
Registration of librarians with qualifications recognized by the body  
Better remuneration for Library staffs working in public and private firms  
Affiliations of various State and National Library associations  
Co-ordination of library information science activities in India  
Sharing of information, resources, services through an integrated network

#### **MAJOR FUNCTIONS OF LIBRARY COUNCIL OF INDIA (LCI)**

A partial list of the functions of Library Council of India (LCI) should be as follows:

To prescribe standards of professional conduct and etiquette  
To exercising disciplinary jurisdiction against unwanted members  
To sets standards for LIS education  
To grants recognitions to Universities, the degrees conferred by which will serve as qualification for enrollment as Library professionals  
To transform the public library networks through qualified librarians  
To promote research, development and innovation in information technology, information science, library science etc.  
To approve registration of Indian and Foreign Library professionals possessing a foreign qualification.  
To regulate the training programmes in the LIS field  
To advise the Central Governments and State Governments in various important items regarding LIS Education in the Country.  
To withdraw the recognition of affiliation in case an institution fails to maintain standards recognized by LCI for the training library professionals or according to the requirements of the Council.

#### **REQUIREMENTS FOR A LIBRARY COUNCIL OF INDIA (LCI)**

##### **1. A national act by Central government of India:**

An act will have to be passed by the Government of India for the establishment of LCI. The act should define all key terms and also include the rights, duties and powers, major functions, jurisdiction etc. of the envisioned body.

##### **2. A statutory body of members/ Governing Council:**

A group of eminent personalities, experts from different academia, information technology experts, researchers in LIS field, librarians, government officials will constitute the panel of members that co ordinate the entire activities of the Library Council of India (LCI).

#### **A SAMPLE ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE OF LIBRARY COUNCIL OF INDIA (LCI)**

##### **a) Office Bearers:**

President  
Vice-President  
Secretary  
Joint - Secretary

Deputy – Secretary

**b) Administrative staff**

Office staffs  
Accounts staffs

**c) System Administration**

Network administrator  
Web designer

**3. Central, regional, state office(s) or chapters**

Library Council of India (LCI) will necessitate a central head office and regional, state wise or chapters for decentralization of its functions throughout India.

**4. Committees:**

Effective functioning of Library Council of India (LCI) will require a few committees. Below are listed some important ones with their major functions and responsibilities.

Executive Committee of the Council- To deliberate on the issues related to maintenance of standards of LIS education programs.

Education Committee- To handle the issues concerned mainly with LIS education and policy matters concerning to LIS education.

Equivalence Committee – To deliberate on the issues of recognition of foreign qualifications for the purpose of registration

Finance Committee- To handle the financial aspects of LCI

Vigilance Committee – For inspection of LIS schools standards and maintaining a corruption less environment in the working of the LIS

Accreditation committee – To give accreditation to libraries; and LIS schools and departments.

Various sub-committees constituted by the LCI from time to time for revision of various functions and programmes

**5. Membership:** Members of the Library Council of India (LCI) will be known as certified librarians. Becoming a member of LCI will require passing the prescribed examination(s) and a basic master's degree in library science from a UGC approved college/university from India or abroad with minimum 60 % marks in aggregate.

A member of Library Council of India (LCI) can use the title A.C.L.P or F.C.L.P after his name (Eg: Name, Qualifications, ACLP)

**Two type of members based on qualifications and experience**

Associate Chartered Librarian Professional (A.C.L.P.)

Fellow Chartered Librarian Professional (F.C.L.P)

**6. Rules and regulations:** It will include a library and information professional's conduct and etiquette, disciplinary actions, jurisdiction etc.

**7. Professional ethics code:** A written ethics code for all professional librarians should be prepared. LIS Professional ethics code will include some generally and professionally accepted standards for personal and professional behavior; values and guiding principles related to the library and information science field. Professional ethics code will preserve the integrity of the profession by including certain disciplinary codes also. Professional ethics code will aim to maintain the general public's trust in the library and information science vocation, and encourage the public to continue seeking their services.

**8. Website for sharing information:** A general website will be required to dispense information to the public and LIS professionals specially those relating to the working of the body.

**9. Directory of all registered librarians in India:** A directory of all registered librarians in India will need to be maintained which includes name, address, contact phone number, email id, designation, educational qualifications, number of publications, number of conference papers submitted, other achievements etc.

## CONCLUSION

To summarize the library council of India (LCI) should be able to coordinate the activities and standardize library promotion in India. This proposal is to give a basic idea about the establishment of Library Council of India (LCI) and its need in very simple way. As the profession has been long overlooked in India it's high time that the law and policy makers in India rethink and devise sufficient measures necessary for the upliftment of library and information science education, profession and libraries in India.

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