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NOMENCLATURE FOR LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE EDUCATION: AN ANALYTICAL STUDY

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ABSTRACT

This article aims to discuss the nomenclature used for LIS discipline in India and some of the selected countries of the world such as USA, UK and China. The Library profession in initially stage was known as Librarianship but due to the impact of ICT on LIS education has changed its traditional nomenclature. Due to globalization of information global attention received to LIS education in the world. LIS education emphasis on 'libraries and librarianship' to 'information'. Presently using 'Library Science' or 'Library and Information Sciences' as the subject titles in Indian universities/institute. Most Indian Universities have changed the nomenclatures of their Library Science Departments to 'Library and Information Science Departments' without giving adequate representation to information science components in the curricula of various courses run by them.

KEYWORDS:*Library and Information Science Education, LIS Nomenclature, LIS Curricula, LIS course*

Contents.

1.INTRODUCTION

Library and Information Science profession traditionally was known as Librarianship but due to impact of ICT and Management have a major impact on the development of the LIS education as a discipline and its changed nomenclature. The nomenclature of LIS education is directly and indirectly affected by the discipline of Information Technology. Library science was traditionally placed under Social Sciences, but presently it is included in the pure sciences, Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences etc. In the decade 1970s Library Science had changed its nomenclature to Library and Information Sciences. The professional status and education programme received global attention because of globalization of information. It also changed its philosophy and focus from 'preservation for posterity' to 'Books are for use', and finally to 'Global access to information/knowledge' (UGC Model Curriculum, 2001: 76-78). Library and Information Science developed into a full-fledged profession developing with its fundamental theories, philosophies and practices. Library science is

concerned with how knowledge is represented, stored through technology, how it automatically processes through artificial intelligence, and how it is organized outside the library in the globally spread system through internet.

2. NOMENCLATURE USES FOR LIS SCHOOLS IN USA

In United States of America most of LIS Schools used "Library and information science", "Library and Information studies" and "Information" nomenclature to their LIS institutions. Alimohammadi (2007) conducted a study of 56 LIS schools in USA regarding naming of LIS Schools, he found that in USA nineteen LIS Schools were used "Library and information science/s", 11 used "Library and Information studies", 5 each used Information, Information Studies, 3 each used "Information and Library Science", "Communication", "Information Sciences" and remaining used single nomenclature such as "Information and Library Studies", "Informatics", "Information and Computer Sciences", "Information and Media Studies", "Information Management", "Information Resources and Library Science", "Information Science and Learning Technologies", "Library and Information Management" and "Library Science".

3. NOMENCLATURE USES FOR LIS SCHOOLS IN UK

Full time undergraduate courses in Librarianship in the UK, have decreased with only four, graduate &16 masters degree programme with four having 'Library' as part of their title. In United Kingdam most of LIS Schools used "Information Studies", "Information Management" and "Information Science" nomenclature to their LIS institutions. Alimohammadi (2007) states that out of 14 LIS schools in UK three used nomenclature like "Information studies" 2 used "Information Management" and "Information Science each and remaining single naming used like "Information", "Computer and Information Sciences", "Computing", "Information and Library Management", "Information and Communication Studies", "Information and Communications" and "Information and Media".

4. NOMENCLATURE USES FOR LIS SCHOOLS IN CHINA

The move for renaming of library schools was initiated in China where some supported it while others opposed it. The definition of the library sciences has been an unresolved problem since long with the coming of the information age, it was believed that libraries would be coming to an end and library science would virtually disappear. However, this viewpoint was criticized severely by many librarians and others because renaming was only in form what is required is changing the educational content. This is also because the educational objectives of library schools in training professionals for the information industry, not just for libraries (Chu, 2001). In 1998 the Chinese Ministry of Education issued a course catalogues in which new title mentioned as "Information Management and Information Systems". This new specialty was formed with the merging of five formerly separated specialties, namely, economic information management, information studies, scientific information, management information systems and forestry information management (Chu, 2001a, b).

5. NOMENCLATURE USES FOR LIS DEPARTMENTS IN INDIA

A study conducted on "Design and development of model library and information science curricula to meet the manpower needs of emerging digital era" by Joginder Singh (2015) found that out of 32 LIS Schools in North India, most of the LIS Schools are following the nomenclature "Library and Information Science" for their Librarianship course. There was a gradual shift in emphasis from "libraries and librarianship" to "information" (Bell, 2002). According to Alimohammadi (2007) India has till now used Library Science or Library and Information Sciences as the subject titles. Out of 75 LIS schools 60 used "Library and Information Science", 8 used "Library Science" 4 used "Information Science" and remaining used "Computer and Information Sciences", "Documentation and Information Science" and "Library

Automation and Networking" to their LIS course.

6. 'KNOWLEDGE SCIENCE' NOMENCLATURE RECOMMENDED FOR 'LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE' DISCIPLINE

The International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (1991) conducted a study on the image and status of librarians. The study found that profession of librarians suffered from low status. They have suggested that a new title should be given to the LIS profession to give it a facelift and librarianship does not solve the problem completely (Prins & De Gier, 1992). Ebrami (1997) proposed the idea of "knowledge science" for the first time in his book, 'Understanding Knowledge Science'. He provided a well-structured and detailed discussion about the history and function of the library as the repository of human knowledge and as a communication tool. He argued that "library and information sciences" should be renamed as "knowledge science", because librarians are in fact manipulating knowledge which is the concomitant product of information processing in the form of information careers, and not just information".

7. LIS COURSE CHANGED NOMENCLATURE BUT UNCHANGED COURSE CONTENTS

"Most Indian Universities have changed the names of their Library Science Departments to Library and Information Science Departments without giving adequate representation to information science components in the curricula of various courses run by them and without ensuring adequate infrastructural facilities to adequately support the programme" Singh, 1997: 207). Library school's course descriptions and course titles of LIS do not necessarily reflect much of what happens in a course. Main emphasis was laid on the subject's traditional aspects. Most of courses were designated as Library and Information Science, there is little or no element of information science in these programme. The course contents are also not reflecting anything of the emerging employment opportunities in the corporate sector. The emerging themes, such as information literacy, knowledge management, e-learning, ICT applications, use of networks in teaching, and teaching about networks have not been adequately integrated in the curricula. In fact there is lack of consistency between LIS education and Practice Industry" (Singh & Wijetunge, 2006).

8. CONCLUSION

The renaming movement of library schools were initiated in many countries of the world where some supported it and some of them not supported it. In this study concluded that most of the countries were used common nomenclature for modern LIS courses such as "Library and Information Science", "Information Science", "Information Management", "Knowledge Management", "Information Studies", "Computer & Information sciences", "Knowledge Science", "Information & Library Studies", "Library & Information Management" and "Information & Communication Sciences".

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