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International Book Year.

Silver Jubilee of India's Political Freedom, 1972.

Thought on the Year.

(International-Book-Year 1972 series. 1)

S R Ranganathan, *National Research Professor in Library Science, and Honorary Professor, Documentation Research and Training Centre, Bangalore 3.*

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0 A Good Augury

It is a good augury that the year 1972, the year of the Silver Jubilee of our attaining political freedom has been chosen by Unesco, as the International Book Year. Till now our rate of advance in library development has been at a crawling speed. In 1972, we should all, collectively and individually, think out all methods of speeding up of library development in our Mother land. We should reach its very height, before our Golden Jubilee — even much before that. This paper contains some thoughts on the subject. Not a day of 1972 should pass without each of our citizens being made to think of reaching the ideal of Free Book Service for All.

1 Call of Democracy

11 FREE BOOK SERVICE FOR ALL

“The General Conference of Unesco, at its 16th Session on 9 November 1970, decided by acclamation to proclaim International Book Year in 1972”. India should wholeheartedly celebrate 1972, the International Book Year. Free Book Service for All is an idea of the present century. It is a corollary of the principle of democracy, now accepted all over the world. Democracy insists on each citizen having free access to books in the measure of his needs. It goes further and appeals to every citizen to press this right of his. Because, access to the latest and correct knowledge and information being given to every citizen is necessary to make democracy safe. Correct knowledge and information being made available to every citizen of each country about each of the other countries in the world, is necessary to ensure international understanding and peace and the realisation in due course of the idea of “One-World”. This is as necessary as in countries that have been lying in a state of cultural rest and sleep during the last few centuries, as it is in the countries that have been keeping themselves wakeful and active during these centuries.

12 EARLY RESPONSE OF INDIA

121 *Baroda*

Even about half a century before India emerged from her rest-phase and attained political freedom, the late Sayaji Rao, Gaekwad of Baroda, signified India's response to the call of democracy. He introduced Free Book Service for All in his own State, through stationary and travelling libraries. He also provided for the publication of books in the languages of his State.

122 *Andhra Desa*

This act of the Maharaja stimulated the Andhras to take up state-wide propaganda, for the establishment of a library in

each locality. It may be of interest to state here that Mr V V Giri, our present President, built up a library for his contemporary students, even when he himself was a student. This library has now become the Municipal Library of his hometown.

123 *The Punjab of Undivided India*

Further, in the undivided India of 40 years ago, the Foreman Christian College of Lahore, energised the Punjab University Library and promoted the establishment of a short term School for teaching library routine.

124 *The Composite State of Madras*

On its establishment in 1928, the Madras Library Association took up intensive district and taluk to taluk public relation work over the entire area of the then undivided Madras, and made the people library conscious and urged them to ask for library legislation.

13 BEGINNING OF LIBRARY LEGISLATION

131 *Model Library Act*

In 1930, in my double capacity as Secretary of the Madras Library Association and as Secretary of the Library Service Section of the first All Asia Educational Conference held at Banaras, I presented a Model Public Library Act. This was generally approved and communicated to all the provinces of India for action.

132 *Unfruitful Attempt in Bengal*

Kumar Munindra Deb Rai Mahasai was the first to act on this communication. In 1930 itself he made me adapt the Model Act to the conditions of Bengal in the form of a Library Bill. He gave notice of its introduction into the Bengal Legislature; but the Governor-General disallowed it — presumably on the ground of the Bill containing compulsory financial clauses. It is a pity that even in 1972, Bengal has not achieved Library Legislation.

133 *Unfruitful Attempt in Composite Madras*

Learning from this experience, after changing the "shall" into "may", Basheer Ahmed Sayeed introduced a similar Bill into the Madras Legislature, but the Government opposed it in different ways.

2 Provision of Public Libraries

21 THE SOUTHERN STATES ALREADY UNDER LIBRARY ACTS

At the dawn of our Independence, thanks to the then

Education Minister, Avinasingam, the Madras Public Libraries Act (1948) was placed on the Statute Book. This Act was taken over by the Andhra State as soon as it was separated from Tamil Nadu. By an amended act, it extended it to all the new territories brought together under the name Andhra Pradesh. Opportunity was taken of this to remove some of the defects of the Madras Act. It is hoped that Tamil Nadu also will amend the Act during the International Book Year 1972. I had already, in 1962, furnished the Government of Madras with a set of important amendments. I shall be glad to re-examine them and bring them more up to date if the people and Government of Tamil Nadu so desire. Mysore and Maharashtra States have also their respective Library Acts. Kerala would have had it even in 1958, but for the unfortunate frequent political vicissitudes in the State. However, the Districts of Malabar area are having the Madras Library Act functioning in them.

22 APPEAL TO THE OTHER STATES

The International Book Year 1972, should stimulate each of the other States of India to have their respective Public Libraries Acts. In this, the Library Associations, the Local Bodies, the Educational Institutions, and the public at large should carry on incessant promotion work throughout 1972, for a Library Act. The respective Governments too should honour the International Book Year 1972, by putting a Library Act on their respective Statute Books.

23 APPEAL TO THE UNION GOVERNMENT

Further, the Union Government should have a Library Act providing for the establishment of a National Central Library, for each of the main groups of subjects — such as Social Sciences, Humanities, Pure Sciences and each group of Applied Sciences such as Engineering and Technology, Agriculture and Forestry, and Medical Sciences. The Union Act should also provide for the establishment of a National Copyright Deposit Library, and a Dormitory Library for outmoded books discarded by service libraries but needing preservation in the country, for the benefit of the few bibliophilic and historical research workers of the country.

3 Provision of Other Kinds of Libraries

31 ACADEMIC LIBRARIES

Twenty-five years form a long enough period of political freedom, to provide for the stepping up of our educational system, from the state of cramming centres to that of creative centres. Creative education cannot be merely teacher-centred or text-

book-centred. It can only be student-centred and library-centred. Implication: The schools in each neighbourhood should have a common central library which can circulate new books to the schools from time to time. This should be in addition to a small permanent collection of oft-needed classics and reference books in each school. Colleges should have, in addition to important reference books and classics, a large collection of a variety of text-books and treatises on all the subjects studied in the college. Each university library should be rich in advanced books, reference books and learned periodicals, in the subjects of study. Their standards should meet not only the requirements of undergraduates and post-graduates, but also those of research students and professors. Within the International Book Year 1972, each State Library Association and each State Government should take measures for the provision of such an Academic Library System.

32 SPECIALIST LIBRARIES

Today, India is getting fast industrialised. Its commodities cannot stand competition with those of other countries, unless our industries are based on research of our own, in order to design new know-hows, new kinds of commodities and new raw materials made out of natural materials. Any kind of wastage in our research potential should be minimised by avoiding repetition of any investigation already done elsewhere in the world. To ensure such conservation of our research potential, our industrial research workers should be fed, even unasked, with all the latest results of research done anywhere in the world and published. The Library Association of each State should use the International Book Year 1972, in educating or in persuading the industries in their respective areas, to establish their own specialist libraries.

33 DUTY OF PUBLIC LIBRARIES TO INDUSTRIES

In this connection, the public libraries also have a duty, in the localities with a concentration of small and medium industries. Our public library system should establish a Branch Library in each such locality catering to the needs of the industries concerned — a specialist-library-in-little. For, it is uneconomical and impracticable for small and medium industries to maintain libraries of their own, as the large industries can. In each State with a statutory public library system such library service to small and medium industries should be started in the International Book Year 1972.

4 Making Books Work

41 REFERENCE SERVICE TO READERS

Books are mute; they are immobile; and they cannot

shout to the readers, as it were, "I am the book you want. Please come and read me". Therefore, provision of books is only half the battle. To make the books work, human canvassers and interpreters are necessary. These are called Reference Librarians. Their service is called Reference Service. But unfortunately, not even 10 percent of our libraries now appear to provide adequately for this service. In the International Book Year 1972, all our libraries should, without any hesitation, establish Reference Service. For every 50 serious active seekers of new knowledge and information in a day, the library should provide one Reference Librarian. I did this in the Madras University Library, by providing a band of five devoted, enthusiastic, well-informed graduates as Reference Librarians. This paid a high dividend, in the spread of knowledge and information of the right kind among the students and in the promotion of research. In due course of time, it also produced library consciousness throughout India.

42 OPEN ACCESS

Reference Service is a misnomer in a library with its books locked up in book cases or in the stack room and being produced to a reader only on demand. He can only ask for books about which he had heard already. How in the world can he know what books exist in his exact field of interest, unless he can walk along side the books in the stack room, with freedom to pull out and dip into any book, until he gets what would satisfy his interest at the moment. This means that the locks of the stack room and of the book cases, and the doors themselves of the book cases should be auctioned away. Then alone the readers can go, see, touch and pull out books as they like. This is 'Open Access'. It is only in Open Access libraries that a Reference Librarian can function. It is only there, that he can discuss the book needs of readers in the very presence of the books. Indeed, this trilogue between the Reference Librarian, the Reader, and the books is essential to make the books work. Open Access no doubt needs some safeguards in the library building. These are described in some of my books; and specification for them is given in the "Code of practice relating to primary elements in the design of library buildings, IS: 1553-1960" by the Indian Standards Institution. The Authorities of libraries without Open Access should make it a point to convert their libraries into Open Access ones within the International Book Year 1972.

43 DOCUMENTATION SERVICE AND DOCUMENTATION WORK

The Reference Service done in a specialist library is denoted by the term 'Documentation Service'. Similarly, the cataloguing

work done in it is denoted by the term 'Documentation Work'. Industrial libraries cannot do their work without Documentation Service and Documentation Work. To increase the efficiency of our industries, Documentation Work and Documentation Service should be started immediately. To make our other research centres — be it civil or defence — also do their best, Documentation Work and Documentation Service should be immediately started in them. All these should be done within the International Book Year 1972. In anticipation of this need, the Documentation Research and Training Centre (DRTC) was started in 1962, in Bangalore. Its research output already amounts to 500 articles and about one hundred Schedules for the Depth Classification needed in research libraries of all kinds including the industrial ones. The value of the work of the DRTC has been appreciated by the Chairman of the Classification Research Group of the International Federation for Documentation in the words that the DRTC is a research centre not merely for India, not merely for Asia, but for the whole world. It is gratifying that within ten years, a few of our industries are already approaching DRTC for help. Sufficient public relation work should be done in this matter by each State Library Association so that, most of the industrial libraries of India prepare themselves within the International Book Year 1972, to take the help of DRTC in this respect in due course in succession at the rate of about half a dozen in a year.

5 Production of Books

51 HANDICAP 1 IN INDIA

Due to a few centuries of rest-phase, and cultural sleep the Indian languages have not been much used to express new ideas. These languages stand disabled. They do not have a technical terminology for each subject. During the International Book Year 1972, each of our linguistic regions, should think seriously of this problem. Mere political decision that all teaching should be done in schools, colleges, and universities, in the language of the region will not meet the situation. It would only amount to playing with and upon the emotions of the people. The long range result of this will be disastrous leading to the self-deception of one and all. This technical problem requires to be handled by far-sighted statesmen. Any short-sighted policy motivated by immediate political advantage is sure to lead to failure and defeat the whole purpose.

52 HANDICAP 2 IN INDIA

To revive any Indian language and to make it fit to express advanced and new ideas, a long range programme should be

adopted by our statesmen. Due to historical causes, our thinkers of today, think mostly in English. They also express themselves in English. A specialised idea and the technical term denoting it are unique in their relation as Kalidasa has emphasised. Thought and language are indivisible. Therefore, we cannot create technical terminology through a committee of experts, voting for this word or that word, for adoption as technical terminology. The only way is for an advanced thinker to think in the regional language and then only the correct technical terms will emerge. The first "Committee-method" was tried in the 1920's. It died a natural death in a few years. Thirty years later, an attempt was made to coin technical terms in Hindi by translating the corresponding technical terms in English with the help of a dictionary. This too ended in an equal failure.

53 ONE POSSIBLE METHOD

We have to remember that even the best of our intellects went only into administrative service for nearly a century and did precious little by way of original thinking. The first step should therefore be to give a chance to some of our best intellects, to do original thinking in English, the language in which they are trained to think. In due course, this will create a large number of original thinkers in our country. The current renaissance of our country is producing many young men with intrinsic ability to create, express, and handle new ideas. They should be helped to think and express in English, the language in which they are trained to think in the first instance. The books produced by them should be published within the country. They should not be suppressed by a policy of importing foreign books or providing all the necessary facilities for the foreign books to be reprinted here and not giving similar facilities to allow our own publishing trade to tap the new brains of India. If this fatal policy is abandoned, in about a generation, we shall have plenty of original thinkers among us. By that time real social pressure would develop for such books to be done into our own languages. As a consequence, the original thinkers will for some time express themselves both in English and in their mother tongue. The natural practice of this for a few years will revive our languages and enrich them with technical terminology.

54 DIFFERENTIAL IMPLEMENTATION

In the above sections, six lines of action have been put up for consideration during the International Book Year 1972. These are:—

1 Establishment of a Nation-wide Public Library System with the aid of Library Legislation;

- 2 The establishment of Academic Libraries of all standards;
- 3 The establishment of Specialist Libraries for each of the diverse industries;
- 4 The establishment of adequate Reference Service in all libraries;
- 5 Open access; and
- 6 Production of books of all standards in all the subjects in Indian languages.

Of these six activities, 1 to 5 can start being implemented within 1972, if our people and our Governments make up their mind to do so and not merely reduce the International Book Year to a festival of talks. But the sixth item, the production of books cannot be done within the International Book Year 1972. What can be done is a careful deliberation by statesmen and formulation of a long range programme for realisation. Thus, a differential implementation of the proposals is called for. Any political hurry to complete the sixth proposal also within 1972, will kill the development of original thinking in the educated intellectuals of today, and development of our languages to become adequate and worthy media to express new ideas. This will be a catastrophe. It is to avoid this, that it is suggested that the implementation of item six should be spread over a number of years — but not necessarily too large a number.

6 Part to be Played by the Library Profession

61 ENLISTING THE INTEREST OF DIFFERENT AUTHORITIES

All the activities mentioned in the earlier sections, for pursuit in India during the International Book Year 1972, do not lie entirely within the sphere of the library profession. On the other hand, activities described in Sec 1 to 4 and their sub-sections require ultimate action by outsiders beginning with library committee and going upto the Government itself. The role of the library profession in these matters should be to be of help in the formulation of ideas for consideration by such authorities, meeting them individually or collectively and to create enthusiasm in them and to act as frequent remembrancer. They should also be helped to realise the important opportunity given by the International Book Year 1972, for improving our library system and library service both in quantity and in depth.

62 Work Solely within the Competence of the Library Profession

I should like to enumerate in this section what the library profession can do all by itself during the International Book Year 1972. Here are some of them:—

- 1 Collection and up-dating of data about the number of

various kinds of libraries — academic and specialist — in the different States of the country. This will disclose the areas that need attention;

2 Collection and up-dating of data about the finance, the number of volumes, the average daily attendance of readers, the total number of volumes loaned out, the total number of volumes consulted within the library, the strength of M Lib Sc professionals, B Lib Sc professionals and semi-professionals, the classification scheme and the catalogue code used — as for a library directory — among the libraries within a specified area practicable for the collector of the data. The first elaborate directory of this kind was prepared by me with the collaboration of a number of colleagues in 1951, with the title *Indian library directory*. This will help in the building up of State Directories and a National Directory;

3 Collection of data respectively about the number of books in English, in Sanskrit, in Arabic, in Persian, and in each of the regional languages of India, in each of the libraries covered by the collector;

4 Collection of data about the number of books published in India in the different languages, as can be found from the latest annual issue of the *Indian national bibliography*; a work of this kind was done by S Ramabhadran in 1938 for the Madras Library Association and published in its *Memoirs* (1940) and also by me in 1957 for the children's books in Tamil for the Association of Authors of children's books and was published by that body;

5 Tabulation of the books mentioned in category 4 according to the Main Subjects of the Colon Classification. This will disclose the fallow subjects to be brought to the notice of the world of authors and publishers;

6 Collection of data about the number of learned periodicals published in India in one of the latest years as a sample, in each of the Main Subjects of the Colon Classification; these data may stimulate thinkers to fill up in the fallow and weak subjects;

7 Collection of data about the number of learned articles published in India in the different Main Subjects of the Colon Classification, as can be ascertained from the science abstracts published by the Insdoc for the latest full year done by it; this will disclose the subjects remaining to be investigated and conquered;

8 Collection of data on the local documentation lists and other varieties of similar services — such as abstracting, digesting, and data service, and technical notes in brief — provided in different libraries for different subjects and variety of users. A periodical publication of such data would facilitate inter library co-operation

in several ways; and

9 Information on the measures adopted by different libraries to attract readers.

Wherever possible, whenever the number of actual users of the library is mentioned, it will be helpful in evaluating the data, if the potential number of readers in the community served by the library is mentioned.

63 ORGANISATION OF CO-OPERATIVE WORK

In such a co-operative piece of work on an All India scale done on an honorary basis by the library enthusiasts, every wastage due to duplication of effort should be avoided. Thought should be devoted to this.

7 Programme of Work for the International Book Year 1972

71 SERVICE TO ILLITERATES

The majority of our adults are illiterates. Library Service should be extended to them through the following three media:—

1 Weekly posters giving the news of the week in pictures. For this purpose, in a State with a Library Act, each City Central Library and District Central Library should maintain an artist and send copies of the picture posters to all their respective branches. This was tried out by me when I was directing the Adult Education programme in Delhi and it proved a success. In a State without a Library act also something similar can be done by co-operation among the public libraries.

2 Reading out — or better giving out the gist — of books on topics of interest to illiterates in the locality.

3 Showing cinema films to the illiterates on diverse topics, with explanatory words. For this purpose, a Central Organisation for India as a whole should procure or make suitable films, on diverse topics, maintain a library of them, and circulate them to the libraries in the country.

72 FRIENDS-OF-LIBRARY SOCIETY

Each library in the country should form during the International Book Year 1972, a Friends-Of-Library Society. The help of its members should be taken to enroll a large number of the local people as members of the library. Its members should be given speaking points to address groups of potential readers wherever they may be in the locality — in clubs, schools and colleges, religious meetings, and so on. There should also be house to house canvassing. Many forms of public relation work in this matter can be culled from my *Five laws of library science*. A short consolidated report on the work done by the Society should be sent every month for publication in the newspapers in

circulation in the locality.

73 LIBRARY EXHIBITION

At some intervals, during the International Book Year 1972, each library should arrange for a special exhibition of some of the latest important books and of library charts and diagrams where a Library Act works. Each District Central Library and City Central Library can collect exhibits for the purpose and take them round to the several localities in the district or in the city as the case may be. These should be well publicised. Wherever practicable library talks should be arranged in association with the exhibition. Each State Library Association can do much, to organise such exhibitions and talks so as to make them yield the best results. The Book Exhibition should not be of the touch-me-not kind. On the other hand, it should be of the Open Access kind. There should be librarians and friends-of-library at the exhibition to interpret books to the visitors. In this connection, I should like to mention an interesting exhibition of children's books seen by me in Frankfurt in 1951. The exhibition hall had many "Island tables" each with books in a specific subject. The hall was thronged with children. Many of the children's librarians of the city had come as helpers. On seeing me, with a costume different from theirs, a child went to a children's librarian and asked him for books about India and Indian costumes. He found only one such book in the exhibition. After the child glanced through the book, the children's librarian told the child that there were some other books also in the library, and also books on other countries and their costumes. After this, the child was brought to me. German children can speak English. The child had a half-an-hour chat with me, feeling my clothes with its fingers and asking many details about life in India.

74 PUBLICATION OF ARTICLES IN LIBRARY PERIODICALS IN ENGLISH AND IN INDIAN LANGUAGES

Articles may be written by librarians in English on topics relevant to the International Book Year 1972 and giving some stimulus to the thinking and action by the library profession and the public; they may be published in each of the issues of the four English periodicals—*Library herald*, *Herald of library science*, *Jaslic bulletin*, and *Annals of library science and documentation*, which have been continuously in existence for some years. A similar work can also be done in library periodicals in Indian languages.

75 PUBLICATION OF ARTICLES IN LEARNED PERIODICALS IN OTHER SUBJECTS

The members of the profession may also publish articles

appropriate to the International Book Year 1972, in the learned periodicals in different subjects, appealing to the scholars to draw help from Documentation Service of libraries, in an ever increasing measure.

76 ARTICLES IN NEWSPAPERS IN ENGLISH AND IN INDIAN LANGUAGES

The members of the profession may also contribute, at suitable intervals, during the year, to the newspapers in English and in Indian languages of their respective areas, articles bearing on the International Book Year 1972, and calculated to make the general public library conscious.

77 MASSIVE PUBLIC MEETINGS

In each city and town, there should be at least three splashy public meetings of a large size — one in January (inauguration of the International Book Year 1972), in mid year (stock-taking of achievements), and in December (Valedictory with an enthusiastic appeal to carry out in future the decisions made during the International Book Year 1972).

78 STATE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

The Library Association of each State should take on its hand, all the items mentioned in this paper, co-ordinate the activities in the State and keep the library idea reverberating throughout the State during the International Book Year 1972. They should finally give a report on the work done in the State.

79 SEMINARS

791 FIRST ALL INDIA SEMINAR

The First All India Seminar with a limited number of members may be held early in 1972 to deliberate as to what essential points should be pursued in the International Book Year 1972.

792 FOLLOW-UP STATE SEMINARS

A similar State Seminar should be held in each Constituent State as a follow-up of the First All India Seminar to acquaint the active members of the State about the decisions of the First All India Seminar, so that a relay-work may be started.

793 LOCAL SEMINARS

Similar follow-up Seminars should also be held, in each locality in each Constituent State, to complete the relay work.

794 FINALISING SEMINAR

Towards the end of the year, a succession of Seminars

may be held in the reverse sequence, that is beginning with local seminars and ending with the Second All India Seminar. The latter should consolidate and finalise the reports of what has been done during the International Book Year 1972.

795 IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAMME

The Second All India Seminar should set up a programme showing the stages and lines of pursuit for implementing the decisions finalised as mentioned in Section 794.

8 Hope for the Future

81 THE FIVE LAWS OF LIBRARY SCIENCE

The development and continuous improvement of library service is no longer one of Minute-to-Minute Rule-of-Thumb method. Since 1931, the following Five Laws of Library Science govern them:

- 1 Books are for use;
- 2 Every book its reader;
- 3 Every reader its book;
- 4 Save the time of the reader; and
- 5 A library is a growing organism.

82 MY BELIEF

My belief is that, we have during the last forty years done little more than touching the fringes of the implications of the Five Laws. A new implication seized and brought into effect during the last two decades is, Documentation — that is, changing the unit of service from a whole volume to articles in periodicals and parts of books. The great social benefit of this extension of library service is now being realised in an increasing measure. But, my belief is that there are many more implications lying potentially within the Five Laws.

83 MY FAITH

My faith is that the Indian library profession is now becoming rich in young librarians attuned to renescent India, with enthusiasm to serve the country through libraries, and with willingness to do the necessary extra-mural work to do such things. I do hope that throughout the International Book Year 1972, all our library periodicals and all our newspapers will frequently feature and emphasise some aspect or other, calculated to make Indian Library Service reach every citizen, enrich him and thereby enrich our Mother Land.

84 CONCERTED EFFORT DURING THE INTERNATIONAL BOOK YEAR 1972

I would appeal to the forward-thinking, scientific-minded, young librarians to meditate and to do hard work, to discover and to bring into practical use some more implications of the Five Laws. They can do this individually and collectively. I wish that the young librarians in every large locality meet once in a week or a fortnight to peel out of the Five Laws, new ideas in library service. My heart will be filled with joy if some new form of library service is introduced during the International Book Year 1972, as a result of the concerted action by the young librarians of our Mother Land. Their name will go down in history for the good they thus achieve, to make library service lead to ever-increasing social good.