

Cardamom Planters' Association College Pankajam Nagar, Bodinayakaur

CLISc – Study Material

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Five Laws of Library Science

Dr. S. R. Ranganathan coined the five laws of library science in the year 1924. The laws took final shape in the year 1928. Five laws of Library Science published in 1931.

First Law

“Books are for use” – Books should be broadly interpreted to stand for document. The aim of a library should be to maximize the use of books. If the book shelves constantly empty, the Librarian should be happy. To maximize the use of books the following steps may be followed.

- i) Library building should be well planned.
- ii) Library exterior and interior should be attractive.
- iii) Fitting of furniture should meet the requirements.
- iv) Lighting and ventilation should meet the Indian Standard Institution.
- v) Books acquired keeping in view the present and potential requirement of the user.
- vi) College and public library need not have to buy costly books. Children library books with bolder letters will attract more users.
- vii) Books should be classified, catalogued and arranged in helpful sequence. Books has to be repaired when it got damaged.
- viii) Periodical weeding of books also necessary.
- ix) Library staff should be qualified and efficient.
- x) Library reference service plays an important role. It provides personal service which aims to bring a right book and right reader together.
- xi) Library should be kept open for long hours, this will lead to a greater use.

Library becomes great not because of its collection or building but as result of the use made by its users. Motto of librarian should be to acquire, process and serve books for use. This will give maximum satisfaction to the first law of Library Science.

Second Law

“Every reader his book”. Here the emphasis is on the reader. Let us use the term ‘user’ instead of reader. The subjects, languages and style of exposition of books to be selected should be closely correlated to the requirements of the user.

Some books are composite in nature. Therefore their hidden contents should be brought to the notice of the users by means of subject analytical entries. A given library would not have enough

finance to purchase documents in occasional demand. Second law would suggest formation of a national library network to share the resources especially for the purpose of inter library loan.

In open access books are kept in open shelves. This makes it possible for the reader to approach books directly and handle these personally without any barrier. A user can thus browse amongst the world of books. It has been found that provision of open access encourages browsing leading to greater use of books. This equally true for all types of libraries. Therefore the second law makes a plea for open access.

Third law

The third law prescribes “ **Every Book its Reader**” The emphasis is on a book. A librarian should know about the world of books and try to find out a reader for everyone of these. Do not select books in languages, subjects and levels for which there are not going to be many users. Classified arrangement of books helps the users to select pin pointedly. Helpful sequence would display would display subjects so that the users approaching the sequence from the broader or narrower angle is led, by the sequence itself to the specific subject. Classified arrangement based on the sequence would provide greater opportunity of every book getting its reader. Devices such as open access setting of special sequences of books at prominent places to attract readers, placing of books on shelves within convenient reach of a user of average height etc will increase accessibility.

Fourth law

“**Save the time of the reader**”. A user must be assumed to be a busy person and his time is precious therefore his time must be saved. The collection should be processed and well organized. Open access has been very useful in the context.

The services like ‘Current awareness service’ provision of short range reference service etc are important means of helping the readers, so that their time can be saved. Reference service if arranged, it will reduce the time of the reader.

A librarian should be an alert person, who knows about collection and makes an attempt to provide information / documents to the user promptly. Personal help provided by him can go a long way in saving the time of the user.

Fifth law

“**Library is a growing organism**” The library would grow in terms of documents, readers and staff. The growth of a new library will correspond to that of a child growing in all respects. In case of service library, once its growth reached an adult stage, then growth would be in terms of replacing old books by new books and new users will continuously replace old users. New books received in the library should be brought to the notice of the user. Even earlier books lying in the shelves should be brought their attention, as a library is able to acquire a small percentage of books, therefore it must resort to inter library loan. National library network should be set up to share resources. A new member of the library would know about the rules, regulations and services of the library orientation for a freshman to library should be provided. Orientation will

help the new user to use the library in a meaningful and effective way. In view of the fifth law of Library science new readers must be given orientation to the library and also provided assistance to the maximum.

When a library grows, sanctioned staff at some stage would become inadequate. In order to provide effective services, it would be necessary to increase the staff.

Conclusion

The five laws of library science consist of five short statements. These are fundamental laws of library science. This also provides guidance in the practice of library and information science. These laws have been useful in the teaching of different branches of library science and the librarian must give a thought to the implication of these laws.

References

1. Library Manual, Krishan Kumar, Vikas Publishing