

Place of Doctoral Research in Library and Information Science: Looking back through the Recommendations of Commissions and Committees in India

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Abstract

Expansion of knowledge base through research programmes is the most fundamental aspect to develop a discipline. Recommendations of commissions and committees on the need of research for a discipline make it easier for educationists to develop that discipline. In this paper the authors have tried to deliberate the fact that various post independent Indian commissions and committees pointed out the potentiality of research works in library and information science (LIS). Thus the paper attempts to make the question of credibility once raised to accept LIS as a discipline null and void. For this the paper presents the view points of eminent scholars given in the first half of 20th century on the place of research in LIS and the genesis of doctoral research in LIS in India in nut shell. Thereafter, presenting the recommendations of commissions and committees on LIS research, it discusses the several related points of research programmes in LIS with special emphasis on doctoral research which have been deliberated by those recommendations. They are – need of research in LIS, areas of research, provision of fund, agencies and centre for research work, admission criteria, intake capacity and duration of research programme. The analysis of recommendations also takes into account the view points of Government of India on LIS research programmes.

Keywords: Curriculum development committee; Librarianship; Library committee; Doctoral research in LIS; Recommendations on LIS research; Review committee; University grants commission.

Introduction

Research, the most blue-eyed phase of education system, is the harbinger of professional expertisation in any field. Professional development and relevancy in the constantly changing society depend on the expansion of its knowledge base and its true application for practical purposes which are supplemented by research programmes. Librarianship now regarded as a profession faced with stiff challenges upto 1960s in India regarding its credibility to become a profession. Before the independence in India there were

some vague ideas about Library and Information Science (LIS) education. There were controversies to accept LIS as full fledged discipline because of absence of subject-matter earmarked as its own and lack of research work. But the situation started to change and the unpalatable controversies became meaningless when the LIS education started its advanced course along with research programmes under the aegis of universities from 1960s. But University of Delhi started Master's and Ph.D. programmes in LIS in 1949 and awarded first Ph.D. degree in LIS in 1958. Till then one decade went off to accept LIS as a discipline on which a profession called librarianship can depend. One of the major reasons of this phenomenal achievement is the recommendations of post independent committees and commissions on libraries and LIS education right from 1950s.

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Librarianship and Research

Research always occupies a highly

acclaimed place for a profession. Eminent philosopher of library science Jesse H. Shera (1903-1982) said that “research is the key to the future of the profession and is an important means by which institutional programme is enriched”. [1] Research brings a special importance for library and information science as for long it is claiming to have the privileges of dancing to an academic and professional tune. Wilkinson, thus, remarked, “of all the ways of acquiring knowledge ... only research provides a rigorous and systematic approach to problem solving which will eventually not only develop and expand a cumulative body of valid and reliable knowledge, but also will create and utilize a theoretical framework for such knowledge. There can surely be little argument therefore that insofar as librarianship is or hopes to become a profession; it must depend upon research to develop its knowledge base and its theoretical framework.” Wilkinson further commented that “librarianship must become a true scholarly discipline, based upon researched knowledge and theory, requiring of its members a rigorous grounding in such knowledge and an individual responsibility for its application”. [2] This was also the thrust of Williamson’s article “The Place of Research in Library Service” (based on a 1930 speech at the School of Library Science at western Reserve [Cleveland, Ohio] University), where he urged librarianship to think of itself as a science – library science – and its practitioners to become ‘scientist’ rather than ‘empiricist’ relying on local experience. For him, scientific research was the essence of professionalism. Williamson and two of his contemporary Waples and Butler were agreed on the need for sound methodological foundations in library science research. [3]

Genesis of Doctoral Research in LIS in India

The discussion over the genesis of doctoral research in LIS in India should start with mentioning the very name of the doyen of our profession Dr. S. R. Ranganathan (1892-1972). His seminal contribution to various facets of LIS enriched the discipline and elevated its

status to Science. Dr. Ranganathan initiated the Ph.D. programme in LIS with his unique visionary zeal joining University of Delhi in 1951. University of Delhi became the first university in country in awarding the *de jure* degree in library science in the year 1958 to D. B. Krishna Rao who worked on ‘faceted classification for agriculture’ under the able guidance of Dr. Ranganathan. Although the remarkable beginning of institutional Ph. D. programme got a setback due to Dr. Ranganathan’s exit from University of Delhi in 1955. Even Ranganathan’s establishment of Documentation Research and Training Centre (DRTC) in 1962 failed to solve the problem as it was not technically empowered to award Ph.D. degrees. Therefore he focused mainly in the solo and team research from 1962 till his death in 1972. Thus the pace of research remained slow up to 1980s, which is evident from the fact that the first Ph.D. in LIS was awarded in 1958, the second Ph.D. degree was awarded after a gap of nearly 20 years by Panjab University in the year 1977 to Pandey S. K. Sharma who worked under the guidance of J. S. Sharma (1924 - 1993), then the University Librarian and Head of the Department of Library Science of the Panjab University, Chandigarh. Thereafter the Indian Universities showed an upward trend in Ph.D. programme in library and information science, and today over 60 universities in the country are offering Ph. D. Programme. [4]

Objectives

The objectives set forth for this paper are:

- To find out the salient points from recommendations of commissions and committees on doctoral research in LIS to support LIS to be regarded as a discipline
- To analyse the recommendations for tracing out the incorporation of the salient parts of LIS research with the passage of time
- To identify the role of Government in LIS research

Methodologies

To conduct this study the reports of commissions and committees on libraries and LIS education have been studied. Some research articles on LIS education, LIS research and status of librarianship have also been studied for the said purpose. The discussion method used in this study has focussed on the recommendations of reports on LIS research.

Recommending Commissions and Committees Advisory Committee for Libraries

The Ministry of Education, Government of India (GOI) set up a nine member committee under the chairmanship of Shri K. P. Sinha to recommend the future library structure and its development in India. The committee submitted its report in 1958 which was published in 1959. Although the committee was mainly concerned with development of public libraries, it made recommendations for training for librarianship and LIS research.[5]

Ranganathan Committee for University and College Library

The University Grants Commission (UGC) appointed a committee under the chairmanship of Dr. Ranganathan in 1957. Its report published in 1965, covered all aspects of academic libraries including the education and training of professional librarians and LIS research.[6]

Review Committee on Library Science in Indian Universities

Realising the need for a committee to investigate the state of library education, UGC appointed a Review Committee in 1961 under the chairmanship of Dr. Ranganathan to look into the standards of teaching and research in library science in Indian universities. The report of the committee was published in 1965.[7]

Committee on National Policy on Library and Information System (CONPOLIS)

The Government of India (GOI) set up a committee under the chairmanship of Prof. D. P. Chattopadhyaya for the formulation of National Policy on Library and Information Systems in 1985. The committee after considering an interim report and one further draft submitted to the Govt. its final findings on May 30, 1986.[8]

Empowered Committee to Formulate an Action Plan on the National Policy on Library and Information System, 1988

The Department of Culture, GOI appointed an Empowered Committee in November 1986 again under the chairmanship of Prof. D. P. Chattopadhyaya to lay down a programme of action for implementation of the National Policy on Library and Information System. The Empowered Committee submitted its report to the Govt. on 2nd May 1988.[9]

Curriculum Development Committee (CDC), 1992

The first CDC in LIS was appointed by the UGC under the chairmanship of Prof. P. N. Kaula in 1990. After wide ranging deliberations, the committee submitted its report in 1992. The CDC, 1992 has provided the guidelines and areas of research in LIS.[10]

Working Group of the Planning Commission on Libraries and Informatics for the Eighth Five Year Plan, 1990-95

In the context of preparation of the Eighth Five -Year Plan, 1990-95, the Planning Commission set up a Working Group on Libraries and Information under the Department of Culture, Ministry of Human Resource Development with the aim to formulate proposals for the Eighth Five-Year Plan 1990-95 to establish a developed library network in the country also recommended about LIS research.[11]

Core Task Group on Sharing of Libraries and Information, 1996

The Planning Commission set up a Core Task Group to consider all the issues related to sharing of the resource of libraries and information centres utilizing the revolutionary advancements in computer and communication technologies. The Group submitted its report in 1996. It also recommended about LIS research.[12]

Working Group of the Planning Commission on Libraries and Informatics for the Ninth Five Year Plan, 1997-2002

In the context of preparation of the IX Five Year Plan, 1997-2002 the Planning Commission set up a Working Group of Libraries and Informatics under the Department of Culture, Ministry of Human Resource Development. The report of the Working Group of the Planning Commission on Libraries and Informatics for the Ninth Five Year Plan 1997-2002 also recommended to bring in quality in professional education and research in LIS.[13]

Curriculum Development Committee (CDC), 2001

The UGC constituted the second CDC in LIS under the chairmanship of Dr C. R. Karisiddappa in 2000. The committee submitted its report in 2001. The CDC, 2001 has discussed the admission requirements, intake and duration of the Ph. D. programme prevalent in Indian LIS schools.[14]

National Knowledge Commission

The National Knowledge Commission (NKC) was constituted on 13th June, 2005 to advise the Prime Minister of India mainly on creation, management, use and application of knowledge institutions and services. In its first report, published in 2007, the Commission also laid emphasis on the need of research in Library and Information Science (LIS).[15]

The UGC (Minimum Standards and Procedure for Awards of M.Phil/Ph.D. Degree), Regulation, 2009

UGC Regulation, 2009 has presented the minimum standards and procedure for awarding M.Phil/Ph.D. degree. The Regulation (2009) presents the standards and procedure for the eligibility criteria for M.Phil/Ph.D. supervisor, admission criteria, allocation of supervisor, course work, evaluation and assessment methods and depository with UGC.[16]

Recommendations and Discussion

The discussion on the recommendations of commissions and committees on LIS research with special emphasis on doctoral research has been done under the following aspects:

Need of Research in LIS

The first post independent education commission, i.e., University Education Commission under the chairmanship of Dr. S. Radhakrishnan recommended in its report which was published in 1949 that "The top man (University Librarian) must have qualifications corresponding to a Doctorate in Library Science".[17] Thus the Commission indicated to keep provision of research programmes in LIS. Without the research programme it is not possible to produce 'Doctorate in Library Science'. In this way, the Commission paved the way of research programmes in LIS. Later on the need of research work in library and information science to stand the subject on firm foot was realised by the post independent committees on libraries and LIS education appointed by GOI and UGC. They recommended the need of research work in LIS departments in universities to develop the discipline. In 1959 report of Advisory Committee for Libraries also suggested to encourage the research programmes in LIS departments. In 1965 in

the report of the Library Committee of the UGC for University and College Libraries, Ranganathan and other members of the Committee touched the chord of actual reason for research in LIS. The committee discussed the need of research work in LIS because of its continuous expansion of boundaries and intensive probe into the depth of its contents. The committee also appropriately mentioned that apart from that there were also important educational, economic and political reasons for the pursuit of active research by the departments of library science.

In 1965 in the report of UGC Review Committee for Library Science in Indian Universities, Ranganathan and other members of the committee very clearly mentioned the necessity of research work in LIS. The committee stressed on the fact that library techniques required constant improvement and organisational work in the libraries would have to be adapted to the changing social needs of the country based on research. The committee was also in the opinion of securing social efficiency for this field through research.

In 1986 Committee on National Policy on Library and Information System (CONPOLIS) recommended the national need of furthering higher education and research in LIS. The committee indicated that research in LIS is essential for national development. Thus the committee gave the research in LIS an important place including it as part of national development.

Kaula Committee on Curriculum Development in LIS education (1992) and Karisiddappa Committee on Curriculum Development in LIS (2001) also discussed several issues of Ph.D. programmes in LIS in universities.

National knowledge Commission (2007) has also rendered an agreeable discussion on the need of research in LIS. The commission focussed on the need of research in LIS in local environment. It also opined that exponential rate of change and innovation relating to this discipline also warrants intensive R & D initiatives.

Henceforth, it is found that all the committees and commissions recommended the scope of LIS education under the purview of university education system at par with other subjects and focused on extensive research work to add new and innovative knowledge and make the discipline more sound with its theoretical and practical framework which can be customised in accordance with the need. Thus advanced training and research (leading to doctorate just like in other professions) were recognised as prerequisite of library profession to be treated at par with other profession.

Areas of Research

UGC Review Committee for Library Science in Indian Universities mentioned some of the major sectors library science research works can be pursued in. They are - classification, cataloguing, documentation, reprography, translation, book science, standards, library organisation, academic library system and special libraries. The committee focussed on traditional as well as emerging areas in LIS in mentioning areas of research. Interestingly even in the 1960s the committee showed remarkable foresight in mentioning some of the sectors of research. Documentation has been mentioned by the committee as 'socially potent branch of library science' is constantly changing its parameters and new techniques are required time to time to manage it for which research is essential. It has also been echoed by the committee as "the technique of documentation also needs re forging from time to time." To mention the area 'book science' the committee tried to delve into deep of the problem of standards of books suited to the different users by dint of research. This is a very innovative area and requires collaboration with psychologists, authors, artists and the book traders. But unfortunately not much research has been done by LIS professionals in this area. The committee also adumbrated about the application of computers in library functioning which has opened new era for research work.

CDC (1992) on LIS provided some areas for research which are no less broader than the papers being taught at the master level. The areas for research mentioned are:

- Structure and development of knowledge.
- Classification, cataloguing and indexing.
- Information studies.
- Computer application.
- Historical studies.
- Social and economic aspects of librarianship.
- Library and information management and system analysis.
- Application of techniques of library and information science to evaluate other disciplines.

The report of CDC under the chairmanship of Prof. P. N. Kaula was submitted to UGC in 1992. Therefore at the last decade of 20th century whatever the vision was expected in mentioning the areas of research were somehow absent. Though it should not be said null and void in accordance with the need of that time but it could have been more specific. Even in 1960s Dr. Ranganathan mentioned about the need of research work in computer application in library functioning when the application of computers in core sciences was at the infant stage in the country. Thus the report did not come out with new and innovative areas of research in LIS. Though not much revered report, it uncompromisingly asked for a clear declaration from Ph.D. candidates that the 'work is based on the discovery of new facts by the candidate or the new relations of facts ... and how the work tends to the general advancement of knowledge'. The report also raised a pertinent point that local problems get priority in selecting the topics of research. It also cautioned the LIS departments that they should be careful in selecting the topics for research. But the second CDC (2001) in LIS under the chairmanship of Dr. C. R. Karisiddappa did not mention any area of research separately. It only presented the

results of the survey conducted on doctoral programmes in the country.

NKC (2007) mentioned some of the areas of research in LIS matched with the present needs and functions of library and information centres. The following areas were identified by the Working Group of NKC:

- Cross Language Information Retrieval with an emphasis on information in Indian language.
- Standardisation of Indian names
- Vocabulary control over Indian subjects developed in terms of multilingual thesauri and subject heading lists.
- Development of open source software.
- Development of Digital Libraries, both in English and Indian languages.
- Technical standards for Indian scripts, Optical Character Recognition (OCR) for Indian scripts, and search engines which can implement stemming algorithms for Indian languages.
- User needs and reading habits for different groups.
- Organisation of community information and development of appropriate standards.

Interestingly if the areas mentioned by NKC are analysed, it is found that the stress is on the development of tools and techniques for information storage and retrieval in Indian languages focusing on Indian subjects and scripts along with global information sources in English language.

Provision of Fund

Advisory Committee for Libraries recommended for the provision of special funds for research in librarianship. The committee suggested that the central governments should help in this regard. Library Committee of the UGC recommended that UGC should take the responsibility of establishment and maintenance of a number of active library schools for advanced teaching

and research in as many universities as may be found necessary. UGC Review Committee for library Science in Indian Universities (1965) suggested for research fellowships to atleast 3 candidates in each year.

The recommendations and suggestions given by the above mentioned three committees regarding the provision of funds and fellowships are not given in much detail. Even the UGC Review Committee for Library Science only suggested for research fellowships. But no guidance is provided regarding the fellowship. Report of the Core Task Group on Sharing of Libraries and Information(1996) mentioned that GOI and some of the funding agencies like DSIR, DST, AR&DB (Min. of Defence), DRDO, FICCI, CII, etc., should be encouraged to support R&D in LIS field. The task group also suggested that NIC should have a component of Grants-in-Aid for R&D in LIS. NKC (2007) recommended to sponsor R & D programmes in LIS but what should be the terms and conditions for sponsoring R & D are again not mentioned.

Very recently UGC has declared to grant UGC fellowship to the NET-qualified Ph.D/M.Phil students from universities identified as Universities for Potential for Excellence (UPE). Earlier, the fellowship was from candidates from central universities only. This decision is applicable on full-time Ph.D and M.Phil students from the varsities identified by UPEs are now eligible for fellowship from the commission.^[18] UGC has also come out with a scheme to provide fellowship to those research scholars who have not cleared JRF/NET for the fellowship and hence are not in receipt of any fellowship from any source.^[19] Both the scheme for NET qualified and non-NET research scholars are applicable for LIS research programmes.

Agencies and Centre for Research Work

Advisory Committee for Libraries, Library Committee of the University Grants Commission and University Grants Commission Review Committee for Library

Science in Indian Universities - all recommended that training for certificate in library science should not be the responsibility of the universities. The universities should be concerned only with Ph.D., MLIS and BLIS courses. Thus research programmes in LIS should only be conducted by the LIS departments offering full time Master's degree under the aegis of a university. The two CDCs in 1992 and 2001 respectively discussed the Ph.D. programmes in LIS departments in universities in India.

The Committee on National Policy on Library and Information System (CONPOLIS), 1986 proposed a National Centre for furthering research in library and information science. The committee realises that to coordinate and upgrade the existing library and information systems and services and to initiate new programmes relevant to our national needs, taking advantage of the latest advances in information technology requires proper research in relevant areas of library and information science. For this proper monitoring and guidance is required which the committee felt is possible only through establishment of a national Centre. The report of the Empowered Committee to Formulate an Action Plan on the National Policy on Library and Information System (1988) strongly opined for a National R & D centre for LIS. The committee suggested to set up the Centre in Madras (now Chennai) keeping in view Prof. Ranganathan's contribution in this field.

Report of the Working Group of the Planning Commission on Libraries and Informatics for the Eighth Five Year Plan 1990-95 recommended also the need of having a National Research and Development Centre for LIS. Report of the Working Group of the Planning Commission on Libraries and Informatics for the Ninth Five Year Plan 1997-2002 also recommended to bring in quality in professional education and research and make use of the technological and other developments in library operations and services, a national Institute of LIS be established in Delhi. The working group

envisioned the Institute to be a centre of excellence and be responsible for professional manpower development at different levels keeping in view of the changing requirements.

In the workshop on CDC report on LIS held on 19 March, 1993 in the UGC office, it was pointed out that the Central Government had in principle agreed to create a 'Centre for research in LIS'. NKC (2007) echoed the same thing as suggested by CONPOLIS. NKC also felt that a national institute for advanced training and R & D in LIS (suggested name: Indian Institute of Library and Information Science [ILIS]) needs to be set up. The proposed institute will identify, sponsor and conduct R & D programmes in the field of library and information science, including newly emerging research areas. The commission also pointed out that 'librarianship like other profession needs to be supported by research and investigation if it has to maintain and raise standards of library service in the country. This can be ensured only if the programme of advanced professional education includes training in the methods and skills of research'.

A remarkable fact is to be churn out of the discussion regarding the recommendations on agencies and centre for research work. The fact is that the committees and commissions directly appointed by GOI, except Advisory Committee for Libraries, recommended for a separate central research institute for LIS which will guide the research programmes in LIS in the country. But on the other hand UGC appointed committees focused on LIS research programmes in the LIS departments under the purview of university system. The proposed research institute or centre by central government is yet to come. It was first proposed by CONPOLIS in 1986 and lastly NKC provided in details the role of ILIS in LIS research. But unfortunately nearly three decades (1986-2013) are about to go without any attempt to establish the proposed institute or centre. Thus it has been a trite to propose such research institute and it seems to be a utopian concept. Even if the proposed institute takes birth from the womb of proposal, some

pertinent questions haunt us. They are – Will there be any collaboration between ILIS and LIS departments? Will the ILIS conduct research programmes separately under the different agencies of central government? In that case, how the supervisor will be selected? And, who will award the doctorate degree? Or, will it be considered as team research?

Admission Criteria

UGC Review Committee recommended minimum qualifications for admission to the Ph.D. programme in LIS. The committee suggested two aspects for the enrolment in Ph.D. programme, viz, academic qualification and capacity for research. Academic qualification according to the committee requires a second class M. Lib. Sc. degree or a second class B. Lib. Sc. degree plus a second class Master's degree in any subject of a recognised university. Finally another aspect the committee suggested is the capacity of the candidate for research. This is the most vital requirement for research other than the academic qualification. The University Education Commission (1949) under the chairmanship of Dr. S. Radhakrishnan rightly mentioned that "the students should not only have attained a proper background in the fundamentals of his subject, but should have a certain innate originality of mind, apart from mere learning, that is essential for a research worker". [20] The CDC (1992) suggested that only those fresher candidates who have qualified in the UGC NET should be allowed for Ph.D. admission. The CDC (2001) discussed some of prevalent criteria for admission in Ph.D. in LIS existing in Indian universities. It mentioned that M.Phil is pre-requisite degree along with Masters degree with 55% in aggregate for registering in Ph.D. programme. In the absence of M.Phil degree a Pre-Ph.D. qualifying examination or an entrance test is conducted for Ph.D. registration. Needless to say, there was lack of uniformity in the admission requirements for Ph.D. programme in LIS in Indian universities when the CDC conducted the survey on LIS

education. Still, the committee did not presented any guideline for the admission requirement for Ph.D. programme. Though the previous CDC in 1992 under the chairmanship of Prof. P. N. Kaula suggested UGC NET should be the eligibility criteria for registration in Ph. D. Programme. The UGC (Minimum Standards and Procedure for Awards of M.Phil/Ph.D. Degree), Regulation, 2009 has emphasised on entrance test for doctoral programme for the candidates who have not qualified NET/SET or M.Phil. It has also mentioned that only the predetermined number of students may be admitted to Ph.D. programme and Department will pay due attention to the National/State reservation policy. This regulation of UGC for Ph.D. programme is now being followed by LIS departments in India.

Intake Capacity

The CDC (2001) discussed the intake to the Ph.D. programme. It mentioned that the intake depends upon the number of qualified research guides available in each department. Some of the universities fixed the number on the basis of the norms followed in other disciplines. In the absence of any specific intake capacity CDC (2001) did not come forward with any guideline regarding this. The UGC (Minimum Standards and Procedure for Awards of M.Phil/Ph.D. Degree), Regulation, 2009 states that "all universities ... shall lay down and decide on annual basis, a predetermined and manageable number of M.Phil and doctoral students depending on the number of the available eligible faculty supervisors. A supervisor shall not have, at any given point of time, more than eight Ph.D. scholars" LIS departments in India are now guided by the UGC regulation (2009) for Ph.D. programmes.

In this regard the UGC regulation (2009) has also discussed the allocation of supervisor. It states that the allocation of the supervisor for a selected student shall be decided by the department in a formal manner depending on the number of student per faculty member,

the available specialization among the faculty supervisors, and the research interest of the student as indicated during interview by the student. The allotment/allocation of supervisor shall not be left to the individual student or teacher.

Duration of the Programme

The CDC (2001) discussed the duration of the Ph.D. programme. It categorized the Ph.D. programme by part-time and full time research worker. Majority of the Ph.D. programmes offered in LIS are on part time basis. This difference is also taken into consideration in fixing the duration for the Ph.D. programmes. In case of part time programme the minimum varies between 3 to 6 years. But in the case of full-time programme it is 3 years and extendable by another year.

Conclusion

The discussion of recommendations from Library Advisory Committee (1959) to NKC (2007) brings forth that all the Government and UGC appointed Commissions and Committees strongly opined for research programmes in LIS. Thus if there was no scope of doing research programmes in LIS, the commissions and committees would not have unnecessarily recommended for the need of research programmes in LIS. They have not only recommended the need of research programmes but also mentioned some of the important aspects for that. It clearly indicates that how far Government of India (GOI) was concerned from the dawn of independence to provide the librarianship its due professional status. The governmental efforts have been culminated through the NKC (2007). As we all know that the NKC was not only meant for national library system or LIS education, still it has provided valuable recommendations on several aspects of LIS education along with research programmes in LIS. From this fact, it is vividly clear that librarianship is not at all a neglected profession. Still the discussion of

recommendations leaves a strong ground for us to comment on the lack of advanced thought in accordance with the time for LIS research. It was expected that we would get more advanced as well as timely thought on LIS research from commissions and committees came after the visionary thought of Dr. S. R. Ranganathan as chairman of Library Committee of the UGC for University and College Libraries and UGC Review Committee for Library Science in Indian Universities in 1960s but the expectations somehow get spoiled. We have failed to trace out any balanced improvement in thinking for core aspects of LIS research. Though the recommendations of NKC (2007) to some extent have shown the right track. Now the GOI and UGC should have to be more active to implement all the recommendations. In this regard, it is to be said that GOI especially UGC should provide research agenda for doctoral research in LIS so that proper research work is done. Another important factor to be seriously thought about to create a reliable database of already awarded theses from 1957 to till date and the ongoing research programmes in LIS. In this regard library associations should be involved. Finally it is to be said that the recommendations on LIS education along with research programmes are strengthening the professional status of librarianship. Now it is the duty of LIS professional to produce good research works which will enhance the knowledge base of LIS.

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