UNIT 4: LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

UNIT STRUCTURE

4.1 Learning Objectives

4.2 Introduction

4.3 Historical Account

4.4 Functions and Activities of Library Associations

4.5 International Library Associations

- 4.5.1 IFLA
- 4.5.2 UNESCO

4.6 National Library Associations

- 4.6.1 ILA
- 4.6.2 IASLIC

4.7 State Library Associations

- 4.7.1 Assam Library Association
- 4.7.2 Bengal Library Association

4.8 Local Library Associations

4.9 Let Us Sum Up

4.10 Further Readings

4.11 Answers to Check Your Progress

4.12 Probable Questions

4.1 LEARNING OBJECTIVES

After going through this unit you will be able to

- Know about the library association and its functions;
- Explain the different types of library associations;
- Analyse the functions of IFLA, UNESCO, ILA, IASLIC, etc.

4.2 INTRODUCTION

The existence of a profession rests on the bonds among the practitioners and these bonds can take the shape of a formal association. So the professional associations are by and for the professionals in the

concerned field. It serves as a forum for coordinate efforts for the concerned profession.

In the context of libraries, the association means the organization of the library staff members, persons or institutions related to the library matter and profession. The library associations are those professional organizations of learned people which foster a spirit of public service among the members, promote the library services, and protect the interest of their members and builds up the image of the library profession in the society.

Based on the coverage of geographical area library associations can be grouped into International, National, State and Local. Library associations can also be grouped based on the particular area of activities as Special and General. The special library association can again be a medical library association, school library association, rural library association, and the like. Most professional librarians belong to at least one professional organization.

4.3 HISTORICAL ACCOUNT

In 1852, a group of librarians, scholars, teachers and clergymen met in New York for the foundation and management of a collection of books or knowledge for public use. In May, 1876 a few library devotees, by taking the hint from the meeting of 1853, proposed a like gathering in connection with the great exhibition in Philadelphia. The announcement of the meeting that would be held in October 4, 1876 was sent to the leading libraries and to the leading librarians abroad. As a result of this gathering, the American Library Association (ALA) was formally inaugurated on October 4, 1876 and this was followed only a year later by the Library Association (LA) in the United Kingdom.

4.4 FUNCTIONS AND ACTIVITIES OF LIBRARY ASSOCIATIONS

The functions of a library association depend upon the particular pursuit for which the association is formed. Generally a library association performs the following functions-

a) **Act as a Common Forum:** Library association acts as a common forum for library professionals for exchange of information, ideas, experience and expertise.

b) **Library Movement:** Library association works as the backbone of library movement in a country. It spreads knowledge and information.

c) **Planning:** The library association puts a behavioral future planning of the present position of libraries, library staff and library services after proper evaluation of its present state of affairs.

d) **Force the Authority:** The association forces the government to accept their demand by the right movement for the welfare of the library staff, like enacting the library legislation.

e) **Development of the Profession:** The association works for the betterment of salaries, grades, service and working conditions for the library professionals and also for improving their status in the society.

f) **Problem Solving:** Library association works hand in hand to find out solution for the adhoc professional problem.

g) **Conduct Survey and Research:** Library association conducts surveys and research of library facilities and services to ascertain the existing conditions so as to take necessary steps for improvement.

h) **Code of Conduct:** Library association prepares the code of conduct for the librarians and other library staff to maintain the professional standard.

i) **Resource Sharing:** It works for the sharing of resources to avoid duplication of efforts.

j) **Make General Public Conscious:** Library association makes the general public conscious towards the utility of the library and information centers.

k) **Holds Conferences, Seminars, Meeting, and Lectures:** To discuss and exchange ideas and experiences, library associations hold conferences, seminars, meeting, lectures, etc.

l) **Training Courses:** They also conduct training programmes for self improvement of the professionals.

m) **Standardization:** A library association establishes and encourages the adoption of standards to improve the quality of library services.

n) **Institute Prizes, Rewards, Fellowship:** Library association institutes prizes, rewards for library science students and professionals in recognition of their contribution to the profession.

o) **Publication:** A library association creates and publishes professional literature in the subject areas.

p) **Cooperation:** Maintains cooperation and healthy relation with other professional associations of various levels within and outside the country.

In the following sections we are going to discuss the different library associations and their functions.

4.5 INTERNATIONAL LIBRARY ASSOCIATIONS

Several professional organizations and private foundations around the world work to promote international cooperation in establishing new libraries and in improving services at the existing libraries. These organizations provide the librarians with information about the international forums in which they can exchange ideas, develop networks for sharing resources, and create compatible standards and protocols for various library procedures. Some of the most prominent international library programmes are those sponsored by the *International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions* (IFLA) <http://www.ifla.org/>; the *United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization* (UNESCO) <http://portal.unesco.org/en>; the *International Council on Archives* (ICA) <http://www.ica.org/>; the *British Council* <http://www.britishcouncil.org/new/>; the *International Association of School Librarianship* (IASL) <http://www.iasl-online.org/>; the *U.S. Department of State*, through its Office of International Information Programs and the *Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals* (CILIP) <http://www.cilip.org.uk/>.

Organization like the *International Council of Scientific Unions* (ICSU), the *World Intellectual Property Organization* (WIPO), the

International Organization for Standardization (ISO), *World Trade Organization* (WTO), the *International Publishers Association* (IPA), the *International Council of Museums* (ICOM), the *International Council on Monuments and Sites* (ICOMOS), the *International Committee of the Blue Shield* (ICBS) also play important role in library and information science activities.

4.5.1 The International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA)

IFLA is an independent association that represents libraries and library associations around the world. At an international conference of librarians and booklovers in Prague in 1926 a proposal to set up an international committee with representatives of national library associations was accepted. This was acted upon during the British Library Association conference in Edinburgh, Scotland in 1927, when an international library and bibliographic committee was created by the representative associations from fifteen countries. IFLA was registered in the Netherlands in 1971. The name was changed to International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions in 1976. Its headquarter is located at The Royal Library, the national library of the Netherlands, in The Hague. IFLA's website, formerly known as IFLANET is available over web at <http://www.ifla.org/>.

a) Objectives: The federation is an independent non-governmental and non profit making professional organization. In 2004, the Governing Board decided to endorse a new model for IFLA's operations, the three pillars that are supported by the infrastructure offered by the Federation's governance structures, its website and its Headquarters (HQ) in The Hague. These three pillars are- Society Pillar, Professional Pillar, and the Members' Pillar.

i) *The Society Pillar:* It focuses on the role and impact of libraries and information services in society and the contextual issues that condition and constrain the environment in which they operate across the world. Those issues are addressed currently through FAIFE, CLM, Blue Shield, and the advocacy in the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) and other arenas.

ii) *The Profession Pillar:* It focuses on the issues covered by the long established Core Activities - ALP, ICADS (webmaster: formerly known as ICABS), PAC, UNIMARC - and the Sections and Divisions. They lie at the core of our professional practice and help libraries and information services to fulfil their purposes and to shape responses to the needs of the clients in a rapidly changing global environment.

iii) *The Members Pillar:* It is of course central to IFLA. It includes the services they offer to members, management of their membership of IFLA, conferences and publications. We must work together to make IFLA more vibrant and attractive and beneficial for members throughout the world.

b) Organization: The governing structure of IFLA has been revised and came into force in 2001. The General Council of Members is the supreme governing body, consisting of delegates of voting members. It normally meets every year during the annual conference. The Governing Board is responsible for the managerial and professional direction of IFLA within guidelines approved by Council. The Governing Board meets at least twice every year, once at the time and place of the annual World Library and Information Congress. The Executive Committee has executive responsibility delegated by the Governing Board to oversee the direction of IFLA between meetings of this Board within the policies

established by the Board. It is the duty of the Professional Committee to ensure coordination of the work of all the IFLA units responsible for professional activities, policies and programmes (Sections, Core Activities, Special Interest Groups).

c) Membership: Till 2009 IFLA have 1600 Members approximately in 150 countries around the world. IFLA has two main categories of voting members: Association Members and Institutional Members. Besides these, it has also Honorary Members (Honorary Presidents, Honorary Fellows, IFLA Medal). Over the years the membership has been expanded to include individual libraries, library schools and other appropriate institutions as well as personal affiliates.

d) Functions and Activities: The issues common to library and information services around the world are the concern of the IFLA Core Activities. Directed by the Professional Committee, the objectives and projects of the Core Activities relate to the Federation's Programme and the priorities of the Divisions and Sections. Some of the major core programmes are given below.

i) Action for Development through Libraries Programme (ALP): The ALP Programme was launched in 1984 at the IFLA Conference in Nairobi, Kenya, and was the subject of intensive discussion between 1987 and 1989. It was further developed and defined during 1990 and 1991 as a special project and is fully operational ever since. The name of the Programme was originally "Advancement of Librarianship Programme", but in 2004 it was changed to "Action for Development through Libraries Programme". However, the acronym still remains as "ALP". The mission of ALP is to further the library profession, library institutions and library and information services in the developing countries of Africa, Asia and Oceania, Latin America and the Caribbean.

ii) Preservation and Conservation (PAC): IFLA Core Activity on Preservation and Conservation (PAC) was officially

created during the IFLA annual conference in Nairobi in 1984 to focus efforts on issues of preservation and to initiate worldwide cooperation for the preservation of library materials. The PAC programme was effectively launched in Vienna during the 1986 Conference on the Preservation of Library Materials co-organized by the Conference of the Directors of National Libraries, IFLA and UNESCO.

iii) *IFLA-CDNL Alliance for Digital Strategies (ICADS):* ICADS is a joint alliance of IFLA and the Conference of Directors of National Libraries (CDNL). The alliance was established in August 2008 as a successor to ICABS (IFLA-CDNL Alliance for Bibliographic Standards) which was established as a national libraries initiative in 2003.

iv) *IFLA UNIMARC:* Succeeding to the IFLA UBCIM Core Activity, the IFLA UNIMARC Core Activity (UCA) was established in 2003 with the responsibility for the maintenance and development of the Universal MARC format (UNIMARC).

IFLA's previous programme includes Universal Bibliographic Control (UBC) launched in 1973, International MARC Programme (IMP) established officially in 1983, Universal Availability of Publication (UAP) taken up in 1973, etc. Some other programmes and activities of IFLA are:

v) *Publication:* Each issue of IFLA Journal (Quarterly) covers news of current IFLA activities and articles, selected to reflect the variety of the international information profession, ranging from freedom of information, preservation, services to the visually impaired and intellectual property.

Council Report (biennial) records IFLA's achievements in five key areas: access to information, the electronic environment, preservation and conservation, services and standards and professional development. The IFLA publications series include such titles as Intelligent library

buildings, and adapting marketing to libraries in a changing worldwide environment. The IFLA Professional Reports series feature reports of professional meetings and guidelines to best practice. Recent reports include Proceedings of the IFLA/UNESCO pre-conference seminar on public libraries and Guidelines for easy-to-read materials. Besides the above, many IFLA groups (Divisions, Core Activities, Sections and Special Interest Groups) have their own newsletters. Some are produced regularly, others only appear sporadically. Each year the proceedings of the World Library and Information Congress, IFLA General Conference and Assembly are made available on the IFLA website. It also publishes International Cataloguing and Bibliographic Control (ICBC) Journal, IFLA Directory, International cataloguing, world directory of administrative libraries, world directory of map collection, LIBRI- Library journal.

vi) Seminars, Conference and Workshop: IFLA regularly holds "World Library and Information Congress: IFLA General Conference and Assembly" and Regional Meetings. IFLA's general conferences are large scale conference. In 1961 IFLA holds the international conference on cataloguing principles in Paris.

vii) Fellowships, Funds and Grants: IFLA administers a number of Grants and Scholarships to enable the aspiring library and information professionals from all over the world to enhance their training and to provide funding for new and exciting projects in the field of librarianship. Such programmes include Guust Van Wesemael Literacy Prize, IFLA International Marketing Award, Jay Jordan IFLA/OCLC Early Career Development Fellowship, Margreet Wijnstroom Fund, Dr Shawky Salem Conference Grant (SSCG), etc

viii) Cooperation: IFLA is now quite an active international organization. It has Formal Associate Relations with UNESCO, observer status with the United Nations, associate status with the International Council of Scientific Unions (ICSU) and observer status with the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and the International Organization for Standardization (ISO). In 1999, it established observer status with the World Trade Organization (WTO). It has also offered consultative status to a number of non-governmental organizations operating in related fields, including the International Publishers Association (IPA). It is also a member of the International Council on Archives (ICA), International Council of Museums (ICOM), the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), and the International Committee of the Blue Shield (ICBS). Again, till 2009 more than 25 corporations in the information industry have formed a working relationship with IFLA under its Corporate Partners scheme.

ix) Standardization: IFLA has standardized international loan request form in 1935 and has been progressively revising it since then. IFLA developed and published in 1974 the International Standard Bibliographic Description for Monographic Publication [ISBD(M)] as the basis for rules of description of monographic material in AACR-II. In 1975 IFLA and the Joint Steering Committee for the revision of AACR - (JSC/AACR) jointly developed General International Standard Bibliographic Description [ISBD(G)]. It serves as a framework for the description of all types of publication.

x) Mailing Lists and Forum: Sympa software provides web access to IFLA's lot of mailing lists. IFLA also serves as an international forum for librarians and advises international bodies relating to library and information science. It provides

expert advice and assistance in the planning and development of library services.

IFLA advises libraries on matters such as interlibrary loan practices, copyright laws, library building design, and development of legal deposit regulations that entitle national libraries to receive copies of every work registered for copyright in their respective countries. It also stimulates cooperation among writers, scholars, publishers, and libraries, and it assists librarians in promoting literacy and universal access to knowledge. In addition, IFLA advocates the formation of a worldwide information network.

India is represented in the Executive Board of IFLA. In October, 1985 ILA organised the IFLA's regional seminar on UAP in New Delhi. ILA also hosted 58th General Conference of IFLA in New Delhi from August 30-Septermber 5, 1992.

4.5.2 The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

The representatives of 37 countries mt in London to sign UNESCO's Constitution which came into force on November 4, 1946 after ratification by 20 signatories. It is an inter-governmental specialized agency of the United Nations. The UNESCO's permanent Headquarters is in Paris, France. UNESCO's website can be found over <http://portal.unesco.org>

a) Objectives: UNESCO deploys its action in the fields of Education, Natural Sciences, Social and Human Sciences, Culture, Communication and Information. UNESCO works on a number of priorities that require a trans-disciplinary approach alongside the traditional focus of its five programme sectors. Here in this discussion we will only deal with Communication and Information.

The main objective for UNESCO is to build a knowledge society based on the sharing of knowledge and incorporating all the socio-cultural and ethical dimensions of sustainable development. UNESCO's priorities in the field of Communication and Information include:

i) Empowering people through access to information and knowledge with special emphasis on freedom of expression;
ii) Promoting communication development;
iii) Advancing the use of ICTs for education, science and culture.

b) Organization: The General Conference consists of the representatives of the Member states of the Organization. It meets every two years, and is attended by Member States and Associate Members, together with observers for non-Member-States, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). Each country has one vote, irrespective of its size or the extent of its contribution to the budget.

The Executive Board, in a sense, assures the overall management of UNESCO. It prepares the work of the General Conference and sees that its decisions are properly carried out. The Secretariat consists of the Director-General and the Staff appointed by him. As of January 2007, the Secretariat employed around 2,100 civil servants from some 170 countries. The staff is divided into Professional and General Service categories. Under a recent decentralization policy, more than 700 staff members work in UNESCO's 58 field offices around the world.

c) Membership: In short, UNESCO promotes international co-operation among its 193 (As of October 2009) Member States and six Associate Members in the fields of education, science, culture, and communication.

d) Functions and Activities: The aim of UNESCO in the field of Communication and Information is to Empower people through the free flow of ideas by word and image, and by access to information and knowledge. The Communication and Information Sector (CI) was established in its present form in 1990.

i) UNISIST: It is an international project sponsored by UNESCO to foster and coordinate international bibliographical services being provided by various organizations. It is an inter-governmental programme to encourage and guide voluntary cooperation in the exchange of information at national, regional and international levels.

ii) National Information System (NATIS): NATIS is a brain-child of UNESCO. It implies that governments at different levels (national, state and local) should maximize the availability of all relevant information.

iii) General Information Programme (PGI): PGI is the initials of its French name Program General d' Information. It was established in 1976 combining both the NATIS and UNISIST programmes. The primary role of PGI is to promote computer application and communication technologies in library and information services, information network and provision of on line facilities for sharing and exchanging information between different countries all over the world.

iv) Universal Bibliographic Control (UBC): For compilation of bibliographies UNESCO has launched an ambitious project in cooperation with IFLA known as UBC.

v) ASTINFO and APINESS: In 1984 UNESCO established Regional Network for Exchange of Information and Experience in Science and Technology in Asia and Pacific (ASTINFO) to promote regional cooperation, better understanding and socio-economic development in Asia and Pacific region. Later in 1986 another network called Asia

Pacific Information Network in Social Sciences (APINESS) was established.

vi) Others: New World Information and Communication Order (NWICO), Intergovernmental Programmes for the Development of Communication (IDDC), International System in Research in Documentation (ISORID), Science and Technology Policies Information Exchange System (SPINES), Data Retrieval System for Documentation in the Social and Human Sciences (DARE), International Bureau of Education Documentation and Information System (IBEDOC) are some other programmes of the UNESCO. The ISORID was established for collection and dissemination of information on research activities in documentation, libraries and archives.

vii) Publication: In 1980 the first two volumes of UNESCO's General History of Africa was published. UNESCO also brought out a publication namely "Public Library Manifesto" 1949, revised in 1972, which gives a new image and a wider scope to the principles upon which the documentation and library services are based. Other publications include UNESCO Courier (monthly), Copyright Bulleting (Quarterly), Impact of Science in Society, Index Treanslationum, World guide to Library Schools and Training courses in Documentation, 1981. Public Libraries and their mission (1961) by Andre Maurios etc.

viii) Seminars, Conference and Workshop: UNESCO has supported library conferences, seminars and meetings. In 1952 an intergovernmental conference convened by UNESCO adopted the Universal Copyright Convention. In the decades following World War II, the Convention served to extend copyright protection to numerous states.

ix) Fellowships, Funds and Grants: The UNESCO Fellowships Programme, through the award and administration of

fellowships, study and travel grants provide various opportunities for librarians. UNESCO is also responsible for sending a large number of experts as consultants and advisors to developing countries for the purpose of initiating and expanding library services. UNESCO also helps its member states to rebuild their libraries during the Second World War. It also gives a huge grant to IFLA and FID (it was dissolved in 2002). UNESCO initiated the pilot public libraries at New Delhi (India), Enugu (Nigeria) and Medellin (Colombia) which demonstrates UNESCO's Faith in public libraries. UNESCO also sponsored research on librarianship especially for the developing countries.

x) Cooperation: UNESCO maintains healthy cooperation with IFLA, International Council on Archives (ICA), Committee on Data for Science and Technology (CoDATA) established by International Council of Scientific Union (ICSU), etc.

xi) Standardization: The Common Communication Format (CCF) was published by UNESCO in 1984 and a second edition was published in 1988. CCF is a structure format for creating bibliographical record and exchange of records between groups of information agency and libraries.

xii) Mailing Lists and Forum: The WebWorld Portals Discussion forum is the place to discuss various topics related to Libraries, Archives, Information Society, Free and Open Source Software. It also provides feedback on and discusses all aspects of WebWorld Portals. WebWorld, the website of UNESCO's Communication and Information Sector, offers a daily news service to its users. The news articles mainly cover UNESCO's activities in the area of communication and information, both at UNESCO's Headquarters and its field offices.

The UNESCO Libraries Portal gives access to websites of library institutions around the world. It serves as an international

gateway to information for librarians and library users and international co-operation in this area. The UNESCO Archives Portal gives access to websites of archival institutions around the world. It is also a gateway to resources related to records and archives management and international co-operation in the area. The Observatory on the Information Society monitors the impact of globalization on knowledge societies through the collection of pertinent information and by observing the trends. The UNESCO Free Software Portal gives access to documents and websites which are references for the Free Software/Open Source Technology movement. It is also a gateway to resources related to Free Software.

India became a member of UNESCO on 4 November 1946. UNESCO for the first time started the first pilot project in library in India by establishing the Delhi Public Library in October 1951. This later on developed into Delhi Public Library. The main aim of this project was to provide information on the problem of public library service for the parts of India in particular and for the Asia in general.

The Indian National Scientific Documentation Centre (INSDOC) was set up in 1952 by the government of India with technical assistance from UNESCO. In 1964 UNESCO assisted INSDOC, again, in setting up its regional centre in Bangalore. Now Indian National Scientific Documentation Centre (INSDOC) has merged with National Institute of Science Communication (NISCOM) to form National Institute of Science Communication and Information Resources (NISCAIR) on 30 September 2002. The Indian national commission is the official agency of UNESCO and National Information System for Science and Technology (NISSAT) in the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR) is the focal point for UNISIST (PGI) and is also the coordinating centre for ASTINFO programme.

NASSDOC of ICSSR is the focal point for UNESCO supporting APINESS programme.

Besides the above, the UNESCO honoured the Indian librarians by inviting them to advise upon various library projects meant for the member country. The prominent among them were Dr. S. R. Ranganathan, B. S. Kesavan, S. S. Saith and a few others. India also organized a few conferences and regional seminars of UNESCO. Notable among them are Seminar of the development of public libraries in Asia held at Delhi from October 6-26, 1955; Ninth General conference at Delhi in 1956; Regional seminar on library development in South Asia, University of Delhi library, 3-14 October, 1960; Seminar on Handling and Retrieval of Chemical Information, Delhi, 1986.

4.6 NATIONAL LIBRARY ASSOCIATIONS

The American Library Association (ALA) (1876), Association for Information Management (ASLIB), The Canadian Library Association (CLA) (1946), The Library Association, London, The Special Libraries Association (SLA), (1909), The Association for Library and Information Science Education (ALISE) (1915), The American Society for Information Science (ASIS), The Association of Research Libraries (ARL) (1932), The Society of American Archivists (SAA) (1936), etc are some of the most popular national library associations in the world.

In India, All India Public Library Association (1919); Indian Library Association (1933); Government of India Library Association (1933); All India Rural Library Association (1933); Indian Library Association (1933); All India Manuscripts Library Association (1944) are some of popular library associations that were established before independence. The Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation (RRRLF), Indian Association of Special Libraries and Information Centers (IASLIC) (1955); All India College Library Association (1966); Indian Association of Teachers of Library and Information Science (IATLIS) (1969); Society for Information Science (SIS)

(1969); Indian Theological Library Association; Medical Library Association of India (MALI), etc. were established after independence.

4.6.1 Indian Library Association (ILA)

In 1933 some of the government of India Librarians, especially those in Calcutta, under the leadership of K. M. Asadullah organized the first All India Library Conference. It was at this conference that the Indian Library Association was founded on 12 September, 1933. The ILA Headquarters is in Delhi.

a) Objectives: ILA was formed with three fold objectives. In 1935 two more objectives were added. An amendment to the constitution of the ILA in 1970 added another four objectives. Another amendment in 1987 added three more objectives. Some of the objectives of ILA are:

i) Promoting library movement in the country,
ii) Developing Library and Information Science education,
iii) Training and research, improvemen of library personnel,
iv) Cooperation at the national and international levels,
v) Promotion of standards, norms, services and guidelines, and
vi) Providing a forum for professionals and publication of materials.

b) Organization: The Council of the association acts as the governing body. The executive committee is constituted by the council in its very first meeting.

c) Functions and Activities

i) Act as a Driving Force: ILA takes up with the state governments the issue of enacting library legislation in order to develop the public library system.

ii) Development of the Profession: ILA has been pursuing with the government, UGC and other concerned bodies at all levels on matter relating to better salary, grades, service condition and status of the library professionals.

iii) Undertaking of Projects: ILA undertook compilation of "Union catalogue of Periodicals in the Libraries of South Asia". Two other projects were allocated to ILA by the UNESCO. They are "Rendering of Asian Names" and "Directory of Asian Periodicals".

iv) Publication: Library Bulleting (1942-46*), Journal of Indian Library Association* (1955-64), *ILA Bulletin*, *ILA Newsletter*, etc some of the publications of the ILA. *ABGILA* (1949-52), was another publication, which was an intionym, a confluence of three journals in one periodical that is Annals, Bulletin, Granthalaya of ILA.

v) Seminars, Conferences, Workshops and Training: ILA holds All India Library Conference Annually; in 1995 Regional Conferences were started. Besides, the Association also arranges lectures, round table discussion etc. mostly in Delhi. Several training programmes in computer application (in Delhi from 2-7th June 1986), use of CDS/ISIS software etc were also organized with support of NISSAT.

vi) Fellowships, Funds and Grants: Vedanayaki Fellowship for MLISc students; Dr. Umapati Fellowship for LIS students; P. V. Verghese Prize for the best article contribution to ILA Bulletin, etc are some of the fellowship and award programmes of ILA for promoting librarianship.

vii) Cooperation: The ILA has cooperation with international organizations such as IFLA, UNESCO, COMLA, etc. It has also been playing an important role in the JOCLAI, RRRLF, Good Office Committee (GOC), National Book Trust (NBC), etc.

4.6.2 Indian Association of Special Libraries and Information Centres (IASLIC)

Three leading librarians from Calcutta, J. Saha, A. K. Mukherjee and G. B. Ghosh convened a meeting of librarians and

documentalists on June 25, 1955 at Indian Museum, Calcutta. This meeting resulted in the formation of IASLIC <http://iaslic1955.org> on 3rd September 1955. Dr. Sunal Lal Hora was unanimously selected as its first president and Jibananda Saha was the general secretary. IASLIC headquarters is located at P-291, CIT Scheme No 6M, Kankurgachi, Kolkata – 700 054.

a) Objectives: The objectives of IASLIC are to

i) Promote the quality of Library and Information Services;

ii) Coordinate the activities, and

iii) Foster mutual cooperation and assistance among the special libraries, scientific, technological and research institutions, learned societies, commercial organizations, industrial research establishments as well as centres of studies in social sciences and humanities;

iv) Improve the technical efficiency of the professionals;

v) Act as a centre of research and studies in special librarianship and documentation techniques;

vi) Act as a centre of information in scientific, technical and other related fields of LIS in pursuance of the aforesaid objects.

b) Organization: The general body of the members of IASLIC biennially elects 14 office-bearers and 20 members of the Council, which is the highest organ to formulate the policies and programmes of work. The Council appoints from among its members the Executive and Finance Committee consisting of 8 office-bearers and 4 members to manage the regular activities. Six Divisions are also constituted by the Council for each term. They are

i) Documentation Services;

ii) Education;

iii) Publication & Publicity;

iv) Library Services;

v) Documentary Reproduction and Translation;

vi) Cooperation and Coordination of Libraries.

c) Membership: IASLIC is composed of four kinds of members, namely Honorary Membership, Donor Membership, Institutional Membership, Individual Membership (Donor, Ordinary Membership, and Life Membership).

d) Functions and Activities

i) JOCLAI: To bring about mutual co-operation and unified action on matters of common interests, IASLIC mooted the idea of forming the Joint Council of Library Associations of India (JOCLAI) especially of those at national level. The JOCLAI meetings take place during the national meets of each IASLIC and ILA. It has formulated a Code of Ethics for the library profession in India.

ii) Documentation, Documentary Reproduction & Translation Services: The IASLIC undertakes compilation of bibliographies and English translation of documents from Russian, German, French, Chinese, Japanese, etc. and also undertakes imaging of documents for archiving. All these services are provided on non-profit basis.

iii) Library Consultancy Service: The Association undertakes consultancy services like creation of computerized bibliographic databases, retrospective conversion of records, preservation & conservation of documents, cataloguing, classification and stock verification in public and private organizations on non-profit basis.

iv) Publication: Its publications include IASLIC Bulletin, IASLIC Newsletter, Different books, Monographs, Directory, IASLIC Proceedings, IASLIC Annual Report, etc.

v) Seminars, Conferences, Workshops and Training: The Association in its continuing education programmes conducts short term courses, workshops, round tables, seminars etc. It holds a biennial seminar and a conference in alternate years.

vi) Mailing Lists and Forum: IASLIC Council created Special Interest Groups (SIG) to bring together persons of common interests. SIG Group meetings are held during IASLIC Conference of common interests. The SIG includes SIG on Industrial Information; SIG on Social Science Information, SIG on Computer Application, SIG on Humanities Information, SIG on Informetrics, and SIG on Library & Information Science Education.

vii) Others: The IASLIC conducts study circle meetings for discussion on various issues of interest concerning LIS. It also conduct Ranganathan Memorial Lecture which has been held since 1993 on any topic of Library, Information and Communication science by leading personalities of the profession. Besides, it also conducts Annual Special Lecture and celebrates the Librarian's Day every year.

4.7 STATE LIBRARY ASSOCIATIONS

In case of state level library association, Assam Library Association, Sadau Asom Gramya Puthibharal Santha, Gujarat Library Association (Gujarat Granthalaya-Seva Sangh - GGSS), Karnataka State Library Association, Kerala Library Association, Punjab Library Association, Uttar Pradesh Library Association, Bengal Library Association (Bangiya Granthagar Parishad), etc are functioning regularly. Among the state level associations the Andhra Pradesh Library Association's "Granthalaya sarvaswamu (1915)" is the oldest professional journal which is still in publication.

4.7.1 Assam Library Association

The Assam Library Association (Sadau Assam Puthibharal Sangha) was started in the year 1938 mainly by the personal enthusiasm of Shri Kumudeswar Borthakur (1893-1966), a man who devoted his life for the growth and development of libraries in Assam. He was fully assisted in the matter of public library services

by Lokapriya Gopinath Bardoloi and other political and social workers. By establishing this Association, Assam became the 8th state in country in establishing state level library association. After the executive meeting held on 16th July 1972 ALA became inactive till 1996. However, on 22nd February, 1997 it got revived with a full fledged executive council.

The Association has been performing the following functions and activities

i) *Making People Aware:* After the birth of ALA an attempt was made for a wide publicity of the library movement through different avenues like Bihu festivals, public meeting, advertisement through the screen of Kelvin Cinema, Guwahati etc. With the help of daily newspapers and using the market places people were sought to be made aware of the library movement. Children were encouraged to demand books from their parents on the occasion of their birthday or as reward for good performance in examination. The lower income groups of people were approached for small contribution through "mustibhiksha", which was a unique way of collecting handful of grains and the money thus collected from the sale of the grains was to be spent on libraries.

ii) *Organization of Rural Libraries:* In the 1st conference of Assam Library Association in 1938 hardly 50 libraries were recorded to have been engaged in library work throughout the villages of Assam and during the span of 10 years (1938-1948) Barthakur organized 250 libraries. Between May-July, 1971 it established Goalpara, Tezpur, Jorhat, Nagaon, Nalbari, Barpeta, Dibrugarh, Mangoldoi, Guwahati Mahkuma Committee for carrying out its activities but in the subsequent years it did not give much fruitful result. The Association, further, at its "Granthalok" of 1972/73 listed 169 rural libraries of Assam with detailed address (Granthalok: 1973: 81-87) that were affiliated to ALA.

iii) *Draft Public Library Act:* On the invitation of the 8th conferences (1964) of the All Assam Library Association held at Gauhati under the chairmanship of Pandit Dr. Maheswar Neog, Dr. S. R. Ranganathan prepared a Draft Public Libraries Act for Assam which was submitted to the Government and further in the 9th Annual conference held at Guwahati on 9, 10 and 11th April, 1971 reiterated its earlier demand but it has not got any fruitful result till now. The Draft Public Library Act was published in the Souvenir of Assam Library Association of 1971. Again, since 1998 attempt has continuously been made to enact the library legislation in Assam. A draft Assam State Public Library and Information Bill made by a Govt-appointed committee has been submitted and now it is in the process of being accepted.

iv) *Publication:* In connection with the 8th Annual conference of 1964 ALA published one Souvenir; A Souvenir was also published by the reception committee with 9th Annual conference in 1971. At the 10th Annual Conference on 24th and 25th November, 1972 at Nagaon the half yearly official organ of the Association titled “Granthalok” took birth. In 1972/73 it brought out another volume of “Granthalok”. One newsletter was published in the year 1999.

v) *Seminars, Conferences, Workshops and Training:* ALA also made an attempt to build up a voluntary village library system by organizing conferences in different districts and in this way has been able to arouse and enlist public support and sympathy for public libraries by holding different conferences at Dibrugarh (1938), Tezpur (1952), Nagawn, Jorhat (1953), Golaghat (1955), Bokakhat (1957), Mangoldoi (1959), Guwahati (8th conference, 24th and 25th October 1964), Guwahati (9th conference on 9, 10 and 11th April, 1971), Nagaon (10th Annual Conference on 24th and 25th November, 1972) etc.

vi) *Librarian’s Day Celebration:* In 1998 ALA celebrated Librarian’s Day with Guwahati Library Association (GLA) at Guwahati and in 1999 with Jorhat Library Association. It observed its 12th

Annual Conference on 12th August at Guwahati District Library Auditorium along with the Librarian's Day which was also observed in association with the Department of Library and Information Science, Gauhati University and Guwahati Library Association.

Through a resolution passed in the 8th Conference (1964), the All Assam Library Association had resolved to start a certificate course in Library Science but till now it has not been implemented. The Association, however, is passing into an inactive stage day by day. Unless some young and energetic librarians take the responsibility, the future of the Association is not encouraging.

4.7.2 Bengal Library Association

Bengal Library Association (Bangiya Granthagar Parishad), formerly known as All Bengal Library Association, was established in 1925 under the presidentship of Poet Rabindranath Tagore. Presently, the Association is housed in its four-storied building accommodating its office, library, class rooms and computer room at P64, CIT Scheme 52, Kolkata - 700 014.

a) Objectives: The Objectives of the Association are:

i) Propagating the importance of library and information services for individuals and for the society and developing awareness for the library and information services;

ii) Suggesting measures for improvement and expansion of library services for all categories of libraries in the state;

iii) Organizing movement for the improvement of the service conditions and proper pay and status of the library workers;

iv) Organizing conferences and seminars to enlighten people about the various aspects of the library movement and library services

v) Organizing training courses, refresher courses, workshops etc. and publishing books, periodicals, reports etc pertaining to library science and library services.

b) Organization: The General Body, the Council and the Executive Committee form the organizational structure of BLA.

c) Membership: Anybody interested in the library movement may become a member of the Association. There are five categories of members of the Association i.e. Patron, Honorary Member, Donor Member, Life Member, Personal Member and Institutional Member.

d) Functions and Activities: The Association is performing the following functions and activities

i) Library Service: The Association has a library of its own with a collection of more than 5 thousand books on library and information science and reference tools. The Library is open to all members and students.

ii) Publication: The first periodical on Library Science in Bengal was published by the Bengal Library Association in 1937 as "Bengal Library Association Bulletin – Bangiya Granthagar Parishad Patrika". Presently, the Association publishes a monthly journal in Bengali with English Abstract named "Granthagar". Besides this, the Association also regularly publishes books on Library and Information Science and library services in English and Bengali. The English collection includes Research Methodology, Book Classification, Phanibhusan Roy Commemorative Volume, Library Movement in India, etc.

iii) Seminars, Conferences, Workshops and Training: Bengal Library Conference is a forum of the library users and workers where any person having interest in library services can participate.

iv) Course in LIS: It has been conducting a Certificate Course in Library Science since 1937, Special Course on Computer Application in Library Services, and Refresher courses for working librarians.

4.8 LOCAL LIBRARY ASSOCIATIONS

Madras Library Association, Bombay Science Librarian's Association (BOSLA), Guwahati Library Association (GLA), Jorhat Library Association etc are very active local level library associations in India.

a) Guwahati Library Association (GLA): The highly inactive Assam Library Association was behind the establishment of GLA on 8th February, 1993 by some enthusiastic library personnel at District Library, Guwahati. The first ad-hoc executive body meeting was held at the Department of Library & Information Science, Gauhati University on 2nd July 1993 and the first general body meeting was held on 6th December 1993. The Association carried out the following functions and activities

i) Revival of ALA: The GLA is behind the revival of ALA in 1996. In 1996 when it was observing the Librarians' Day at Guwahati District Library, in the afternoon session its platform was given to the living members of ALA for its revival and ultimately ALA got revived on 22nd February, 1997 at the 11th Annual conference at Gauri Sadan, Guwahati.

ii) Publication: The GLA in connection with its first annual conference in 1995 brought out a souvenir titled "Librarianship in Assam: A Challenging profession". After that it published another 4 volumes of its souvenir and one Newsletter in 2001.

iii) Seminars, Conferences, Workshops and Training: The first annual conference of GLA was held at Assam Agricultural University Campus, Khanapara (1995) and since then its annual conferences are being held more or less regularly.

iv) Librarian's Day Celebration: Under the banner of Guwahati Library Association the Librarian's Day was celebrated for the first time in Assam on 12th August, 1994 at Lakhiram Barooah Sadan, Guwahati.

Within its own scope, the GLA is striving for the growth and development of the Library and Information Science profession in Assam.



CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

A) Match the Following

a) IFLA	a) Delhi.
b) UNESCO	b) Kolkata
c) Indian Library Association (ILA)	c) Paris, France
d) IASLIC	d) Netherlands, in The Hague.

B) Find out True and False Sentences

a) IFLA stands for International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions.

b) The full form of CILIP is Clinical Institute of Library and Information Professionals.

c) UNESCO stands for The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

d) Joint Council of Library Associations of India (JOCLAI) formulated a Code of Ethics for the library profession in India.

C) Write the Full Form of the Following

a)	ASIS	b)	ASLIB	c)	IASLIC
d)	IATLIS	e)	ISO	f)	MALI
g)	RRRLF	h)	SIS	i)	WIPO

.....

.....

.....



4.9 LET US SUM UP

The professional associations address issues like financial support for libraries, censorship, and cooperative acquisition of library materials. They also attempt to influence legislation that affects libraries, establishes

policies and standards relating to libraries and librarians, and support continuing education for librarians. Almost all of these organizations publish journals or monographs relating to their particular areas of interest. Professional library associations hold conferences on a regular basis so that librarians may come together in order to develop policies and share ideas.

Private foundations also promote increased and improved library services around the world. Private philanthropic organizations also provide leadership in the establishment and maintenance of libraries around the world. In the early 20th century the Carnegie Corporation of New York was instrumental in establishing free public libraries in Africa, Latin America, and the South Pacific, but the organization stopped this programme in 1917. Today the Ford Foundation, based in New York City, provides vital financial support for libraries in the developing nations of Africa, Asia, and Latin America.



4.10 FURTHER READINGS

1) Chakrabarti, Bhubaneswar (1993). *Library and information society*. Calcutta: World press.
2) Kawatra, P. S. (1980). *Fundamentals of documentation: With special reference to India*. New Delhi: Sterling.
3) Krishan Kumar (1987). *Library organization*, New Delhi: Madhuban Educational Books.
4) Library (institution). (n.d). Retrieved October 9, 2009, from Microsoft® Encarta® Online Encyclopedia 2009: http://encarta.msn.com/text_761564555___54/Library_(institution).html)
5) P. S. G. Kumar (2004). *A students manual of library and information science*, 2nd ed.. Delhi: B.R. publishing corporation.

6) Tripathi, S.M., Lal, C and K Kumar (2002). *Descriptive questions in Library and Information Science.* New Delhi: Ess Ess.



4.11 ANSWERS TO CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

A) Match the Following

a) IFLA	a) Netherlands, in The Hague.
b) UNESCO	b) Paris, France
c) Indian Library Association (ILA)	c) Delhi.
d) IASLIC	d) Kolkata

B) Find out True and False Sentences

a) True. b) False. c) True. d) True.

C) Write the Full Form of the Following

a) ASIS: The American Society for Information Science.

b) ASLIB: Association for Information Management, previously, the Association of Special Libraries and Information Bureau.

c) IASLIC: Indian Association of Special Libraries and Information Centers.

d) IATLIS: Indian Association of Teachers of Library and Information Science.

e) ISO: International Organization for Standardization.

f) MALI: Medical Library Association of India.

g) RRRLF: The Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation.

h) SIS: Society for Information Science.

i) WIPO: World Intellectual Property Organization.



4.12 PROBABLE QUESTIONS

A) Short Answers Type Questions

a) Write the name of four international library associations.

b) Describe the activities of Assam Library Association.

c) Write a short note on Bengal Library Association.

d) Describe the activities of GLA.

e) Describe the three pillars of IFLA.

f) Write a short note on UNESCO's contribution towards Indian Library and Information Science.

B) Essay Type Questions

a) What do you mean by library association? What are the functions and activities that are performed by a library association?

b) Describe the role of IFLA in furthering the library and information science in the world.

c) Describe library related functions and activities of UNESCO.d) Write descriptive notes on Indian Library Association (ALA) and IASLIC.

*** ***** ***