

Professional Tacit Qualities which should be Pre-Occupied by the Dynamic Library Professionals: A Study based on Eight Librarians of Sri Lanka

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Abstract

The field of training for librarianship began in 1887 with Dewey's School of Library Economy at Columbia University. Librarian like any other professional, a professional librarian should possess best qualities. It is clear and obvious that there was a good library service and learned librarianship from the origin of the civilization and the introduction of writing tradition concurrently. In this paper, special attention has been given to investigate the qualities as well as the manner of devaluation of librarian and the service, gradually. Meanwhile, there probed and explored requirement of regaining and restoring the floating state of library service in Sri Lanka. Defines these qualities as: aptitude; adaptation; retentive memory; scholarship; personality; efficient administration; ability to communicate; and current awareness. It stipulates a complete knowledge of the reference collection, integrity, fitness and a linguistic ability of the librarian. This study focusses descriptive characteristics as well as tacit advanced qualities of librarians selecting only eight past librarians in Sri Lanka. The information revealed by this research project would be useful for researchers, academics, students, University Community as well as administrators or Management Boards for future development plans.

Keywords: *Library profession, Professionalism, Qualities of librarians, Professional image, Biographies, Library history*

Introduction

World library services originated simultaneously with the commencement of the human civilization. In the beginning, though, it has not been designated as a 'library' in general there has been collected and accumulated imperial documents in Royal Archives. As the result of it there was a requirement for an educated person to keep these historical collection for the protection or preservation and to disseminate them where necessary. Invariably, it is evident that he or she was a scholar; an educated fellow; a Pundit. It is a must to such an erudite person, to be perfect with Academic intelligence, for organization, storing, finding out and searching out the comprised knowledge in it. That is why the old libraries were handled and maintained by erudite scholars. Eventually library education came in to seen. Proper library schools were established all over the world.

Later libraries established their professional associations made library standards, adapted professional Code of ethics to be observed by the members of the professional community.