Chapter-2

Types of Libraries and their Role

Objectives of the chapter

- ◆ *Development of different types of libraries*
- ◆ *Public library and its role*
- ◆ *Academic library and its role*
- ◆ *Special library and its role*
- ◆ *Digital library and its characteristics*
- ◆ *Virtual library and it characteristics*

Content

2.1   Introduction

S. R. Ranganathan propounded the concept of trinity, in which it has been told that a library is the combination of three components. These three components are book, reader and staff. Books and readers are two different components which need to be brought in contact with the help of staff. Here, the book represent the information source in any form whether books, journals, periodicals, audio visual material, map, charts, and any other material which are valuable for library users.

The reader who uses the information sources of a library, represents all those people who need information and knowledge for their individual, professional, educational or recreational purposes. Hence, different set of people have different approaches towards library. It is became they need different types of information from library.

Staff is one of the important components of a library. It is the staff who brings life to a library. The staff identifies the information sources for its users and manages them in such a way that users can find the required introduction easily. If the users faces any problems in finding the required information then it is the staff who assists them in finding it. Hence, without staff, libraries would be lifeless and useless for the society.

Over the years, the society has created different institutions for different purposes. For educational needs, we have established educational institutions for different levels of education, to satisfy the educational needs of the society. We have schools, colleges, universities, and professional and technological institution. We have social and cultural organisations for the development of our society and culture.

The present society is engaged in research and development, and inventions and discovery. The research and development work in society is undertaken by different organisations worldwide. These organisations are government aided organisations, corporate houses, educational institutions, autonomous bodies and many more.

The information needs of different set of users are different in nature. To cater to the needs of different user groups, the society created different types of libraries. In the following sections, we are going to discuss different types of libraries, their features and characteristics.

2.2 Types of Libraries

In all human activities and day-to-day life, people need information and knowledge. To provide information and knowledge, we have library systems in the society. The informational needs of society differ from community to community and institution to institution. On the basis of varied informational needs of the society, different models of library have been developed. These models of library are studied under the topic 'Types of Libraries'.

Broadly, library has been grouped into four categories on the basis of their objectives and functions in the society. These categories are as follows:

1.	Public library
2.	Academic library

3. Special library

4. National library

2.2.1 Public library

Public library is a social institution established for providing opportunities to each and every person of the society, irrespective of their caste, creed, religion, gender, social, economic and educational status, etc., to acquire knowledge through reading materials. It is established for general public and is maintained chiefly by public fund. It is an integral part of the community, it serves.

The public library research group of the United Kingdom states that the basic aim of a public library is "to contribute to sustain the quality of life in all its aspects-educational, economic, industrial, scientific and cultural and promote the concept of democratic society in which equal opportunity exists for all, to develop into true citizens, with whole and balanced personalities leading to an increase in the sum total of man's happiness and awareness of himself, his fellow men and his environment ".

Ranganathan says that "the public libraries generate material happiness, mental jobs, and spiritual delight: they are social institution charged with the duty of providing the means for the perpetual self education of one and all: and the contribution to the circulation of the idea, the harnessing of leisure, the demand of democracy, the spreads of literary and the success of commercial and industrial organisation".

Hence, we can say that the public library is a social institution with the responsibility of providing library services to the community, without any bias and prejudice to cater to its informational and recreational needs. It provides equal opportunity to each and every member of the society to achieve success in life which ultimately contributes to the development of the society. It promotes democracy in the true sense. Inspired by the definition of democracy, given by Abraham Lincoln, the public library has also been defined as "a library, of the people, by the people, for the people."

UNESCO's Public Library Manifesto

The UNESCO's Public Library Manifesto was formulated for its member countries in 1949, to promote the public library system and make knowledge accessible to each and every member of the society. This manifesto was further revised in 1972 and was again revised in 1994 in collaboration with International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA). The final manifesto was widely accepted by the member countries of the United Nations. The manifesto provides guidelines regarding objectives, activities and services of public library; and its funding, legislation and networks; its operations, management and implementation.

According to the manifesto, public library is the local gateway to knowledge. It provides basic conditions for lifelong learning, independent decision making and cultural development of an individual as well as social groups. This manifesto proclaims the UNESCO's belief in the public library as a living force for education, culture and information and an essential agent for fostering peace and spiritual welfare in the society.

Mission of the Public Library

The UNESCO's Public Library Manifesto provides the following key missions that relate to information, literacy, education and culture, and should be at the core of public library services:

(i)   creating and strengthening reading habits in children from an early age;

(ii)   supporting both individual and self conducted education as well as formal education at all levels;

(iii)   providing opportunities for personal creative development;

(iv)   stimulating the imagination and creativity of children and young people;

(v)   promoting awareness of cultural heritage, appreciation of the arts, scientific achievements and innovations;

(vi)   providing access to cultural expressions of all performing arts;

(vii)   fostering inter-cultural dialogue and favouring cultural diversity;

(viii) supporting the oral tradition;

(ix)   ensuring access for citizens to all sorts of community information;

(x)   providing adequate information services to local enterprises, associations and interest groups;

(xi)   facilitating the development of information and computer literacy skills; and

(xii)   supporting and participating in literacy activities and programmes for all age groups, and initiating such activities, if necessary.

Funding, Legislation and Network

On the issue of funding, legislation and network, the Manifesto states that:

(i)   the public library shall in principle be free of charge. The public library is the responsibility of local and national authorities. It must be supported by specific legislation and financed by national and local governments. It has to be an essential component of any long-term strategy for culture, information provision, literacy and education.

(ii) to ensure nationwide library coordination and cooperation, legislation and strategic plans must also define and promote a national library network based on agreed standards of service.

(iii) the public network must be designed in relation to national, regional, research and specific libraries as well as libraries in schools, colleges and universities.

Operation and Management

The manifesto further provides guidelines on operation and management of public library. These guidelines are as follows:

(i) A clear policy must be formulated, defining objectives, priorities and services in relation to the local community needs. The public library has to be organised effectively and professional standards of operation must be maintained.

(ii) Cooperation with relevant partners - for example, user groups and other professionals at local, regional, national as well as international level - has to be ensured.

(iii) Services have to be physically accessible to all members of the community. This requires well situated library buildings, good reading and study facilities, as well as relevant technologies and sufficient opening hours convenient to the users. It equally implies outreach services for those unable to visit the library.

(iv) The library services must be adapted to the different needs of communities in rural and urban areas.

(v) The librarian is an active intermediary between users and resources. Professional and continuing education of the librarian is indispensable to ensure adequate services.

(vi) Outreach and user education programmes have to be provided to help users benefit from all the resources.

Objectives of Public Library

S. R. Ranganathan, in his book "Library Manual", lays down the following objectives of the public library:

(i) It should help the life-long self-education of one and all;

(ii) It should furnish up-to-date facts and information on all subjects to one and all;

(iii) It should distribute in an unbiased and balanced way, all recorded views and thoughts to one and all, as a help in discharge of their political functions in respect of local, national and international affairs;

(iv) It should contribute to the productivity drive by informing top management of the latest trends in diverse enterprises, by ploughing back into the minds of researchers, designers, and technologists every piece of relevant new thought, promptly and pin-pointedly;

(v) It should provide one and all a harmless and elevating use of leisure;

(vi) It should preserve the literary remains of humanity for posterity, as vehicles of culture and as source materials for antiquarian research;

(vii) In general, it should work for continued social well-being, as the agency in charge of all socialised recorded thoughts.

Hence, as per model functions listed by Ranganathan, a public library has educational, informational, political, economic, industrial, cultural and antiquarian objectives.

Functions of Public Library

The public library performs different functions to achieve its objectives. These functions can be listed as:

(i) **Supporting Education:** The public library provides all kinds of information sources to the member of the community, it serves. It helps people in educational endeavour whether formal, informal or non-formal education. It is especially, a boon for the people who acquire knowledge through non-formal and informal education system. Its services to the community supports Adult Education and Social Education which ultimately demolishes illiteracy from the society. Because of this function, the public library is considered people's university as it provides the sources of knowledge whether printed, non-printed or any other form, to develop professional, intellectual, moral and spiritual capabilities of the members of the society.

(ii) **Knowledge Preservation and Dissemination:** The public library preserves the socio-cultural, historical, geographical and other categories of knowledge either produced or needed by the community, it serves. It disseminates this preserved knowledge in the community to make people aware about community, its professions and vocation, culture, customs, lifestyle, etc.

(iii) **Creating Reading Habits and Love for Knowledge:** The public library provides all kinds of reading materials such as books, periodicals, popular magazines, etc. which creates reading habits among the people of the community, and has positive effects on creating responsible citizens.

Apart from the functions discussed above, providing required information and knowledge to the members of the community, it serves, is the prime function of the public library.

2.2.2 Academic Library

Education and library are the two faces of the same coin. One cannot exist without the other. Hence, an academic library is an integral part of any institution of formal education. It supports the teaching-learning process of the institution it is associated with. Academic library can be defined as "a library which is associated or attached with any educational institution to support its educational programmes".

The library collection is developed depending upon the nature of the institution and its academic programmes. The students, teachers, research scholars, administrative staff and other staff members of the institution are the users of the academic library. The needs of these users dominate the collection of an academic library. The number, qualities and qualifications of the library staff of an academic library differ on the basis of the type of academic library, its users and the services, it provides.

Objectives of Academic Library

The objectives of an, academic library are to:

(i)   serve the needs of the academic community;

(ii)   collect and store all kinds of reading and reference material;

(iii) provide all kinds of informational materials to support the curricular requirements of the institution;

(iv) provide supporting materials for extra curricular activities;

(v)   provide reading rooms for users;

(vi) render lending service appropriate to students, teachers and researchers;

(vii) provide an active reference and information service.

Types of Academic Library

Broadly, there are three types of academic libraries. These are:

(a)   School library

(b)   College library

(c)   University library

(a) School Library

The school library is a library attached to or associated with a school to support the education system of the school. It caters to all the informational needs of the students, teachers and staff of the school. In India, there are four levels of school: primary, middle, secondary and senior secondary. The government and the agencies responsible for developing and supporting school education in India, have a policy that the school of all levels should be supported by a school library. Because of this, even primary schools are being supported by a library to serve the needs of its students, teachers and other staff members.

Objectives of School Library

The objectives of a school library are to:

(i) support the education programmes of the school;

(ii) awaken and foster interest in reading books and create reading habits among students;

(iii) nurture good moral values and principles in students to create refined and responsible citizens;

(iv) develop self-learning skills and interest in using library for solving problems;

(v) provide information on further study and vocation;

(vi) help teachers to improve their teaching skills;

(vii) inculcate communication skills through extra curricular activities like story telling, viewing and discussions on audio-visual programmes, workshops, etc.

The school libraries of all levels have almost same set of objectives as mentioned above.

Functions of School Library

The school library of all levels should develop the collection of information material to satisfy the objectives mentioned above. Apart from developing suitable collection of inspiratory, informatory and recreatory books and other materials, the academic library is supposed to perform the following functions:

(i) Lending of books and other materials;

(ii) Reading rooms with suitable furniture and lighting;

(iii)   Reference services;

(iv)   Guidance, counselling and advisory services.

(b)   College Library

The library associated with college caters to the informational needs of the college community- students, teachers, staff of the college and alumnus. The library help in the expansion of knowledge and satisfies the quest for knowledge.

The modern society has different types of colleges. These are:

(i)   Junior college;

(ii)   Degree college;

(iii)   Postgraduate college;

(iv)   Professional college and technical college.

Objectives of College Library

The objectives of the college library, of all categories of colleges, are to:

(i)   give the students, a wider and deeper understanding of the various disciplines;

(ii)   help in all the educational programmes of the college;

(iii)   provide guidance to students for higher studies and self-learning;

(iv)   prepare the students for shouldering higher responsibilities in government departments, civic organizations, commercial establishments, business and industries, etc;

(v)   prepare them for varied professions like law, medicine, engineering, technology, etc;

(vi)   train them to become more enlightened, knowledgeable and responsible citizens; and

(vii) keep informed the teachers with latest updates in their respective subject area.

Functions of College Library

The functions of a college library can be listed as:

(i)   developing collection of textbooks, related books, books of general knowledge, reference materials and audio-visual materials to support educational and instructional programmes of the college;

(ii) procuring popular magazines, newspapers and scholarly journals to support students and teachers in acquiring deeper knowledge their subject area and general knowledge about their surroundings;

(iii) making the library resources accessible through proper classification, cataloguing and shelving;

(iv) providing physical facilities such as functional building, furniture, equipment, reading rooms, etc. ;

(v) preserving previous years' question papers to help the students in preparing for examinations and assessments;

(vi) developing collection of inspiratory materials like fiction, poetry, biographies, travel-books, etc.;

(vii) organizing orientation programmes for new students to make them aware of the facilities and resources available in the library.

(c) University Library

The university library is an integral part of a university. The academic programmes of a university covers a wide range of disciplines and subjects. The modern universities are offering a number of academic programmes which are multi-disciplinary in nature. Apart from the academic programmes, scholars of the universities undertake research projects for acquiring degrees such as PHd, DLit, etc., as well as for the discovery and invention of new theories, principles and technology for the sake of society or for solving the problems of the society. Hence, a library becomes an essential component of the university to support its academic and research activities.

Because of the responsibilities a university library shoulders, it is considered the heart of a university, around which teaching and research revolves. According to the Association of University Teachers, "the prime function of the university library is to provide facilities for study and research for the members of its own institution".

Objectives of a University Library

The objectives of a university library are to:

(i) provide facilities for all teaching, learning, educational, and research programmes of the university;

(ii) satisfy informational needs of the students, teachers and researchers of the university;

(iii) inspire the teachers and researchers of the university to undertake research works for generating new knowledge to improve the quality of life of the people;

(iv) provide latest knowledge to the teachers in their area of teaching and research; and

(v) conserve knowledge and ideas for posterity.

Functions of a University Library

The major functions of the university library to fulfil its objectives are to:

(i) develop collections on a wide range of subjects for learning, teaching, research, publication, etc.;

(ii) organize and store the library collection with proper classification, cataloguing, shelving, etc to make the collection easily accessible to the users;

(iii) acquire materials such as books, journals, periodicals, newspapers, and others sources of information to provide latest information and knowledge on the concerned subjects;

(iv) provide reference, information and documentation services to the university community to keep them up-to-date in their area of study and research;

(v) keep pace with the development in the library management system and application of new technologies to provide better library services to the users.

2.2.3 Special Library

The special libraries are established to meet the informational requirements of the organisations they are associated with. Such organisations are devoted to Research and Development (R&D) activities. The special library procures all types of information sources such as handbooks, technical reports, state-of-the-art reports, bibliographies, current awareness bulletins, periodicals, indexes, abstracts, directories, etc., needed for the research projects of the organisation.

Definition of Special Library

The American Library Association's (ALA) Glossary of Library and Information Science defines Special Library as, "a library established, supported and administered by business firms, private corporations, associations, government

agencies, or other special interest groups or agencies to meet the information needs of its members or staff in pursuing the goals of the organisation. The scope of services is limited to the subject interest of the host or parent organisation".

Harrod's Librarians' Glossary of Terms states, "a special library is a collection of books and other printed, graphic or recorded material dealing with a limited field of knowledge and provided by a learned society, research organisation, industrial or commercial undertaking, government department or even an educational institution. It may also be a special branch of a public library serving certain interests or occupational groups such as a technical library or a special subject library, meeting the needs of all enquiries on that given subject such as music library".

A special library serves specialist users, located within a single organisation or group and is responsible for the collection, organisation, storage, retrieval and dissemination of information directly concerned and ancillary to, the work of the specialised institution with which it is attached.

Objectives of Special Library

The objectives of a special library are to:

(i)   develop current as well as retrospective collection of information in core subjects based on the projects and programmes of the parent organization;

(ii)   provide promptly the latest information about the significant developments in the field whenever requested by the users;

(iii)   provide all types of academic, technical and documentary support to render appropriate services to the specialists.

Functions and Services of Special Library

The functions of a special library are to:

(i)   select, procure, organise, store and retrieve current information required by the researchers and other users of the library;

(ii)   analyse, synthesize and evaluate available information in the area of concern;

(iii)   provide state-of-the-art reports, critical reviews, monographs, research reports, etc., to support the study and research programmes of the organisation;

(iv)   provide indexes, abstracts and extracts for critical analyses of literature, and identify and procure relevant source of information;

(v)   provide reference service such as Current Awareness Services (CAS), Selective Dissemination of Information (SDI), and Translation Services;

(vi) provide document delivery service including lending and inter library loan service.

2.2.4 National Library

The national library is the apex library in the library system of a country. It is usually created afresh or entrusted the responsibility of national library by the constitutional provision of the country. The national library of any country is the custodian of the intellectual heritage of the country. The intellectual heritage is the total information and knowledge wealth either produced within the nation; written by the national outside the country; and written by anyone on that particular nation. For example, the National Library of India, Kolkata has the responsibility to preserve the written and published materials within India, published by the Indian Nationals anywhere in the world and published by anyone about India.

Definition of National Library

S. R. Ranganathan defines the national library as "the library having the duty of collecting and preserving for posterity, the literary products of that country. It is the central station for assembling and dissemination through energy".

Further, the UNESCO defines the national library as "libraries which, irrespective of their title, are responsible for acquiring and preserving copies of all significant publications published in a country and functioning as a deposit library, either by law or under other arrangements.

Objectives of National Library

The main objectives of a National Library are to:

(i) procure all the literary output of that nation by the legal provision of the nation or other arrangements;

(ii) acquire foreign literature about that nation;

(iii) preserve the literary wealth of that nation for posterity

(iv) disseminate procured and preserved information through different services and publications;

(v) maintain the national bibliography and publish it;

(vi) coordinate with other libraries of the country to develop national library system.

Functions of national library

The comprehensive functions of a national library differ from country to country but minimum functions set by the UNESCO's General Conference (1970) are to:

(i)   produce a national bibliography;

(ii) hold and keep up-to-date a large and representative collection of foreign literature including books about the country;

(iii) act as a national bibliographic centre;

(iv) compile union catalogue;

(v)   publish the retrospective national bibliography.

The UNESCO conference had recommended that the libraries which may be called "National" but whose functions do not correspond to the above definitions should not be placed in the 'national library category'.

Examples of a few National libraries of the world are:

(i)   The National Library of India, Kolkata. It was given the status of the National Library of India with the enactment of the Imperial Library (Change of Name) Act, 1948, and was opened for public as the National Library of India on 1 February 1953. Web address-http://www.nationallibrary.gov.in/

(ii) The British National Library, known as British Museum Library, London, UK was established by the Act of British Parliament in 1970. Web address-http://www.bl.uk/

(iii) The United States of America has not designated any library as National Library of the USA by law but the Library of Congress, Washington DC is executing all the functions of the National Library of the USA. Web address-http://www.loc.gov/index.html

Likewise, one can find about the national library of any nation from reference sources or from the internet.

2.3 Digital Library

The implications of computer and digital technologies changed the forms of information sources, and their storage and retrieval approaches. The decade of 1980 can be considered the transforming decade in the field of information publication industries. The information started to be published and distributed in electronic form. Initially, the storage media for transferring the information content were floppy disk, CD-ROM and other similar storage devices. The contents of these media

were accessible with the help of computer and special software provided by the publisher.

Further, with the improvement in the storage capacities of the storage media and the internet becoming accessible to the people in 1990s, the delivery of content through the internet, to the institutions or individual, became easy.

The publication of information sources in electronic form, became more popular around 1990s when the access devices like computer, laptop, book reader and now smartphones became cheaper and affordable to the mass. Hence, the concept of digital library came into existence.

Definition of Digital Library

The scholars have tried to define the digital library differently but the central theme of those definitions is the same. Witten and Bainbridge (2002) define the digital library as "an organized and focused collection of digital objects, including text, images, video and audio, with the methods of access and retrieval and for the selection, creation, organisation, maintenance and sharing of collection".

The partner institutions in the Digital Library Federation (DLF) say "Digital libraries are organisations that provide the resources, including the specialized staff, to select, structure, offer intellectual access to, interpret, distribute, preserve the integrity of, and ensure the persistence over time of collections of digital works so that they are readily and economically available for use by a defined community or a set of communities".

Characteristics of Digital Library

The digital library is a library which selects, collects, stores, retrieves and disseminates electronic information. Main characteristics of a digital library are to build library collection of information sources in electronic or digital form and provide services to its members using such resources. Hence, the library services are there but only the form of information sources has changed from print to electronic. The digital library uses digital technology for storing, retrieving and disseminating information.
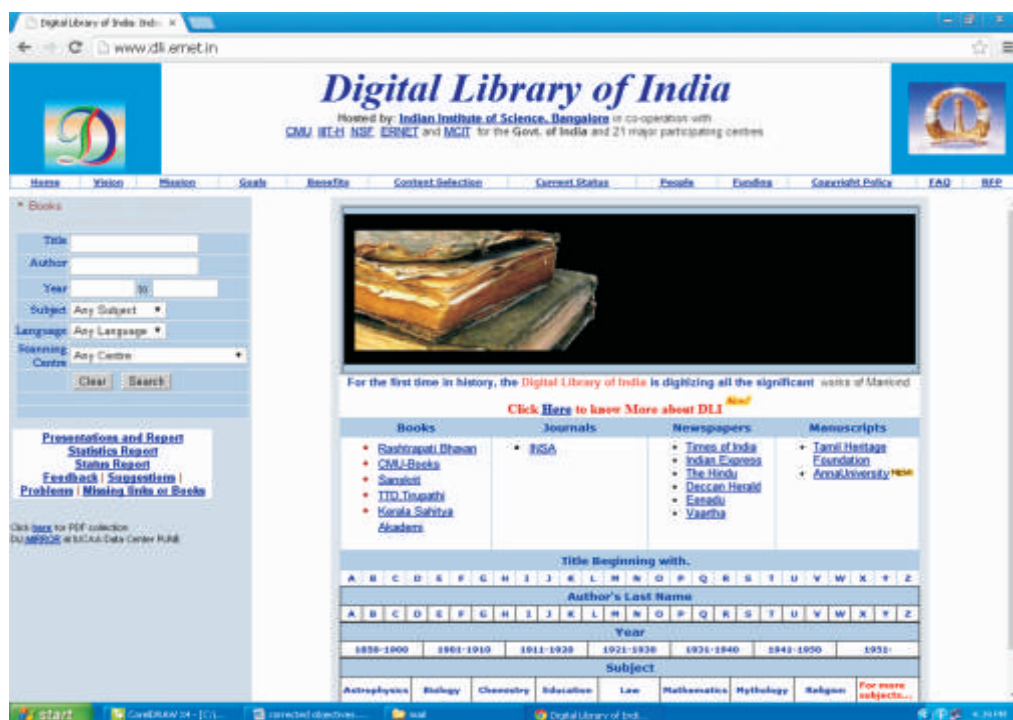
Example:

(i)   Digital Library of India: http://www.dli.gov.in/

Figure 2.1: Indian Digital Library
(Source: http://www.dli.gov.in/ accessed on 19.02.2014 at 22:10hrs IST)

(ii) J. R. D. Tata Memorial Library, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore: http://www.library.iisc.ernet.in/
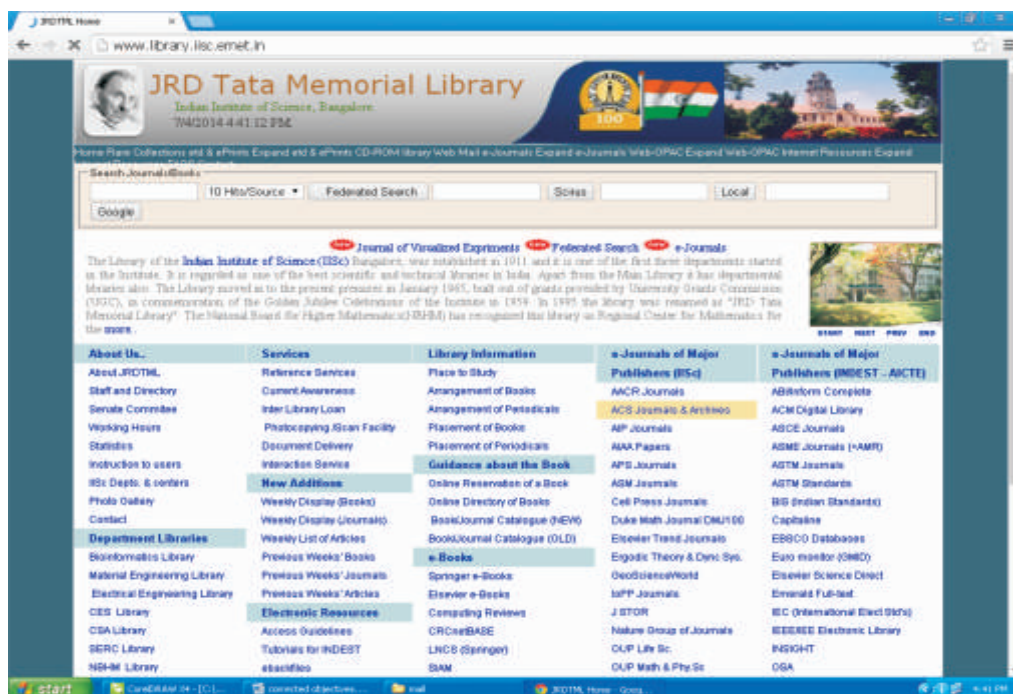

Figure 2.2: J. R. D. Tata Memorial Library
(Source http://www.library.iisc.ernet.in/, accessed on 19.02.2014 at 22:47hrs IST)

2.4 Virtual Library

Virtual library is a library without any wall. With the application of information and communication technology, the information became easily accessible. This accessibility power created the environment for such a library which can store information in digital form anywhere in the world and give access to its members through a number of electronic devices, which are capable of accessing information through network. These devices are computer, laptop, smartphone, etc. The members of the library use these electronic devices for accessing information from the library portal through the internet.

Definition of Virtual Library

Gapen (1993) defines virtual library as "the concept of remote access to the content and services of libraries and other information resources, combining and on-site collection of current and heavily-used materials in both print and electronic form, with an electronic network which provides access to, and delivery from, external worldwide library, and commercial information and knowledge sources".

Hence, virtual library has changed the concept of physical form of library. The approaches towards the accessibility of knowledge to the users and management of information sources by the staff, have completely changed in this scanario. The library staff needs to store and make knowledge content of the library, searchable and accessible through the computer and telecommunication network i.e. the internet. Now, instead of the users visiting the library for knowledge, the library itself reach the users, demolishing physical barriers of time and space.

Characteristic of Virtual Library

The main characteristic of a virtual library is that it demolishes the time and space barriers and is available 24 hours a day and 365 days a year.

Examples of Virtual Library are as follows:

(i)   Indian Virtual Library: http://www.southasianist.info/india/

Figure 2.3: Indian Virtual Library

(Source: http://www.southasianist.info/india/ accessed on 19.02.2014 at 23:15 hrs IST)

(ii)   The www virtual library: http://vlib.org/ provides a list of virtual libraries in different subjects or streams
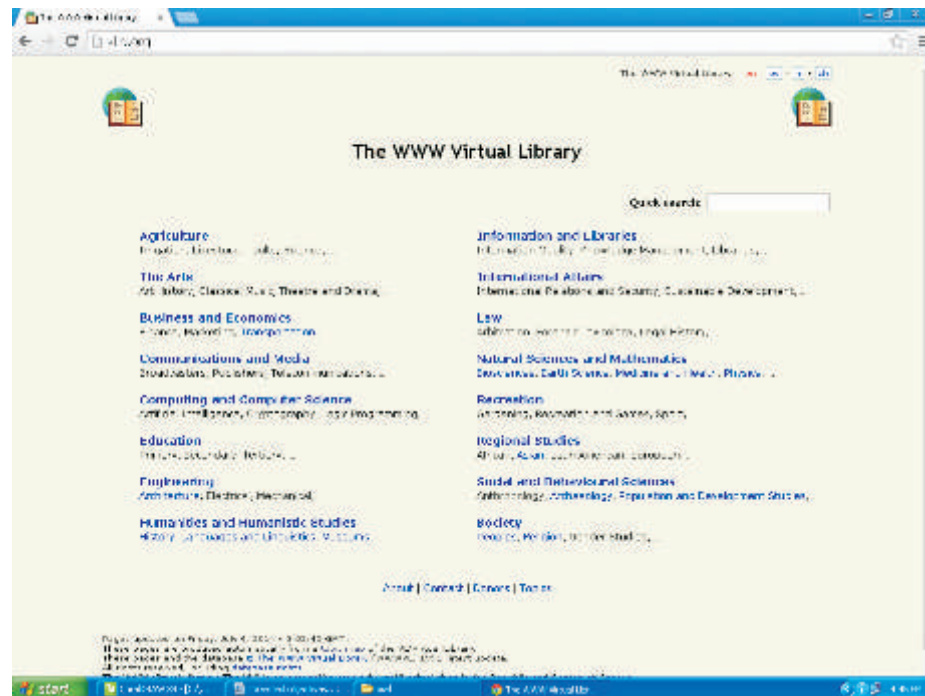

Figure 2.4: The www Virtual Library

(source: http://vlib.org/ accessed on 19.02.2014 at 23:35hrs IST)

2.5 Summary

Information and knowledge are the changing agents in a society. The need of information and knowledge has grown manyfold since the inception of civilization. Different communities need different types of information for wide range of activities and further create wealth of knowledge for the betterment of the society. To serves the information and knowledge needs of the society and further preserve knowledge for future generation, different types of library came into existence.

On the basis of the objectives and services rendered by the libraries, they have been grouped into four categories. These categories are (i) Public Library (ii) Academic Library (iii) Special Library, and (iv) National Library.

The public library serves all members of the community, irrespective of their caste, creed, colour, nationality, gender, etc. It has the objective to satisfy the information and knowledge needs of the community members. Beyond this, the public library has important roles to play in the society to make the people, knowledgeable and responsible citizens.

The academic library is the part and parces of academic institutions. The academic community of any institution needs information and knowledge to support its curricular programmes, careers and character building, and research and development work. Hence, an academic library has the objective to satisfy the quest of knowledge of the community of the academic institution, the library is attached with.

The modern society has a wide range of organisations which are engaged in specialised study and research activities. The researchers of such organisations need intensive information and knowledge in their area of study. Hence, such organisations have their own library to cater to their the information and knowledge needs. Hence, the special library is always attached to an organisation of research and development, and is completely owned, funded and managed by that specific organisation.

The national library is considered the apex library of any nation having the responsibility to preserve intellectual wealth of the nation. The national library is usually created by the legal provisions of a particular nation and has the responsibility to acquire the information and knowledge created in the nation, by the nationals living outside the country and on the nation by other nationals. It has the responsibility to create, maintain and publish national bibliography. Sometimes, a particular nation has not created such a library by the legal provisions of that nation

but a particular library executes the responsibilities of a national library. In such a case, this library can also be designated as National Library of that particular nation, for example, Library of Congress, the USA.

The information and communication technology has also changed the forms and format of information sources and the methods of dissemination. Due to the application of technology, specially computer and networking technologies, new breeds of libraries have emerged. Before the invention of computer, the information sources used to be in printed form. Now, the information sources are available in electronic form which is processed, stored, retrieved and disseminated using computer or other electronic devices and communication technology. Such libraries which have the collection of information sources in electronic form, and is serving the community is called digital / electronic library. The electronic information sources are called digital information sources as they use digital technology for storing, retrieving, and disseminating the information.

The digital information sources, and application of computer and tele-communication networks have changed the model of the libraries. Now, the concept of virtual library has emerged with the application of these technologies. The library without any physical existence, providing the library services to the community with the help of the internet, telecommunications networks and electronic devices like computer, laptop, tablets, smart phones, book readers, etc., is called virtual library.

The basic categories of libraries are the same as public, academic, special and national but if they are using the technologies to reach the members of the community then they may fall in the category of electronic (digital) or virtual library depending upon the model they adopt.

2.6 Glossary

UNESCO: United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization-an agency of the United Nations which promotes education, scientific communication, arts and culture.

2.7 Exercise

Very short answer type questions

1. What is the theory of trinity?
2. Who brings the reader and the book in contact?
3. What does a book represents in the theory of trinity?

4. Who all are the users of a library?

5. Name different types of libraries.

6. What are the different types of academic library?

7. Define a public library.

8. Define an academic library.

9. Define a special library.

10. Define a national library.

11. Define a digital library.

12. Define a virtual library.

Short answer type questions

1. What are different guidelines for funding, legislation and network of a public library in the UNESCO's Public Library Manifesto?

2. What are the objectives of academic library?

3. What are the objectives of a school library?

4. What are the objectives of a college library?

5. What are the objectives of a special library?

6. What are the objectives of the national library?

7. What are the functions of the national library?

8. Write down the characteristics of a digital library?

9. Write down the characteristics of a virtual library?

10. What are the functions of a university library?

Long answer type questions

1. What is the mission of the public library as discussed in UNESCO's Manifesto?

2. What are the objectives of a public library laid down by S. R. Ranganathan?

3. Discuss three main functions of a public library.

4. What are the functions of a college library?

5. What are the functions of a special library?