

# **Role of Libraries and Librarians in Development of the Social Sciences**

**Manasa B. R.**

Librarian, Govt. First Grade College for Women, M.G. Road, Hassan-573202, Karnataka, India

*manasa201020@gmail.com*

## **ABSTRACT**

*Today information is recognized as a vital source and basic need for the progress of humanity and development of the nation as a whole. With vast changes taking place in each field in the present society, getting right information for study, leisure, entertainment, research etc. is very important. As observed books and library have long relationship, today library serves as a platform to meet the needs and requirements of the individual readers through rendering available resources and best services. Libraries particularly the public library plays an important role in procuring and saving printed materials and recorded materials in various form and making the documents available for preservation of national heritage. Today great change can be observed in academic libraries with dynamic use of space in providing services to students and researchers looking to navigate vast information. Libraries today act as global network of resources with advancements in providing online journal collections, e-books, and digital archives produced by learned societies and commercial publishers. This paper is an attempt to justify the key role of libraries and librarians in development of the social sciences which help in building up the individuals and the society and development of the nation as a whole.*

**KEYWORDS:** Libraries, Librarians, Social Science, Society, Nation.

## **INTRODUCTION & DEFINITION OF THE TERM SOCIAL SCIENCE**

Many definitions are available to describe the term Social Science. Of many, few that can be highlighted are:

- Social Science is the scientific study of the society.
- Social Science is the study of the society and relationship of the individual members within the society, including history, economics, political science, psychology, anthropology, sociology etc.
- Social science is the study of people living together in groups, families, etc. and their customs and activities.

## **HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF THE TERM SOCIAL SCIENCE**

The history of social science begins after 1650, which saw a revolution within natural philosophy. Its existence came from moral philosophies which were influenced by the age of revolutions such as industrial revolution and the

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french revolution. It is developed from that of Sciences which may be experimental and applied or that of systematic knowledge bases or perspective practices relating to the social improvement of a group of interacting entities. The growth of Social science reflected in many specialized encyclopedias during the 18<sup>th</sup> century. It was influenced by positivism which aimed at positive sense experience and avoiding the negative. By the late 19<sup>th</sup> century the academic social science constituted five fields: jurisprudence and amendment of the law, education, health, economy and trade and art. The start of 20<sup>th</sup> century, various field substituted mathematics for experimental studies and examining equations to build a theoretical structure. The development of social science field became more quantitative in methodology. Many of the natural sciences were interested in some aspects of social science methodology and disciplines emerged during this century include sociobiology, neuropsychology etc. Today social science is subjected to many branches and is not limited to one.

### **SOCIAL SCIENCE**

- The term social science as the word itself indicates, it's a major category of academic disciplines that usually study human aspects of the world.
- The term sometimes is used to refer specifically to the field of SOCIOLOGY.
- It is mainly concerned with society and relationship among individuals within a society.
- It is the scientific study of the human society and the social relationships.
- It has many branches, and is not limited to:
  - Anthropology
  - Archaeology
  - History
  - Economics
  - Political Science
  - Linguistics
  - Literature
  - Art
  - Religion
  - Culture
  - Human Geography
  - Law
  - Education etc.

### **KEY ROLE OF LIBRARIES IN DEVELOPMENT OF THE SOCIAL SCIENCES WHICH HELPS IN BUILDING UP THE INDIVIDUALS AND THE SOCIETY AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE NATION AS A WHOLE**

- ✓ Library and research together has turned into a system in Cuba.
- ✓ Library and research together is considered as an important aspect for the development of social science libraries.
- ✓ Special research is carried out in Cuban libraries which have important social science book stock.

- ✓ Public libraries act as gateway to knowledge.
- ✓ Public libraries provide free access to written knowledge which acts as a route to a better life of individual.
- ✓ Public libraries enable individual to develop socially, economically, politically and culturally.
- ✓ Public libraries play a vital role in providing free access to knowledge or information.

### **KEY ROLE OF LIBRARIANS IN DEVELOPMENT OF THE SOCIAL SCIENCES WHICH HELPS IN BUILDING UP THE INDIVIDUALS AND THE SOCIETY AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE NATION AS A WHOLE**

- Librarians should organize the available printed-based resources up-to-date to keep research work easily available that is housed inside the library.
- Librarians should partner with technologists to strengthen the discovery tools available for scholarly research.
- Librarians should help individual readers or researchers to navigate the required information from vast complex information network through providing information resources and web-based tools and technologies.
- Librarians should help student or researcher to access relevant scholarly articles through content online.
- Librarians should act as pathfinders and guides in making researchers meet their needs in accessing overwhelming scholarly literature.
- Librarians should showcase the research activity and research outputs and publications available in library for reference and reuse of the output.

### **CONCLUSION**

Thus it can be concluded that libraries and librarians play a great role in development of the social science which help in building individuals and the society and development of the nation as a whole. Libraries thus act a vital requirement in the progressive self development of each single science. Libraries and librarians should work hard on procuring, saving and preserving the documents for national heritage. Librarians should carry out careful selection policy to increase the special book stock. Social science documental stock can be enriched with that of reports of result of the scientific research and other related works.

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