



LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE EDUCATION IN CHHATTISGARH: A SPECIAL REFERENCE TO PT. RAVISHANKAR SHUKLA UNIVERSITY, RAIPUR

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Abstract

The development of Library and Information Science (LIS) education in India came from Dr Ranganathan's effort. Now a day, LIS education provides a means of learning by choosing specialized subjects of their own interest. The present study analyses the various aspects of LIS education such as profile of LIS education, level of courses, infrastructure and admission procedure & intake of Pt. Ravishankar Shukla University (PRSU), Raipur.

Keywords: Library & Information Science, Education, Pt. Ravishankar Shukla University

INTRODUCTION

India has witnessed a slow but continuous development in the field of Library and Information Science (LIS) education. The basic goal of LIS education is to provide the information and skill for the LIS professional in present information communication age. Keeping this view, LIS education has changed the curriculum. In present era, LIS education focuses more on information technology than its previous traditional library science courses. The new LIS education encompasses the study of information communication technology, information & retrieval system, digital library, dissemination of information, scholarly communication, citation analysis, bibliometric & scientometric study and many more. At present time, LIS is taken as main course at more than 125 universities in India. There are full-fledged school and department of LIS in Indian universities. These universities are providing various type of courses viz undergraduate course (BLIS), postgraduate course (MLIS) and Doctoral Course (PhD). These courses are available in regular as well as in distance mode.

Before independence, only five universities (Andhra, Banaras, Bombay, Calcutta and Madras) were offering the diploma course in library science. After independence, new universities and institutions are opened to realize the importance of this course. As a result, the number of library science schools started to increase. Many library associations came into existence and taking active role in providing training programs and courses in the field of library and information science. It was Dr S.R. Ranganathan who started a certificate course in 1929 which was taken over by the University of Madras [Singh, 2003]. Between 1956 to 1959, six new LIS departments were established (Mangla, 1998) at Aligarh Muslim University, M.S. University of Baroda, Nagpur University, Osmania University, Pune University and Vikram University. [Mangla, 1998].

Documentation Training and Research Centre (DRTC), Bangalore and National Institute of Science Communication and Information Resources (NISCAIR), New Delhi also provide some specialized courses of Information Science [Kaur & Walia, 2010]

SCHOOL OF STUDIES (SOS) IN LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE OF PT. RAVISHANKAR SHUKLA UNIVERSITY (PRSU), RAIPUR

Pt. Ravishankar Shukla University is the largest and oldest university in Chhattisgarh, founded in 1964 [Walia, 2010]. The university is named after the first chief minister of Madhya Pradesh. There are Twenty-Nine teaching departments in the University. Some self-financed courses have been started by some departments. In the academic year 2005-06, about 1, 25,000 students were enrolled, both for undergraduate and postgraduate courses. The University plays a major role in the educational, cultural and economic life of the region.

The SOS in Library and Information Science was started with BLIS course with the objective to enable the students to understand the function and purpose of the library in present IT age. The basic aim of this course was to train the students in handling the information & in the techniques of librarianship and management of libraries.

MLIS course was started in the year 1988. This course plays a vital role in providing information as input and to impart necessary skill in disseminating, operating, managing and retrieving information as output. Keeping this view, the School of Studies reframed the syllabus on the basis of UGC model curriculum.

OBJECTIVES

The main objectives of this paper include

- To know about the level of courses at SOS (School of Studies) in Library and Information Science in PRSU, Raipur.
- To familiarize with the Infrastructures and Physical facilities available at School of Studies in Library and Information Science.
- To know about the admission procedure and intake of the students.

LEVEL OF COURSES

The courses are available at various level viz certificate, diploma, degree, M. Phil and PhD levels. Out of them degree, M. Phil and PhD courses are run by the School of Studies in Library and Information Science, PRSU, Raipur. All the courses are offered on regular basis only.

Bachelor of Library and Information Science (BLIS)

BLIS was started in the year 1971 by the School of Studies (SOS) in Library and Information Science of PRSU, Raipur. This is one-year degree course. At present more than 125 universities are offering BLIS courses. BLIS course is available on regular mode only at SOS in Library and Information Science, PRSU, Raipur.

Master of Library and Information Science (MLIS)

It is a post graduate course after BLIS. This course was started in the year 1988 by SOS in Library and Information Science of PRSU, Raipur. This is also one year course but in two semesters of 6 months each. Some universities are offering two year (4 semesters) integrated course after graduation. This course is also available on regular mode only.

M.Phil in Library & Information Science

This is a research course after the completion of MLIS course. The duration of this course is one year. The school reforms its syllabus on the basis of UGC model curriculum committee.



Ph.D. in Library and Information Science

This is advanced level research program after the completion of MLIS or M. Phil courses. Now a day, there are more than 70 universities offering Ph.D. courses in their departments or schools. The duration of course varies depending upon university to university. Generally, the duration of this course is 3-5 year in SOS in Library and Information Science of PRSU, Raipur. Presently 14 scholars have been awarded with Ph.D degree and research work of 14 scholars are in progress.

Infrastructure and Other Physical Facilities:

Faculty

There are four faculty members in School of Studies in Library and Information Science, PRSU, Raipur. Out of four faculty members, one post is on contract basis. The school has one professor and three assistant professors. (Including one contractual post for assistant professor.) All faculty members are well qualified having with their PhD qualification. The ratio between teachers and students of BLIS is 1: 10 and for MLIS class is 1: 5. UGC Review Committee Report (1965, p.39) recommended that the ratio between teachers and students at BLIS and MLIS should be 1:10 and 1: 15 respectively. The ratio between teachers and students is best suits for school of LIS, PRSU, Raipur.

Library Facilities

Library has a adequate collection of text books, reference books and practical books & tools for classification and cataloguing such as classification scheme, cataloguing codes namely classified catalogue code, AACR II and for subject heading Sears Lists of Subject Headings along with others list of subject headings. Facility of OPAC (Online Public Access Catalogue) is available. Internet facility for online academic journal is also available here. Library gives the wi-fi connectivity for its users and staffs also. The facility of photocopying of documents is also available at very nominal charge.

Information Technology Laboratory

Lab is connected with internet facility. There are 7-8 terminals are available for students of BLIS, MLIS and M. Phil research students. The ratio of terminal availability for BLIS, MLIS and M. Phil students are 1: 5, 1: 3 and 1: 2 respectively. The lab is also connected with wi-fi facility.

Syllabus

The school has 8 papers for BLIS courses (Both theory and practice). The total marks are 800 i. e. each paper has 100 marks. There are 10 papers (Both theory and practice) for two semesters of MLIS course i. e each semester has five papers. The total marks of MLIS papers are 1000 marks (500 marks for each semester). The school provides the basic papers such as Foundation of Library and Information Science, Classification and Cataloguing (theory as well as practice paper), Information Sources and Services, Library Management, Knowledge Organization, Documentation, Computer Application in Libraries and Information Technology. The school organizes seminars, workshops and conferences time to time. For M. Phil, school offers three theory papers along with a dissertation submission.

Admission Procedure and Intake of the Students

All graduate students, passed with 50% marks can apply for BLIS courses. All BLIS students who passed their exam with 50% marks are eligible for MLIS courses. The marks



50% is the minimum requirement for the admission of the BLIS and MLIS courses. As far as the procedure of admission is concerned, the students are taken on the merit basis by the School of Studies in Library and Information Science, PRSU, Raipur.

The intake of the students for BLIS course is 35 (25 + 10 Payment Seat), in which 10 ten seats are filled on payment basis. The intake of the students for MLIS course is 20 (10 +10 Payment Seat) while the intake for M. Phil is 10.

CONCLUSION

Today, Library and Information Science is full-fledged discipline but it has low recognition as compare to the other subjects. So, most of the students do not opt it as their first choice of the subject. Attention should be given in this regard for providing better jobs for Library and Information Science professionals. Most of the universities are offering 2yrs integrated MLIS course because of their updateness nature and based upon new syllabus recommended by UGC Curriculum Committee. The school of PRSU should adopt the new 2yr integrated course of MLIS (4 semesters) in place of one year MLIS (2 semesters) course. The school running with BLIS and MLIS course must have one professor, one associate professor and three assistant professors (1: 1: 3). as recommended by Curriculum Development Committee (CDC), 1992. There are mainly two universities viz PRSU, Raipur and Guru Ghasidas University (GGU), Bilaspur, which providing library and information course in Chhattisgarh. So, there is urgent need to open more schools and departments at universities in Chhattisgarh. The School of Studies in Library and Information Science, PRSU, Raipur should start one-year internship program after MLIS course.

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Appendix

School of Studies in Library and Information Science, PRSU, Raipur

Establishment Year	1971
Courses	BLIS MLIS M. Phil Ph D
Duration of Courses	BLIS (1 Year) MLIS (1 Year in 2 Semesters) M. Phil (1 Year) Ph D (3-5 Year)
Faculty	4 (3 Permanent + 1 Contractual Post for Assistant Professor)
Qualification of Faculty Members	All have Ph D with MLIS
Admission Procedure	On merit basis
Intake	BLIS: 35 Seats (25 + 10 Payment basis) MLIS: 20 Seats (10 + 10 Payment basis) M Phil: 10 Seats Ph D: Research works of 14 scholars are in progress.
Teacher Student Ratio	1: 10 for BLIS 1: 4 for MLIS 1: 3 for M Phil
Syllabus	BLIS: 08 papers (both theory and practice) MLIS: Sem I : 05 papers (both theory and practice) Sem II: 05 papers (both theory and practice)
Library Facility	Internet facility for online academic journals
Internet Facility	Computer lab with internet facility One computer for 5 BLIS students One computer for 3 MLIS students
Other Activities	Library tour is organized every year.



	Seminar and workshops are organized by school time to time. Guest lecture series is also organized.
Internship	Not started yet.