

Interdisciplinary Course (IDC) – 101 (FYUG 1st Sem.)**Library & Information Science (LIS)****UNIT 4: LIBRARY ASSOCIATIONS AND THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS****4.1 Professional Associations**

An association, in its general sense, refers to a relationship or connection between two or more things, people, or concepts. It involves the act of linking or joining together based on shared characteristics, purposes, or interests. The term "association" can be used in various contexts, including social, professional, and psychological settings.

In a professional context, an association usually denotes a group or organization that brings together individuals who work in the same field, or profession. It is typically formed to support and advance the interests of professionals within a specific field. Professional associations serve various purposes, such as promoting professional development, providing networking opportunities, advocating for the profession, and offering resources and support to their members.

Library Associations

A "Library Association" typically refers to a professional organization or association that serves librarians and other professionals working in the library field. These associations are dedicated to promoting and advancing the interests of libraries, librarianship, and library services.

Library associations often play a crucial role in advocating for libraries, supporting professional development for librarians, fostering collaboration among library professionals, and influencing library policies and practices.

Library associations may also provide resources, guidance, and networking opportunities to their members, which can include librarians, library staff, educators, researchers, and other individuals interested in the library profession.

Few Important Library Professionals are :-

1. National and State Level

- ILA (Indian Library Association)
- IASLIC (Indian Association of Special Libraries and Information Centres)
- IATLIS (Indian Association of Teachers of Library and Information Science)
- ALA (Assam Library Association)
- ACLA (Assam College Librarian's Association)

2. International Level

- ALA (American Library Association)
- CILIP (Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals)
- IFLA (International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions)

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Needs and Purposes of Library Associations:

Library associations serve important needs and fulfil various purposes within the library profession which are mentioned below in brief:

1. **Professional Development** : Library associations offer numerous opportunities for professional growth and development. They organize conferences, workshops, seminars, and training programs that helps the library professionals to stay updated with emerging trends or technologies and enhance their knowledge, skills, and competencies.
2. **Advocacy and Representation** : Library associations advocate for the interests of libraries, library professionals and users. These associations represent the collective voice of the library community, working towards improved legislation, policies, and resources.
3. **Networking and Collaboration** : Associations provide a platform for library professionals to network and collaborate with their each other. It helps to build professional relationships that can lead to partnerships, collaborations, and knowledge-sharing.
4. **Professional Standards and Ethics** : Library associations establish and promote professional standards and ethics within the library field. They develop codes of conduct, guidelines, and best practices that guide the library professionals in their work.
5. **Research and Knowledge Sharing** : Associations often facilitate research initiatives, promote scholarly activities, and support the dissemination of knowledge through publication of journals, newsletters, research reports, etc.
6. **Public Outreach and Community Engagement** : Associations engage in public outreach activities to promote the value and relevance of libraries to the wider community. They organize events, campaigns, and initiatives that raise awareness about library services, literacy programs, and the role of libraries in supporting education, culture, and lifelong learning.
7. **Professional Recognition and Awards** : Associations often recognize and celebrate excellence in the library profession through awards and recognition programs.
8. **Information and Resource Management** : Associations collect, preserve, and disseminate information and resources relevant to the development of library profession.

4.3 Important Library Associations in India

1) Indian Library Association (ILA)

The Indian Library Association was founded in 1933 at Calcutta. It is a registered society, with *headquarters* now located at Delhi. It is the premier national association representing the entire library profession in the country.

The birth of the Association can be traced to the holding of an All India Library Conference at Calcutta in September 1933. All leading librarians of that period were instrumental in organising the conference, whose main aim was to form the Indian Library Association.

Objectives of ILA

The Association aims at establishing high standards of librarianship and library services in the country. It has the following objectives:

- Promotion of library movement in the country and enactment of library legislation;

- Improvement of library services in the country;
- Development of library science education and training and accreditation of library schools towards maintaining proper standards of education,
- Betterment of salary, service conditions and status of library personnel,
- Promotion of cooperation among libraries and library professionals;
- Promotion of research and bibliographical studies;
- Affiliation with state and other library associations;
- Cooperation with international and other national associations with similar objectives,
- Publication of serial and other publications for dissemination of information,
- Providing a common forum by organising conferences, seminars and meetings,
- Promotion and formulation of standards, norms, guidelines, etc., for management of library and information systems and their services.

Organization of ILA

The membership of the Association comprises patrons, life members, ordinary members, associate members and institutional members. All persons and institutions, who subscribe to the objectives of the Association and fulfil other prescribed conditions, are eligible for membership of the Association.

A President, six Vice-Presidents, a General Secretary, and twenty council members are elected by the General Council for two years. There are eleven departmental committees to look after the functions of various fields.

Activities of ILA

- **Conferences** : An All India Library Conference is held every year at some place in the country.
- **Library Meetings** : The Association arranges lectures, round table discussions, etc., mostly in Delhi. A study circle meeting is held regularly once a month at Delhi for discussing technical matters and key issues relating to the profession.
- **Publications** : The Association brings out a quarterly journal entitled "ILA Bulletin" and also publishes conference papers as proceedings. The Association also publishes ILA Newsletter every month to disseminate information of current interest to members.
- **Continuing Education** : The Association has started a Continuing Education programme for the benefit of working professionals through series of workshops in different cities on Computer Application to Library and Information Activities.
- **Professional Issues** : The Association has been active in pursuing with the governments, with the University Grants Commission (UGC) and with other managements matters relating to overall development of libraries and library professionals in the country.

Important Note : - Current President of ILA - Dr. Mohan Rambhau Kherde

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

The Indian Association of Special Libraries and Information Centres (IASLIC) was founded in 1955. It is a registered society with *headquarter* located in Calcutta. It was formed with the aim of having an association in India similar to the Association for Information Management in the UK and the Special Libraries Association in the USA. IASLIC supports the development of the entire field of special librarianship in India.

IASLIC has the following major objectives :

- To encourage and promote the systematic acquisition, organization and dissemination of knowledge;
- To improve the quality of library and information services and dissemination work ;
- To coordinate the activities and foster mutual cooperation and assistance among special libraries, information centres, etc,
- To serve as a field of active contact for libraries, information centres, documentation centres, etc;
- To improve the technical efficiency of workers in special libraries, information centres, etc.,
- To look after the welfare of special library professionals;
- To act as a centre for research special library and documentation techniques;
- To act as a centre for information in scientific, technical and other fields.

Organization of IASLIC

The membership of IASLIC consists of honorary members, donors, life and ordinary members and institutional members. The General Body elects, for a two-year term; a President, six Vice-Presidents, a General Secretary, a Treasurer, two Joint Secretaries, two Assistant Secretaries, a Librarian and 25 Council Members. The Council appoints from among its members the Executive and Finance Committees. The work of the Association is distributed among six divisions with specific responsibilities assigned to them.

Activities of IASLIC

- **Meetings and Conferences:** IASLIC holds a biennial seminar and a conference in alternate years in different parts of the country. The members meet at the time of the annual conference seminar to discuss problems of common interest. IASLIC organizes from time-to-time lectures, exhibitions, etc. It has study circles at Calcutta and other cities. The meetings of the study circles are held every month, wherein technical issues are discussed.
- **Publications:** IASLIC publishes its quarterly journal entitled "**IASLIC Bulletin**". It is the official organ and carries learned articles in library and information science. These are the IASLIC Newsletter (monthly) which disseminates information about the activities of the Association as well as other news of professional interest; and the Indian Library Science Abstracts (annual).
- **Education and Training:** IASLIC conducts short-term training workshops for the benefit of working professionals at Calcutta and at other places. Every year 3-4 workshops are being organized.
- **Awards:** IASLIC gives best Librarian of the year and best Article in IASLIC Bulletin awards every year.
- **Bibliography and Translation Services:** IASLIC offers translation and bibliography compilation services to individuals and institutions on an on-profit basis. It maintains a library devoted to library and information science literature.
- **Professional Issues:** The Association strives to improve the standards of service in special libraries and information centres. In this connection, it has made attempts bring the attention of authorities towards the issues relating to the development of special libraries in the country.

Important Note ; - Current President of IASLIC – **Prof. Narendra Lahkar**

Indian Association of Teachers of Library and Information Science (IATLIS)

IATLIS is a national level professional organization to further the cause of library education in India was founded in **1969**.

IATLIS Awards

IATLIS invites nominations from LIS teachers /professionals /researchers for the following awards:

- IATLIS – Motiwale Best LIS Teacher Award
- IATLIS - Prof. S.P. Narang Research Promotion Award (For Researcher)
- IATLIS - Prof. Jagindar Singh Ramdev Lifetime Achievement Award
- IATLIS – Mrs. Ratna Laxman Rao Best Woman LIS Teacher / Professional Award

4) Assam Library Association (ALA)

The **Assam Library Association (ALA)** is a professional organization based in the Indian state of Assam that represents library professionals and promotes the development of libraries and information services in the region. ALA was founded in 1938 and its headquarter located at Guwahati. It plays an important role in fostering communication among librarians, library staff, and other stakeholders, while working to enhance library services and promote the role of libraries in society.

Key Objectives of Assam Library Association:

1. **Promote Library Science:** Advocate for the advancement of library science education, research, and practice in Assam.
2. **Professional Development:** Organize training programs, workshops, seminars, and conferences for librarians and information professionals to keep them updated on current trends and technologies.
3. **Collaboration:** Foster collaboration between libraries in Assam, across India, and internationally, in order to share resources, best practices, and innovations in the field.
4. **Public Awareness:** Raise awareness about the importance of libraries in communities and their role in the dissemination of knowledge and culture.
5. **Resource Development:** Encourage the development of library collections and services that meet the needs of diverse user groups, including students, researchers, and the general public.

Activities and Initiatives:

- **Conferences and Seminars:** The ALA regularly organizes conferences and workshops on various aspects of library science, such as digital libraries, information technology in libraries, and library management.
- **Publications:** The association publishes newsletters, journals, and other publications that provide updates on the latest developments in the field of library and information science.
- **Library Advocacy:** ALA actively engages with policymakers to advocate for increased investment in libraries and the library profession.
- **Networking Opportunities:** By organizing meetings and events, the ALA provides a platform for library professionals to network, exchange ideas, and collaborate on projects.

International Library Associations

1) American Library Association (ALA)

The American Library Association (ALA) has the uniqueness of being the oldest and largest library association in the world. It was founded in 1876 with its headquarters at Chicago, USA.

Objectives (or Role) of ALA

ALA is an organization for librarians and libraries with the overall objective of promoting and improving library services and librarianship and providing life-long services to all. It stands for user-oriented library and information services. Its aim is to propagate library consciousness and promote the library interests of the country. It is there to work for intellectual freedom without the constraint of censorship and for free access to reading materials. The ALA is concerned with the profession, and the professional's interests.

2) Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals (CILIP)

Year of establishment – 2002

Headquarter – British Library, London, England.

3) International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA)

Year of establishment – 1927

Headquarter – The Hague, Netherlands

4.2 UNESCO Public Library Manifesto

The UNESCO Public Library Manifesto is a document approved by UNESCO (*United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization*) in 1949 and updated in Paris on 29 November, 1994. A recent update has been published in 2022. It proclaims UNESCO's belief towards public libraries internationally as essential institutions for the promotion of peace, welfare and education for all of humanity.

Recognizing the public library as a local center of culture, the Manifesto lists some requirements for implementation and maintenance of such places.

- **Funding** : The public library shall in principle be free of charge.
- **Operation and management** : The library must be physically accessible to all individuals seeking access and located in its own building. It must provide space for use of library resources, offer relevant technology, and has a set of hours when open to its users.
- **Legislation** : Legislation is the responsibility of local and national authorities and shaped according to regional community needs.
- **Integration** : It proposes that government and society strengthen integration networks to support libraries.
- **Functional framework** : The document stipulates that the library workforce should receive necessary continuing professional education.
- **Collections** : The Manifesto stipulates that the collections are not built only on recent works, seeking to balance the traditional and the modern, in order to include all age groups of the population involved. It also states that collections should be adapted to the different needs of communities in both rural and urban areas.