

# **Library and Information Professionalism: Its status in Nepal**

**A thesis submitted to the  
Central Department of Library and Information Science  
In partial fulfillment of the requirement for the  
Master's Degree in Library and Information Science**

**Submitted by  
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### **LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION**

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### LETTER OF ACCEPTANCE

This thesis entitled ""LIBRARY AND INFORMATION PROFESSIONALISM: ITS STATUS IN NEPAL" " prepared and submitted by Mr. **Durga Prasad Acharya** in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the masters degree of library and information science is here by accepted and approved

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**Durga Prasad Acharya**

Researcher

## ABSTRACT

The thesis "Library and information professionalism: its status in Nepal" is carried out to examine the current status and scenario of the library and information professionals in Nepal. Many LIS personalities who are still continuing their career in this field can not proudly advocate on LIS profession. Because socially LIS profession is less counted and young. We often talk about LIS profession as a least developed and practiced profession due to various reasons. The main reason is the poor study culture among Nepalese. The study has three objectives. The first is to find the exact status of the professionals, second is to find out the promoting and hindering factors in this profession in Nepalese setting and third is to provide recommendations for further avenues in LIS professionalism.

This study is carried out focusing the professionalism aspect in various libraries. The subject libraries are selected purposively to in order to know various aspects and problems of the professionals. The focused libraries are Tribhuvan University Central Library, Kathmandu University Central Library, Nepal National Library, Kaiser Library, Parliament Secretariat Library, Society for Kathmandu Valley Public Library, and Social Science Baha.

The researcher has primarily used questionnaire as his main tool to collect data. In total 25 questions were asked to 31 respondents.

The major findings show that, on the basis of the study, Library and Information Professionalism is an aspiring profession in Nepal. It has not yet been developed as a full profession like medicine, engineering, and law. The other findings are Out of total the 20% human resource has worked in the field without training or academic qualification. The largest no (36.66%) of human resource have got level III training in LIS, 23.33% human resource have got Master's and 20% human resource have got bachelor's degree in LIS. All the human resources are full time staff in the field of LIS. It is good for profession.

50% of the respondents have served in LIS profession for below 5 years, 26.66% of respondents have served in LIS profession for 5 to 10 years, 3.33% of the respondents have served in LIS profession for 11 to 15 years, 6.66% of the respondents have served in LIS profession for 16 to 20 years and 13.34% of the respondents have served in LIS profession for above 20 years.

80% of the respondents work only for one place, but rests of the 20% workers are also busy in serving different places except their regular (full time) job and 23.33% of the

professional workers are also joined in other job, not related to LIS. They work in other places.

In order to develop LIS as a healthy profession Training and education should be provided for library workers who have received neither training nor education on LIS. Library workers should be competent at their respective responsibilities. Library professional should think about service not about on their individual interest. Every LIS workers should be associated with the professional association. Marketing of LIS profession, services and man power should be promoted. Traditional working style should be replaced with modern ones. Professional culture should be developed. There should be legal provision about library and Information service. There should be mutual cooperation among various professional organizations as well as professionals themselves. As many libraries as possible should be started with an efficient librarian in various educational institutes, I/NGOs for example one village one library.

Durga Prasad Acharya

## **PREFACE**

Librarianship may be regarded as the one, as old as the book. But librarianship as profession is just a little over hundred years old. Earlier it was only an occupation. The organization of librarianship as a profession started with the establishment of the American Library Association in 1876. The imparting of specialized knowledge started with the establishment of the first library school in 1887 by Dr. Melvil Dewey. But in Nepal it is not fairly developed yet. Many a librarian cannot be a proud on being a librarian. It means often our society favours other field of work rather the library and information service. Government as well as private authority has not fixed the standard of the profession and entry route, promotion, and other benefits yet. This has limited the whole profession as a least positioned job such as dealing with only book issue-and-return.

We are in the age of information. Librarianship is a profession which disseminates the knowledge to their users. So, it is a serious profession of the information and knowledge society. Library and Information Professionalism is an aspiring profession in Nepal. It has not yet been developed as a full profession like medicine, engineering, and law. Tribhuvan University has started higher level education (Master and Bachelor degree course) in library and information science since 1995. However, there are no sufficient LIS professionals in Nepal.

So, Nepali librarians have been facing various problems in the field of LIS profession. The purpose of this study is to present clear status of librarians and profession in the Nepalese context. I hope that, the study would be helpful to the development of library and information professionalism in Nepal.

This research study consists of six chapters. First chapter deals with the introduction of study. The second chapter deals with literature review. The third chapter is focus of study. Research methodology, research design population, sampling, procedure, data collection procedure and data analysis procedure are discussed in the fourth chapter. Fifth chapter presents analyzed data, their presentation and interpretation to evaluate either the set objectives or hypotheses are positively met or not. Sixth, the final, chapter deals with summaries, conclusions and recommendations.

30 December, 2008

Durga Prasad Acharya

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Appendix 1: Questionnaire

## ABBREVIATIONS AND SYMBOLS:

AACR:	Anglo American Catalogue Rules
ARNEC :	All Round National Education Committee
CAS:	Current Awareness Services.
CDLIS:	Central Department of Library and Information Science.
CD-ROM:	Compact Disk- Read Only Memory.
CDS/ISIS :	Computerized Documentation Service/Integrated Set Information
CTEVT:	Council for Technical Education and Vocational Training
INASP:	International Network for the Availability of the Scientific Publications
IT:	Information Technology.
ISBN:	International Standard Book Number
KUCL:	Kathmandu University Central Library
LIMISEC:	Library Management Information Service Center
LIS:	Library and Information Science
LISSA:	Library and Information Science Student Association
MLISc:	Master of Library and Information Science.
NASL:	Nepalese Association of School Librarians
NGOs:	Non Governmental Organizations
NLA :	Nepal Library Association
NNL:	Nepal National Library
OPAC:	Online Public Access Catalogue.
PERI:	Program for Enhancement of Research Information.
READ:	Rural Education And Development
SDI:	Selective Dissemination of Information.
SKVPL:	Society for Kathmandu Valley Public Library
SSBL :	Social Science Baha Library
TUCL:	Tribhuvan University Central library.
TULSSAA :	Tribhuvan University Library Science Students' Alumni Association
UNESCO:	United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization