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Library and Information Science Education in Arunachal Pradesh

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Abstract

This article presents an overview of LIS education in Arunachal Pradesh. Arunachal Pradesh (A.P.) has several private universities offering LIS schooling, but no Government authority organizations currently offer LIS. The author further recognizes a few issues concerning LIS schooling in A.P alongside specific ideas for development. The findings suggest that more effort is required to establish LIS education in AP by the authorities of Arunachal Pradesh, Rajiv Gandhi University, Library Association, and LIS Professionals of Arunachal Pradesh to provide stable and quality education in LIS.

Keywords: Library & Information Science (LIS) Education, Library Scenario, Issues, Suggestions, Arunachal Pradesh (A.P.)

Introduction

Maharaja Saiyajji Rao Gaekwad initiated LIS education in India with the help of William Alanson Borden (an American librarian) at Baroda. The year 1911 marked the start of LIS education in India. After Baroda, Punjab University began offering LIS courses with Don Dickinson's assistance in 1915.

Many library associations in India offered LIS schools and education, such as Madras Library Association (1929) and Bengal Library Association (1935). The first one-year PG diploma in LIS (India) was started under Dr. S.R. Ranganathan's direction in 1946 at the University of Madras and the first one-year post-graduate program at Banaras Hindu University in 1946. At first, LIS education was started in a specific part of India (Baroda), now spreading all over India.

The library plays an essential role in the social and academic lives of individuals. Numerous collections are there, and they should be preserved for future generations by the LIS professionals. Library services have changed significantly since the introduction of ICT. The changing nature of the library environment has become a challenge for LIS professionals. Professionals in library and information services must be up-to-date on the latest operations and technologies to accomplish their tasks effectively. Trained and skilled personnel are needed to handle a sophisticated library. LIS education is one such area that can cater to this need. It is the only means through which the development of trained and skilled people can be possible. Changes in librarianship are also affecting the profession's demands. For the development of qualified LIS professionals, LIS education is essential. Promotion, education, and training of LIS professionals and all library team members are vital for the well-being of the library.

Scope

The paper examines LIS education in Arunachal Pradesh. Six private universities viz., Apex Professional University, Pasighat, Himalayan University, Itanagar, Venkateshwara Open University, Itanagar, Arunachal University of Studies, Namsai, North-East Frontier Technology

University, Aalo, and Arundoya University, Itanagar of A.P. have included in the study. Furthermore, the study identified the different levels of courses, eligibility criteria for admission, teaching methods, faculty strength, and non-faculty strengths, etc of the universities.

Objectives of the Study

The following are the objectives of the present study:

- 1) To examine the current scenario of the LIS education system in Arunachal Pradesh.
- 2) To identify the level of courses offered by the LIS schools of A.P., followed by eligibility criteria, mode of selection, intake capacity, faculty strength, and teaching method.
- 3) To identify the challenges faced by the LIS schools or professionals of A.P.

Methodology

For this study, a structured questionnaire has been prepared and circulated to 15 teaching staff, including 5 supporting staff of the LIS department among the universities mentioned above. Out of 20, a total of 14 teams have responded. Furthermore, researchers consulted the universities' websites for more information—Communicated with students presently studying at these universities regarding ICT infrastructure and practical tools. Collected information has been analyzed and presented in tables using MS-Word.

Growth and Development of LIS Education in Arunachal Pradesh

Arunachal Pradesh is a state located in north-eastern India. In India, it is also called the land of dawn-lit mountains and the land of the rising sun. Three countries share their borders: Myanmar in the east, Bhutan in the west, and China in the north and northeast with Arunachal Pradesh, India. It also shares a border with Assam, as well as with Nagaland to the southeast. As the largest northeastern state, Arunachal Pradesh occupies the eastern half of the region. As of 20th February 1987, Arunachal Pradesh has become a fully independent state.

No universities previously offered LIS education in Arunachal Pradesh (AP). Graduates interested in the same subject had to do their further study outside the state. Meanwhile, numerous private universities offering various courses in LIS training began offering classes on the topic in Arunachal Pradesh as they recognized its significance.

In Arunachal Pradesh, there are ten different institutions of higher learning, including one central university; one deemed university; and eight private universities. Out of all the ten universities, six private universities offer LIS education in A.P. This study found that Rajiv Gandhi University, a Central University of Arunachal Pradesh, is not currently offering LIS courses. There are now no such government institutions offering LIS education in the state of AP.

Generally, in Arunachal Pradesh, different types of courses in library and information science education are being offered by six private universities, namely Apex Professional University, Pasighat, Arunachal University of Studies, Namsai, Arundoya University, Itanagar, Himalayan University, Itanagar, North-Eastern Frontier Technology, Aalo, and Venkateshwara Open University, Naharlagun. Among the courses offered by these universities are the Diploma in Library and Information Science (DLIS), Bachelor in Library & Information Science (BLISc.),

Master in Library and Information Science (MLISc.), and Ph.D. in Library & Information Science. The duration of each course varies.

A Brief Introduction of the Areas

Arunachal University of Studies

The Arunachal University of Studies or AUS is a private university. It is in Namsai, A.P., India. As of 2004, the World Education Mission (WEM) sponsors and manages the Arunachal University of Studies (AUS), the State University in Arunachal Pradesh established by an act of the legislature. Section 2(f) of the UGC Act 1956 recognizes degrees conferred by universities. AUS is the oldest university offering LIS Education in Arunachal Pradesh, started to offer in 2012.

Venkateshwara Open University (VOU)

Venkateshwara Open University (VOU) was established in 2012 same year with AUS by the Government of Arunachal Pradesh and is one of several private universities in the state, located in Naharlagun, Arunachal Pradesh, and accredited by the University Grants Commission (UGC).

Apex Professional University (APU)

The Apex Professional University, located in Pasighat, Arunachal Pradesh, was established by the state government on 8th May 2013 (Vide Act No.7). UGC approves it, Ministry of Education, Government of India. APU is the youngest university among the selected universities to offer LIS Education in the state; it started the LIS department in 2017.

Himalayan University

The Himalayan University is a non-profit university in Arunachal Pradesh, India, under section 2f of the University Grants Commission Act 1956. The main aim is to boost literacy rates in the North-Eastern region of India and India. The All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), the Pharmacy Council of India (P.C.I), the Bar Council of India (B.C.I), and the Rehabilitation Council of India give recognition to this university.

Arundaya University (AU)

According to Act No. 13 passed by the Arunachal Pradesh state government in 2014, Arunodaya University was established and recognized by the University Grants Commission (UGC) and the Directorate of Higher and Technical Education Itanagar in Arunachal Pradesh. It is located in Itanagar, AP.

North-East Frontier Technology University (NEFTU)

North-East Frontier Technology University is a private university located in Aalo, Arunachal Pradesh. It is also known as NEFTU. It has been established under 2F of UGC Act 1956 through NEFTU Act 2014, by the Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh, India.

The scenario of Library & Information Science Department in Universities of Arunachal Pradesh

Six private universities are imparting LIS education in A.P. These are Arunachal University of Studies, Namsai, Venkateshwara Open University, Naharlagun (VOU), Apex Professional University (APU), Pasighat, Himalayan University, Itanagar, Arundoya University, Itanagar, and North-East Frontier Technology University, Aalo (NEFTU). The level of courses varies from university to university. The government of Arunachal Pradesh approves these universities of Arunachal Pradesh.

List of University Offering LIS Education in Arunachal Pradesh

Table1. University Offering LIS Education in Arunachal Pradesh

Name of the University	Year of Est.	Year Of Starting LIS Dept.
Arunachal University of Studies, Namsai (AUS)	2012	2012
Venkateshwara Open University (VOU)	2012	2012
Apex Professional University, Pasighat (APU)	2013	2017
Himalayan University, Itanagar	2013	2015
Arundoya University, Itanagar	2014	2014
North-East Frontier Technology University, Aalo (NEFTU)	2014	2015

Table 1 presents the list of universities offering LIS Education in Arunachal Pradesh. There are a total of six universities offering LIS programs in Arunachal Pradesh starting in the year 2012. The year 2012 marked the beginning of LIS Education in AP. Among the universities offering LIS Education in AP, AUS and VOU are the first universities to start LIS Education in AP,

followed by Arundoya University (2014), Himalayan University (2015), NEFTU (2015), and APU in 2017.

Level of Courses

Table 2: Level of Courses

University	Courses with Duration			
	Diploma in LIS (1year)	BLISc. (1year)	MLISc.(1year)	PhD. (3-5years)
AUS	×	√	√	√
VOU	×	√	√	×
APU	×	√	√	×
Himalayan University	×	√	√	×
Arundoya University	√	√	√	×
NEFTU	√	√	√	×

Table 2 shows the level of courses with duration offered by different universities of AP. These universities' different levels of education are Diploma in LIS for one year, BLISc and MLISc for one year each, and Ph.D. in LIS (3-5years). Arundoya University, Itanagar, and NEFTU, Aalo is offering a Diploma in LIS for one year. The only university offering Ph.D. programs is Arunachal University of Studies, Namsai. All the universities are offering BLISc. and MLISc. Program.

Intake Capacity

Table 3: Intake Capacity of different Universities

Name of the University	Courses	Intake Capacity at Present	Total
Arunachal University of Studies	BLISc.	60	120
	MLISc.	60	
	PhD.	---	
VOU	BLISc.	40	80
	MLISc.	40	

APU	BLISc.	60	100
	MLISc.	40	
Himalayan University	BLISc.	30	60
	MLISc.	30	
Arundoya University	Diploma in LIS	30	90
	BLISc.	30	
	MLISc.	30	
NEFTU	Diploma in LIS	40	120
	BLISc.	40	
	MLISc.	40	

The intake capacity of these universities varies between 60 and 120 seats, as shown in table 3. There is a higher intake capacity at Arunachal University Studies, Namsai (BLISC 60, MLISC 60) and NEFTU, Aalo (Diploma in LIS 40, BLISC 40, MLISC 40) in comparison to other universities. The least intake capacity is 60 at APU in Pasighat.

Eligibility Criteria for Admission in Various Courses

Table 4: Eligibility Criteria

University	Diploma LIS	BLISc.	MLISc.	PhD.
Arunachal University of Studies	12th Pass	Graduation from the recognized University with minimum 45%	BLISc.	MLISc.
VOU	NA	Graduation from the recognized University with minimum 45%	BLISc.	NA
APU	NA	Graduation from the recognized University with minimum 45%	BLISc.	NA
Himalayan University	NA	Graduation from the recognized University with minimum 45%	BLISc.	NA
Arundoya University	NA	Graduation from the recognized University with minimum 45%	BLISc.	NA
NEFTU	12th Pass	Graduation from the recognized University with minimum 45%	BLISc.	NA

The minimum requirement to enroll in the Diploma in LIS program is 10+2. Candidates need a graduation degree from a recognized university and a minimum grade point average of 45% to enroll in the BLISc program. MLISc is open to only those with BLISCs. Arunachal University of Studies requires a Master's degree in Library and Information Science from any recognized university to be eligible to enroll in LIS Ph.D. programs.

Mode of Selection

Table 5: Mode of Selection

University	Mode of Selection	
	On Merit Basis	Entrance Test
Arunachal University of Studies	√	√ (For Ph.D.)
VOU	√	-
APU	√	-
Himalayan University	√	-
Arundoya University	√	-
NEFTU	√	-

These universities select candidates based on their merit to offer them the Diploma in LIS, BLISc, and MLISc degrees. The Arunachal University of Studies, Namsai, conducts an entrance exam for its Ph.D. program. At other universities, there is no entrance exam or test of any kind.

Strength of Teaching and Non-Teaching Staff

The table below illustrates that teaching strength is very weak in Arunachal Pradesh's universities offering LIS programs. The LIS department at Arunachal University of Studies, Namsai, has four faculties, while the other rest have three faculties each. Arunachal University of Studies, Namsai has more considerable staff strength with seven employees. Among all the institutions, Venkateshwara Open University (VOU) has the smallest number of staff members - five members in total (3 faculty and two staff members).

Table 6: Total No. of Teaching and Supporting Staff

University	No. of Teaching Staff	No. of Non-Teaching Staff	Total

Arunachal University of Studies	4	3	7
VOU	3	2	5
APU	3	3	6
Himalayan University	3	2	5
Arunodaya University	3	3	6
NEFTU	3	3	6

Teaching Method

Table 7: Teaching Methods Adopted

University	Lecture	Discussion	Online Aids Google Meet/Zoom	Tutorial
Arunachal University of Studies	√	√	√	×
VOU	√	√	√	×
APU	√	√	√	×
Himalayan University	√	√	√	×
Arunodaya University	√	√	√	×

NEFTU	√	√	√	×
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All the six universities adopted lecture and discussion methods for the teaching process. None of the universities are applied tutorials for the procedure. During the pandemic, the departmental faculties adopted online teaching aids such as google meet and zoom to conduct classes.

Evaluation Methods Adopted

Table 8: Method of Evaluation Adopted by Different Universities

University	Class Test/Weekly/Monthly	Seminar Presentation	Assignments	Any Others
Arunachal University of Studies	√	√	√	-
VOU	√	√	√	-
APU	√	√	√	√
Himalayan University	√	√	√	-
Arunodaya University	√	√	√	-
NEFTU	√	√	√	-

This table shows how the university departments of LIS evaluate students at different Arunachal Pradesh universities. Evaluation methods include class tests, seminar presentations, and assignments. At APU, students perform demonstrations as well.

Infrastructural Facility

Table 9: Infrastructural Facility of Different Universities of AP

University	Classification Tools	Cataloguing Tools	Library Software	ICT Infrastructure		
				Comp. Room	LCD/Projector	Internet
Arunachal University of Studies	DDC 23 rd ed., CC	AACR2R	SOUL 2.0	2	2	Yes
VOU	CC 6 th ed.	-	KOHA	1	1	No
APU	DDC 23 rd ed., CC 6 th ed.	AACR2R	-	2	1	No
Himalayan University	DDC 22 nd ed, CC 6 th edition	AACR	KOHA, DSpace	2	3	No
Arunodaya University	CC	AACR2R	KOHA	2	1	Yes
NEFTU	DDC23rd	AACR2R	KOHA	1	1	Yes

LIS education needs practical tools since it is a professional course. The development of best practices in libraries requires skills, competencies, and ICT tools. Table 9 presents the type of classification scheme, library software, and computing infrastructure each university has. DDC 23rd edition and Colon Classification 6th edition are the most commonly used classification systems by universities. All universities except VOU follow Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules 2nd revised edition (AACR2R) for cataloging. The Arunachal University of Studies library, Namsai, uses SOUL 2.0 to automate its housekeeping operations. Other universities use open source software (KOHA) to manage library functions and services. NEFTU, Arundoya University, and Arunachal University of Studies offer internet access on campus.

Issues Concerning LIS Education in Arunachal Pradesh

The following issues have been identified based on the findings of the study:

a) Absence of a dynamic Library Association

The Library Association plays a role in the overall library development in Arunachal Pradesh. One of them is LIS education which can provide stability, quality, and more effectiveness in the

long run. So, the library association can always demand a regular department of LIS either by a state university or central university.

b) Lack of Awareness among the Authorities

The authorities in the state government need to realize the importance of LIS education in social and educational development; this also contributes to nation-building. Therefore, LIS education needs to be recognized by the government functionalist by both state and central government to offer a very effective LIS education in Arunachal Pradesh.

c) Lack of Access to LIS Education Offered by Private University

Passed out graduate students interested in joint LIS courses do not have access to private universities regarding degree recognition, high admission and tuition fee, easy access to institutions in terms of communication facilities, inadequate infrastructure, and placement. Besides these, the current scenario of the faculties working in some of the private universities is horrible in terms of salary, services, workload, management, etc.

d) Lack of Practical Experience

Students of the private universities do not get the proper opportunity to have classification and cataloging, ICT practical, and other software-related practices which can make them professionally sound in the job market. These are the biggest problem with almost all the private universities and lacks confidence among the aspiring students interested in pursuing their career in LIS education.

e) Lack of Initiative by Government

The government of Arunachal Pradesh has taken no initiatives to develop LIS education in the state. The state government and Rajiv Gandhi University, being a central university, can take the lead to provide stable and quality education in library and information science, which is very much missing in the state.

f) Absence of State and National Policy

As a recognized discipline by UGC, LIS needs to be offered by a state or central university that is not in practice in the states of Arunachal Pradesh. As a result, the aspiring students are moving to other states or forced to join private universities. So a policy at the state or national level should be in place so that any such university can create a regular department of LIS.

Suggestions for Improvement

To overcome the issues mentioned above and problems, the author being a native library professional of AP with a research bent of mind, has come up with the following suggestions:

- a) Library Association of Arunachal Pradesh should take the lead in developing LIS education in the state.
- b) As a central university, Rajiv Gandhi University, Itanagar (A.P.) can take the lead on this matter to offer LIS courses at P.G. and Doctoral level in the interest of the respective students of A.P., thereby creating a new department of LIS. The new department can

cater to both working professionals and individual students of the state of A.P. and adjoining states.

- c) The govt. of Arunachal Pradesh should make State and National policy of A.P. to improve the positions of LIS professionals in A.P.
- d) Universities providing LIS education should acquire proper practical materials (DDC, CC, etc.), library software (Koha, SOUL, etc.), and access to the Internet for related practical matters for skill development of LIS professionals.

Conclusion

LIS Education is a professional course that aims to provide knowledge and skills about the information process. Students must learn, comprehend and practice library tools and techniques. To provide better education to the students, library professionals need to become more knowledgeable and skilled regarding the library's professional tools and techniques. Libraries can make their professionals more experienced and knowledgeable with a quality LIS education. Developing appropriate infrastructure, engaging highly skilled teachers and other efforts can improve LIS education in universities in AP. Despite this, this study shows that the LIS Schools face many constraints and difficulties in imparting proper LIS education in Arunachal Pradesh. The infrastructure, human resources, Reference tools, and adequate financial support are lacking in many LIS schools. Despite having ICT components on the syllabus, lack of infrastructure impedes actual hands-on experience.

LIS Education is all about librarianship, which requires practical classes on Library Management Software and Library Classification Schemes like DDC, CC., etc., for the practices. Therefore, it is essential to impart education about library work's practical aspects through LIS education. The creation of the LIS department in various govt institutions will cater to higher education and meet the requirements of libraries to manage and organize modern libraries. Aspiring students can learn and train themselves to fit for the management of the library. The government of Arunachal Pradesh must recognize the need for information and literacy in the LIS subject. Additionally, it will play a vital role in shaping the future of the library and strengthening national development.

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