

DEVELOPMENT OF LIBRARIES AND LIBRARY SCIENCE EDUCATION IN PESHAWAR-KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA, PAKISTAN: A HISTORICAL REVIEW

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Abstract

The history of Library and Information Science in Pakistan is traced back to the arrival of W. A. Broaden and Asa Don Dickinson to Sub-continent in 1911 and 1916 respectively. This piece of document tends to explore the history of library and library science education, library activities and role of professional associations in promotion of library culture in North-West part of Pakistan. This study is basically historical in nature. The paper is broadly divided into three parts that is library science education, library developments through ages and library associations and their role in the promotion of libraries in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Efforts were made to elaborate the growth of libraries in different eras over the passage of time. The role of Muslims and British in the promotion of library culture is also discussed. It is reflected that both nations have made no stone left un-turned for the establishment of libraries in this part of sub-continent. It is also evident from the pages of history that the introduction of Library and Information Science education was not that late here as compared to the rest of the world. University of Punjab is the third in the race of ranking after Germany and United States to offer this program. Various associations had also played their roles in this regard. They had worked hard for the promotion of library culture. The role of Pakistan Library Association (PLA) is observant and praise worthy in the said context. It is concluded that future of libraries and their education is bright in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa as library schools, senior professionals and associations are playing their due role with zeal and favor.

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Introduction

Library science education has its origin in early nineteenth century in Gotting Germany followed by United States of America (USA). University of Punjab stands at the third position in world ranking. Asa Don Dickinson and Lala Labu Ram played their active and prominent role to initiate LIS education in sub-continent. Dr.Abdul-Saboh Qasimi is the leading and founder personality worked for the initiation of LIS education in Khyber Pakhtunkhawa (the then N-W.F. P) of Pakistan¹.

From the pages of history, one can easily guess that Muslim rulers of the sub-continent had played a very active role in the establishment of educational institutions and libraries. Muhammad Bin Qasim laid down the foundation of "Maktab Madrasahs" in Sindh. In the same period, some schools and libraries had been reported to be there in Ooch, Multan and Thatta districts. In a second spell, another great Muslim leader Mahmud of Ghazni is seen who founded a number of schools and libraries at Lahore. Ghoris, Tughlaks, Lodhis and Mughals have left no stone unturned for the uplift in promoting of libraries. Mughals were real bibliophiles and fond of libraries. Each and every Mughal emperor had tried at their level best to lay down rich libraries. The libraries of Babar, Humayun, ShahJehan, Jehangir, Aurangzeb and Akbar were noteworthy. Mughal ministers and royal personalities had also established rich libraries like libraries of Darashikoh, Gul Badan (Zaib- un- Nisa), Abul fazal Faizi and AbduRahim Khan-e-Khanana. Apart from that, the libraries founded by Sultan Tipu and at Usmania University were also a part of our heritage.

After the British entry into the sub-continent, their so called isolation policy was badly failed, which led them to join hands with Indians for permanent and successful rule? For this purpose, they went to learn Urdu and Hindi and founded Asiatic Society in 1784 and Madras Literary Society in 1812 respectively.² These activities opened doors for the establishment of libraries in this part of the world. A library was established in Sukkah (Pakistan), known as Public Library Sukkah in 1830. This library is considered as the first library in the history of sub-continent. Later on, National Library India was established in 1836. Indeed, British Government did a lot for the promotion of education and libraries in the sub-continent but

¹ Hamid Rahman, "*Library History of Pakistan: A Comparative Study of Pre and Post-Independence Period.* (Mahnama Kitab, 1985): 35-45

² Qarshi, Afzal Haq. "Editorial: Voyage through History." *Pakistan Journal of Library and Information Science* (7), (2006): 1-4.

the area which was later called Pakistan was unattractive for them except Lahore, where the situation was a bit satisfactory. Liana Hall Library Karachi (1851), Edward School Library Peshawar (1855), Khaliq Dina Hall Library Karachi (1856), Forman Christian University Library the then College (1866), Punjab Public library Lahore (1884), Divisional Public Library Khair Pur Sindh (1903), The Punjab University Lahore (1908), Islamia College Library Peshawar (1913), Dayal Singh Trust Library Lahore (1928), Civil Secretariat Library Karachi were the prominent libraries before the dawn of freedom in this territory. Similarly, prior to partition, Central Record Office (CRO) attached with Archives also served a type of depository library here in Peshawar. Important documents along with record related to this area had been shifted from Delhi and Mumbai to CRO Peshawar after independence.

Reportedly, Japan Library Association (JLA) is second to one of its kind in the history of Asia established in 1892 after American Library Association (1876) and Library Association U.K (1886). Pakistan Library Association was established in March, 1957³. In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, PLA-KP chapter, Peshawar Universities Campus Librarians Association (PUCLA), Pakistan Librarians Welfare Organization (PLWO) and Pakistan Library Club (PLC) and University of Peshawar Library Science Alumni Association (UPLISAA) are playing their lively role to uplift of the LIS profession.

Objectives of the Study

The prime aim of this study is to examine the developments in library culture at large in Pakistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in particular. However, the specific objectives are:

- 1-To analyze the historical background of library science education in North West part of Pakistan.
- 2-To explore the library activities through ages at large.
- 3-To explain the role of professional education in the promotion of library culture in this part of Pakistan.

Justification of the Study

From the review of the relevant previous works, it was extracted that no such kind of work about specific geographic zone of Pakistan has been conducted so far. This study will be fruitful for the LIS professionals,

³ Anees Khurshid, *8th Annual Conference of the Pakistan Library Association*, (Karachi: Pakistan Library Association, 1971).

academicians and researchers interested in the study of LIS in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa-Pakistan in specific and the whole country in general.

Material and Methods

Various print and electronic sources were consulted to access information related to the study in hand. Documents containing material related to Library and Information Science (LIS) education, establishment of libraries through ages and library associations were scrutinized. Various web sources were also retrieved from websites and data bases to supplement this piece of document with latest facts and figure. Senior Professors of Library and Information Science schools from University of Peshawar and Sarhad university of Science and Information Technology, Peshawar were also interviewed for the authentication and, verification of information. The information collected from different sources were filtered, edited, organized and documented.

Library Science Education in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

The administration and organization of a library is a skill which can be learnt through the education of library science. The idea of motivation and launching the library training and education in the subcontinent was engineered by the W.A Broaden, at Baroda state in 1911. This was basically an in-service training program for the library officials of Broada Public Library However, the first full-fledged course in library science was introduced and organized by Asa Don Dickinson at Punjab University Lahore in 1915. After the departure of Dickinson, Lala Labhu Ram supervised the system. The same continued off and on, till the year of bifurcation of Indo-Pak 1947.

In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (the then North-West Frontier Province (N-W.F.P)), the library training program was uprooted with the introduction of "Inter Exchange Program" signed between the authorities of "A & M College" of Colorado USA and University of Peshawar. Under that program, Abdus Sabuh Qasimi went abroad to improve his qualification and got M.L.I.S degree from United States of America⁴. The visit of G.M. Coble was a part of this program. The visitor conducted a survey and brought forward the actual status of libraries in this part of the country. A two-month library science refresher course was designed in 1956. Mr. G.M.Coble and Abdus Sabuh Qasimi were the resource persons of this refresher course. Allocated seats for this program were twenty but only fourteen got admission but couldn't be materialized. Later on two more such packages to introduce diploma and refresher course in 1957 and 1959 respectively were

⁴ AU Khan. "A Brief Account of Libraries of the University of Peshawar." University librarianship in Pakistan (1986): 81-106.

tried but lack of teaching faculty and resources the same met the past fate⁵. In 1962, a program of formal "Diploma Award" was chalked out in University of Peshawar. Twenty-three trainees were given the opportunity seeking diploma in Library Science. Mr. A.S.Qasimi, Mr. Qamar Mirza, Mr. Waheed Shah Bukhari were the master trainer/ resource persons of the training. The libraries of Islamia College and University of Peshawar were used laboratories for practical purposes of classification, cataloguing, cataloguing and indexing, bibliography and reference work, and library organization and administration were the course module of the said training. Mr. A.S.Qasimi left for Columbia University, New York City USA, in 1963. The position was filled in by Mr. A.U.Khan, who has the honor to be the first full-fledged Chairman and first Associate Professor in the field of Library and Information Science in KP⁶. The Department got its regular status in 1983, approximately after twenty years of its part time establishment. Mr. Mustamir Shah Khattak took over the charge of the Department in 1974, after the departure of Dr. A.S.Qasimi to Saudi Arabia and Mr. Qamar Mirza to Australia. The syllabus of Master of Library Science (M.L.S) also got approved having five subjects of 100 marks each which were implemented in 1983. The services of Mr. Abdul Hameed were hired in 1977, but no longer than 1980. Mr. Fida Husain and Mr. Abdul Aziz Saleem joined the Department as visiting tutors in 1980. Mr. Hamid Rehman and Syed Liaqat Ali (the current chairman) were hired in 1984 and 1988 respectively. The Department of Library and Information Science has replaced the old system of BLIS and MLIS and initiated M.A Library and Information Science (Two years' composite program) in 2008-9. Approximately six thousand and five hundred students so far have been graduated from alma mater of University of Peshawar till 2017⁷.

Sarhad University of Science and Information Technology (SUIT) have the honor to establish the second Department of Library and Information Science (LIS) in the history of KP. The idea was floated by Dr. Abdul Waheed Mughal, Dean Faculty of Social Science and Arts in 2012, although various other LIS programs were in operation in distance mode. Syed Arif

⁵ Khalid Mahmood, "A Comparison between Needed Competencies of Academic Librarians and LIS Curricula in Pakistan." *The electronic library*, 21(2), (2003): 99-109.

⁶ Ameen, Kanwal. "Challenges of Preparing LIS Professionals for Leadership Roles in Pakistan." *Journal of education for library and information science* (2006): 200-17.

⁷ Hamid Rahman, (Assistant Professor, University of Peshawar), interviewed by Saeed Ullah Jan, Peshawar, July 2017.

Ali Shah, the chief librarian of the University was given the office of first coordinator of library science education program. The author has the distinction as pioneer Head of Department of this second School of LIS in the province. Prof. Hamid Rahman and Prof. Syed Liaqat Ali (as visiting faculty) have been engaged since the establishment of the Department till date. Mr. Muhammad Ibrahim and Mr. Abid Hussain are also working as part-time lecturers in the Department for the last two years. The Department has the distinction to launch MS-LIS program in the history of KP. Allah Almighty has bestowed this honor and opportunity to the author to initiate this program in 2013. Until now, more than seventy MS-students are enrolled in this program. Currently, the DLIS SUIT offers three different programs namely BA-LIS, MLIS and MS-LIS. The BA-LIS program currently replaced with Associate Degree in Library and Information Science (AD-LIS) with the introduction of BS-LIS program as per HEC guide lines. Dr. Muhammad Ashfaque Ahmad has joined Khushal Khan Khattak University Karak as chairman LIS. The major program (MS-LIS) of this Department is twofold; firstly, students have to pass three courses of nine credit hours in their last semester (course work) instead of research work of six credit hours (research work). The MS-scholars (with research) have to complete thirty credit hours whereas MS-scholars (with course work) have to study thirty-three credit hours for the award of MS-degree.

The third school of Library and Information Science (LIS) opened at Khushal Khan Khattak University Karak, KP. Mr. Rahim Jan, Assistant Professor of the department initiated the idea and was materialized the by Dr. Muhammad Ibrahim Khttak, the then Vice-Chancellor of the University in 2014, but the classes started in 2015. The first MLIS batch consisted of sixteen students. The author was on the roll of the University as visiting faculty till regular appointment in December 03, 2015. At the same time, Dr. Ghalib Khan, Muhammad Hussain, Izhar Muhammad and Muhammad Shahab Khattak joined the Department on regular basis. The Department presently offering three programs:

- 1-BS-LIS four -year program; introduced for the first time in the history of KP.
- 2-MLIS two-year program
- 3-MPhil-LIS two -year program

MPhil-LIS was launched in October2017 and seven students enrolled in its first batch. The Department has the intention to start PhD program in LIS after the fulfillment of HEC criteria. There are more than one hundred and twenty students on the strength of this Department at present.

The course of Library Science as an optional subject at intermediate level was introduced in 1994. A good number of Higher Secondary Schools and

Colleges in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa are offering Library Science at intermediate level but unfortunately, it does not exist at degree level in KP.

Library activities in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

After the war of independence in 1857, Muslims of the sub-continent realize the importance of modern education and libraries. It is reported that the first attempt in KP was made by the British Government when they attempted to establish the first ever school, the Edward High School in Peshawar in 1855⁸. Reportedly, a library was also established in that school. Later on, this school was upgraded to college named as Edward College Peshawar in 1900 (Edward College Prospectus, 2014). Sir Sahibzada Abdul Qayum Khan: an influential Pashtuns Chief realized that only modern education and better relation with book could give his nation freedom from ignorance and foreign dominations. Sir George Roose Keppel and Sir Sahibzada selected the present site of the college and its library. The history of Islamia College Library is as old as the history of college and was established in 1913. Abdul Raheem, Kulachvi, an Arabic and Pashto teacher was given the charge of the library and considered as the first librarian of the institution. The library is one of the oldest libraries in Pakistan in general and KP in particular. Before the establishment of University of Peshawar, this library had rich collection sufficient to satisfy the information needs of the readers. Later, its collection was transferred to the Central Library University of Peshawar in 1951. Currently, the library has a collection of more than 92,000 printed volumes whereas the total number of manuscripts in the library is 1259⁹ (Zeeshan, 2017). A famous catalogue, named Daratul Maariful Islamia (a list of manuscripts) was also compiled by Adul Raheem Kulachvi.

The central library, University of Peshawar was established in February 1951. It was housed in a small room in the old central building. The Project Director of newly established University of Peshawar transferred the services of Abdu Sabuh Qasimi from University of Punjab to University of Peshawar. Abdus Suboh Qasmi was an employee of Central Library University of Punjab. He was first librarian of University of Peshawar Library. The library was transferred to the existing three storied building in 1957. It has a total area of 10,000 sq. Feet with a capacity of about seventy-

⁸ Pervaiz Ahmad, "Library Organizations in the Punjab Province of Pakistan: An Appraisal." *Malaysian Journal of Library & Information Science* ,12(2) (2017): 77-88.

⁹ Zeshan Ullah (Assistant Librarian, Islamia College University Peshawar), interviewed by Saeed Ullah Jan. December, 2017.

five thousand volumes (Khan, 1986). United States Information Services and American Friends of the Middle East are the two most important contributors for this library.

Library Associations in KP

The history of library associations dates back to the development of American Library Association (ALA) in 1876 and Library Association (LA) U.K in 1886. The first library association in Asia was Japan Library Association (JLA) established in 1892. In sub-continent the first effort was made in 1916 with the name of Punjab Library Association. Apart from that Pakistan Library Association (PLA),Pakistan Bibliographical Working Group (PBWG), Society for the Promotion and Improvement of Libraries (SPIL),Pakistan Library Automation Group (PAKLAG),Pakistan Library Cooperation Group (LIBCOOP), LIS Solution Pakistan, National Book Foundation (NBF), Pakistan Scientific and Technological Information Centre (PASTIC), Federal Library Association (FLA), West Pakistan Library Association (WPLA), Lyallpur Library Association (LLA), Punjab College Library Association (PCLA),Punjab Library Foundation (PLF), Punjab University Library & Information Science Alumni Association (PULISAA) University of Peshawar Library & Information Alumni association (UPLISAA), Punjab University Library Organization (PULO),Punjab Medical Library Association (PMLA),Punjab School Library Association (PSLA),Karachi University Library Science Alumni Association (KULSAA), Sindh Council of School & College Librarian, Library Promotion Bureau, Karachi (LPB), Sindh Library Association (SLA),Karachi University Professional Librarian's Association (KUPLA), and Peshawar University Campus Librarian Association (PUCLA) are the most prominent library association in the country. There are several other associations in Pakistan about which detail information are not available. These include: Karachi Library Association (KLA) 1949, Library Association of Pakistan (1956), Librarians Forum, Karachi (1971), Pakistan Organization of Young Librarians and Information Scientists Karachi 1976, Pakistan Medical Library Association 1986,Association of Pakistan Library Schools (1987,Pakistan Association of Special Libraries and Information Centre (revived in 1988), Idara-e-Kitabiyat-i-Pakistan, Karachi (1992), ALL Pakistan Public Library Association (APPLA) (revived in 1992) previously known as Public Library Association, Library and Information Advisory Council, Karachi (1996), Sindh College Library Association, Hyderabad, Sindh 1996,Sindh Council of College Librarians 1996,Pakistan Bibliographical Society, Karachi, Pakistan Library Forum, Lahore and Library Writers Bureau, Peshawar(LWB 1988).

Pakistan Library Association (PLA) is the representative class of library professionals in the country. This Association was established in Pakistan under the Societies Registration Act XXI of 1860 vide Joint Stock

Companies Registration No. KAR No. 3143. It concerns all types of libraries: State, National, Public, School, College, University and special library serving persons in Govt. Commerce and Industry, the Arts, the Armed Services, Hospitals and other institutions. The Associations is the chief spokesman for the people of Pakistan in their search for highest quality of library and information services and librarianship. The constitution of PLA stated that librarians of all facets holding degree in Library and Information Science can become the member of the association. The members of the association can be categorized into three groups: Students, regular members and life members. The students have no right to hold any office or to cast vote. The regular members are registered for a period of one year. They have to renew their membership every year. Life member are the permanent members till death. Both regular and life members can cast vote and can act as office bearer. PLA has an executive body at national level called PLA head quarter with local units at every province as PLA provincial chapters.

Pakistan Library Association was the episode-2 of Punjab Library Association. Actually, Punjab Library Association was founded in 1916. After partition, this association could not survive due to shifting of some important office bearers to India. This association was re-constituted in June 06, 1948 at Islamia College Lahore. Later on, this association was merged with Pakistan Library Association in March, 1957 after the merger of Punjab in one Unit. The first ever conference of PLA was inaugurated by Maj: General Sikandar Mirza, the then President of Pakistan at Karachi. The head quarter of the association keep changing, and rotates among the four provinces and capital as per constitution of PLA. The last conference was held in Islamabad in 2016 under the umbrella of PLA Head Quarter (federal branch). The last general PLA election was held in July-August 2017. As per constitution, the PLA head quarter has now shifted to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. PLA started a quarterly journal in 1960 which was ceased in 1969. Recently, two issues: 2013 and 2014 have been published on annual basis by PLA.

Peshawar Universities Campus Librarians Association (PUCLA) is a local representative forum of the librarian's community of grand campus of University of Peshawar. The first meeting of the association was held in the library, National Centre of Excellence in Geology, University of Peshawar on April 21, 2009¹⁰. The main theme of this association was to provide a legal base to safe guard the rights of the librarians of university of Peshawar.

¹⁰ PUCLA. "Peshawar Universities Campus Librarians Association." Last modified Accessed July 18, 2017. <https://www.sites.google.com/site/puclaorg/>.

It has played a very pivotal role in the promotion of library culture on the campus. Various conferences and workshops have been organized for the capacity building and uplift of the profession. Reportedly, total strength in terms of membership is about fifty-five.

Pakistan Librarian Welfare Organization (PLWO) was established in 2006 in Lahore by library professionals. It is a non-profit organization working for the uplift of the LIS profession. PLWO is dedicated to transform professionals from librarian to “teacher of teachers”. It has hundreds of members all over the country, but the membership rate is low in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. There are about 15-20 PLWO members in KP. Khalid Usman and Niamat Ullah of Bannu and Muhammad Hussain of Khushal Khan Khattak University Karak are the active members of this association in KP. The role of this organization is very positive and there is a great chance of increase in membership in this part of the country. PLWO has started the third research journal in Pakistan in the field of Library & Information Science (LIS) named "International Journal of Information Management Sciences". Chief Minister Directive issued on May 08, 2012 for the announcement of vacant posts of Librarians at College and School level in Punjab Province over the special efforts of PLWO. Pakistan Library Club (PLC) is a nationwide representative forum of working librarians. The basic theme behind the establishment of PLC is to inculcate potential leadership qualities among LIS professionals in Pakistan. This Association is constantly engaged in various activities like seminars, workshops and conferences for the uplift of the profession¹¹.

Conclusion

Libraries are considered as a sign of prosperity of a region. It is the source which changes the destiny of nations by generating the sense of tolerance, patriotism and devotion among the masses. The history of libraries in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, a north-west part of Pakistan is not too old. The Library of Edward High School (1855) (now College) had a library followed by Islamia College Peshawar (1913). The introduction of Library Science education had also a rich history. Department of Library and Information Science, University of Peshawar is the oldest school in the territory imparting LIS education to the community. More than six thousand students had been graduated from this school. Pakistan Library Association and Peshawar Campus Librarian Association are the two more dominant forums of LIS professionals in KP. These associations have arranged dozens of workshops, in-service trainings, seminars, conventions and conferences for the uplift of the LIS profession. The associations and LIS schools are trying their level best to create awareness among the people about book,

¹¹ PLC. "Pakistan Library Club" Last modified Accessed July 05, 2018.

library and its importance. The library culture in KP has taken momentum in right direction with focus on research in library and Information Science.

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