LIBRARIES IN TAMILNADU: A HISTORY OF PUBLIC LIBRARY

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ABSTRACT

The aim of the Public Libraries Department is to enrol all educated persons as Members of the library and to encourage them for utilizing the services of this Department. The other activities of this Department are to provide facilities in the Library, stock books useful for variety of readers, opening of libraries with the co-operation of the public, etc.

Keywords: Libraries, public libraries.

LIST OF INDIAN STATES

India is a Union of 28 States and 7 Union Territories. Each state has its own government with a Governor as the figurehead, while each Union Territory is administered directly by the President through an administrator appointed by him.

List of Indian States:

STATES	CAPITAL
Andhra Pradesh State	Hyderabad
Arunachal Pradesh State	Itangar
Assam State	Dispur
Bihar State	Patna
Chhattisgarh State	Raipur
Goa State	Panaji
Gujarat State	Gandhinagar
Haryana State	Chandigarh
Himachal Pradesh	Shimla

Jammu and Kashmir	Srinagar and Jammu
Jharkhand State	Ranchi
Karnataka State	Bangalore
Kerala State	Thiruvananthapuram
Madya Pradesh	Bhopal
Maharashtra State	Mumbai
Manipur State	Imphal
Meghalaya State	Shillong
Mizoram State	Aizawi
Nagaland State	Kohima
Orissa State	Bhubaneshwar
Punjab State	Chandigarh
Rajasthan State	Jaipur
Sikkim State	Gangtok
Tamil Nadu State	Chennai
Tripura State	Agartala
Uttaranchal State	Dehradun
Uttar Pradesh State	Lucknow
West Bengal	Kolkata

UNION TERRITORIES	CAPITAL
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	Port Blair
Chandigarh	Chandigarh
Dadar and Nagar Haveli	Silvassa
Daman and Diu	Daman
Delhi	Delhi
Lakshadeep	Kavaratti
Pondicherry	Pondicherry

GROWTH OF PUBLIC LIBRARY IN INDIA

India has been the cradle of one of the earliest civilizations. Intellectual enquiry and philosophical thinking were the factors that shaped the Indian civilization. The ancient Indian civilization literature like Rig-Veda, Upanishads etc. Is all based on philosophical thinking and still to day they are considered as philosophical treaties. It is believed that around 3500 B.C. and that the instrument of writing through in crude from was invented. This was used as a tool for dealing with the practical day to day affairs. In 400 A.D. there existed one of the reputed universities namely the Nalanda university. Besides Nalanda , Valabi. Taxila , Vikramsila Mithila and nadia also existed. The important thing to be noted in the history of development of Indian libraries is the excavation made at Amaravati Nagarjunakonda. In this period the five story structure was used for the storage for the books. The library was at the top of floor. In medieval period, some of the moghul emperors were famous for there great love for books. They have enriched private library but this library is not for public. They appoints staff for the preservation of library books. When the printing press is invented it gives a raga of library growth. Printing in India is started in 1556. The first library in modern India was established in 1784 attached to the Asiatic society of Bengal. After the death of Tippu sultan the many of manuscripts were transfer to the Asiatic society library. Asiatic society library of Bombay was established in 1830. The Calcutta public library was established in 1835 by the English community in Calcutta. The Connemara public library which was established in madras in 1896 also provides a vital role in development of Indian library development. The establishment of Delhi public library 1951 is also an important step in the history of public library movement. In order to support the library development Raja Ram Mohan Roy library foundation was constituted in 1972. The establishment of INDONET (India's information network)

CALIPNET (Calcutta public libraries network) etc. are the important miles stone in the development of library movement in India. The national library of India is established in 1948 at Alipur Calcutta through the concept of service and basic functions are the same for all the libraries there are different types of libraries depending on different customers. These are generally students, teachers researchers businessmen, doctors, housewives and so on this basis the libraries can be divided in to following categories:

Public libraries
Academics libraries
Special libraries
National libraries

Public libraries cater to needs of all sectors irrespective of age sex occupations social or economic status. Public library serves the public. The academic library is defined as the library of schools colleges and universities. They are grouped together because they serve mainly to students and teachers. Their functions and services are mainly for students and teachers.
The national library of India is Imperial library of Calcutta which was established in 1948. There are so many acts were also passed for the development of library in India.
Madras public library act 1948
Copy right act 1957
Delivery of books & news paper act 1954

After seeing the above sentence we can say that the concept of library in India is very old. India is giving five laws of library science which are very useful in the library. The five laws are given by Dr. S.R. Ranganathan who was the father of Indian library science.

LIBRARY LEGISLATION IN INDIA

The current status of the public library system in India is hard to ascertain and describe, because a consolidated picture is not available. There are twenty-eight states and seven union territories in India . All have their own public library systems, structure, and pattern of financial assistance. Nineteen of the states have enacted library legislation and the rest are providing public library service without legislation. The states that have enacted library legislation are:

1.Tamil Nadu Public Libraries Act, 1948
2. Andhra pradesh Public Libraries Act, 1960
3. Karnatka Public Libraries Act, 1965
4. Maharashtra Public Libraries Act, 1967
5. West Bewngal Public Libraries Act, 1979
6. Manipur Public Libraries Act, 1988
7. Kerala Public Libraries Act, 1989
8. Haryana Public Libraries Act, 1989
9. Mizoram Public Libraries Act, 1993
10. Goa Public Libraries Act, 1993
11 Gujrat Public Libraries Act, 2000
12 Orissa Public Libraries Act, 2000

13. Rajasthan Public Libraries Act, 2005
14. Uttar Pradesh Public Libraries Act, 2005
15. Uttrakhand Public Libraries Act, 2005
16. Pondichery Public Libraries Act, 2007/2008
17. Bihar Public Libraries Act, 2007
18. Chattisgarh Public Libraries Act, 2007
19. Arunachal Pradesh Public Libraries Act, 2009

TAMIL NADU LIBRARY LEGISLATION

Tamil Nadu is the first state that enacted Public Libraries Act in independent India. It came into force with effect from 1 April 1950. The objectives of the Act are contained in its Preamble as, 'An act to provide for the establishment of public libraries in the province of (Madras) Tamil Nadu and the organization of comprehensive rural and urban Library Service therein". It has 19 sections. The salient features of this Act are given below:

1) This Act facilitates establishment of Public Libraries in the State.
2) Constitution of State Library Committee for the purpose of advising the government on such matters relating to libraries.
3) Provision for appointment of Director of Public Libraries to control, direct and supervise public libraries.
4) Constitution of Local Library Authorities, one for the City of Madras and one for each district.
5) Every Local Library Authority shall levy in the area a library cess in the form of a surcharge on property tax or house tax at the rate of six paise per rupee.
6) The Government shall contribute Library Fund to each of the Local Library Authority, except the City of Madras, to the amount of library cess collected.
7) The Act amended Sec.9 of the Press and Registration of Books Act, 1867, Central Act XXV of 1867 to the effect that every printer shall deliver five copies of each book to the State Government out of which four will be deposited in the State Central Library, Madras. Tamil Nadu was very rich in public libraries. The Connemara Public Library was opened for the public in 1896 and became the State Central Library from 1 April 1950. There is a tremendous growth and development of public libraries since an enactment of Tamil Nadu Public Libraries Act 1948 being the first state in India with Library Legislation.

TAMILNADU PUBLIC LIBRARY HISTORY

Tamilnadu Government have promulgated public Library Act in 1948, According to the act a committee named Local Library Authority, Coimbatore was constituted in August 1950. Thiru C.M.Rama Chandran Chettiar(Kovai kizhar) was elected as chairman of the committee. The District Central Library, Coimbatore commenced to render its service to the public since 1.6.1952 at "Victoria Town Hall" Building. Due to development its has been shifted to Gandhi Memorial Library Building at V.O.C park Coimbatore during the Middle of 1956.

The Library was subsequently shifted to the existing building situated in No.50 Cowly Brown Road, R.S.Puram Coimbatore. It is a multistoried Building having carpet area of nearly 21453 sq.feet. The

Library is surrounded by Avinashilingam Deemed University, Forest College, Government College of Technology, Agricultural University, Law College and Bharathiyar University New Building opened on 6 th June 1987. It serves the General Public of all Category especially the elite society living all the District Activities of the Library are designed to facilitate use of resources to guide the readers to achieve their object stimulates the public to cultivate increase reading habits.

TAMILNADU

Covering a total area of 130,058km2, the state of Tamil Nadu is the eleventh largest state in India. Tamil Nadu shares its borders with Kerala, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh.
Tamil Nadu is the seventh most populous state of India with population count of 66,396,000 people. Chennai (formerly known as Madras) is the state capital and the fourth largest city of India. The administrative units of Tamil Nadu constitutes 39 Lok Sabha constituencies, 234 Assembly constituencies, 32 districts, 10 city corporations, 152 municipalities, 611 town panchayatsand12,618villagepanchayats.

The 32 districts of Tamil Nadu are:

1.   Chennai District
2.   Coimbatore District
3.   Cuddalore District
4.   Dharmapuri District
5.   Dindigul District
6.   Erode District
7.   Kanchipuram District
8.   Kanyakumari District
9.   Karur District
10.   Krishnagiri District
11.   Madurai District
12.   Nagapattinam District
13.   Namakkal District
14.   Nilgiris District
15.   Perambalur District
16.   Ramanathapuram District
17.   Salem District
18.   Pudukkottai District
19.   Sivaganga District
20.   Thanjavur District
21.   Theni District
22.   Thoothukudi District
23.   Thiruchirapalli District
24.   Thirunelveli District
25.   Thiruvallur District
26.   Thiruvannamalai District
27.   Thiruvarur District

28.   Vellore District
29.   Vizhuppuram District
30.   Virudhunagar district
31.   Ariyalur district
32.   Tirupur district

CENTRAL STATE LIBRARIES

Connemara Public Library was established in 1890 in Chennai city. It is the largest public library of the city of Chennai, which has enormous collection of books. The library also contains some of the century-old valuable books. Citizens of Chennai only are eligible to be the members of Connemara Public Library. Connemara Public Library is a well-equipped library having huge collections of books, journals and newspapers. In Chennai the library was established in 1890. It is situated in the Pantheon Road of Egmore besides the Museum of Madras and Madras Art Gallery. The Haileybury College of England sent around 100 books to the Government of Madras in 1861. These books were deposited to the museum of Madras by the government. The books remained there till 1890. At that time the governor of Madras was Lord Connemara. The library has been named after him. He anticipated the need of establishing a free public Library in Madras, which made him to lay the foundation of the Connemara Public Library in Chennai.

VALUABLE COLLECTIONS OF CONNEMARA PUBLIC LIBRARY

Connemara Public Library was part of a cultural complex. The library owns over 5 lakh books. The library is in the possession of some of the most valuable collections. These include:
•   The 1608 edition of Bible
•   1801 edition of Plutarch's Lives
•   The 1881 Census of India
•   Flora Indica by Burmanni
•   A Voyage to Suratt in the years by Ovington
•   A German copy of 'Antony and Cleopatra'
•   Hourtus Indicus Malabaricus 12 Volumes by Rheed
•   The Hebrew and Chaldean Lexicon to the Old Testament
•   Besch's "Grammar of the High Dialect of the Tamil Language"

MEMBERSHIP IN CONNEMARA PUBLIC LIBRARY

Any person above 17 years of age can be a member of the Connemara Public Library, provided he/she is a citizen of Chennai. A maximum of 6 books can be borrowed at a time by the reader at home against a deposit of 300 rupees. The books have to be returned to the library within 14 days. The library remains open on all days of the week except Sundays from 9.00 a.m. to 7.30 p.m. On Sundays the library can be accessed between 9.30 a.m. and 6 p.m.

PRESENT SITUATION OF TAMILNADU LIBRARIES

The TNPL Act, 1948 provides the creation of the department of public libraries and local library authorities for each department. The following libraries are functioning in the state at present:

S.NO:	DISTRICT	STATE CENTRAL LIBRARY	DISTRICT CENTRAL LIBRARY	BRANCH LIBRARY	MOBILE LIBRARY	VILLAGE LIBRARY	PART-TIME LIBRARY	TOTAL
1.	CONNEMARA PUBLIC LIBRARY	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
2.	CHENNAI	-	1	138	-	-	18	157
3.	COIMBATORE	-	1	105	4	134	54	298
4.	CUDDALORE	-	1	63	-	39	23	126
5.	DHARMAPURI	-	1	25	0	61	19	106
6.	DINDIGUL	-	1	53	0	83	22	161
7.	ERODE	-	1	100	1	120	34	256
8.	KANCHEEPURAM	-	1	65	1	49	16	132
9.	KANYAKUMARI	-	1	13	-	39	23	126
10.	KARUR	-	1	26	-	50	4	81
11.	MADURAI	-	1	60	1	59	8	129
12.	NAGAPATTINAM	-	1	40	-	42	10	93
13.	NAMAKKAL	-	1	43	-	60	39	143
14.	NILGRIS	-	1	45	-	26	7	79
15.	PERAMBALUR	-	1	25	-	35	4	65
16.	PUDUKOTTAI	-	1	32	-	39	6	78
17.	RAMANATHAPURAM	-	1	49	-	21	11	82
18.	SALEM	-	1	57	1	72	24	155
19.	SIVAGANGAI	-	1	50	-	46	19	116
20.	THANJAVUR	-	1	50	1	41	16	109
21.	THENI	-	1	62	-	44	8	115
22.	THIRUVANNAMALAI	-	1	41	-	70	23	135
23.	THIRUVALLUR	-	1	65	1	46	11	124
24.	THUTHUKUDI	-	1	45	-	54	14	114
25.	TIRUCHIRAPALLI	-	1	56	1	61	3	122
26.	TIRUVARUR	-	1	27	-	43	8	79
27.	TIRUNELVELI	-	1	96	1	80	10	188
28.	VELLORE	-	1	59	-	65	25	150
29.	VILLUPURAM	-	1	61	-	65	15	142
30.	VIRUDHUNAGAR	-	1	91	-	49	15	156
31.	KRISHNAKIRI	-	1	25	-	60	19	105
	TOTAL	1	30	1667	12	1727	487	3924

Source: directorate of public libraries annual report 2007-2008.

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                    │    Director of Public Libraries  │
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   │ Directorate      │   │ Local Library    │   │ Connemara Public │
   │ JD/DD/AD/Office  │   │ Authority        │   │ Library          │
   │ staff            │   └──────────────────┘   └──────────────────┘
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                         │ District Library │   │    Librarian     │
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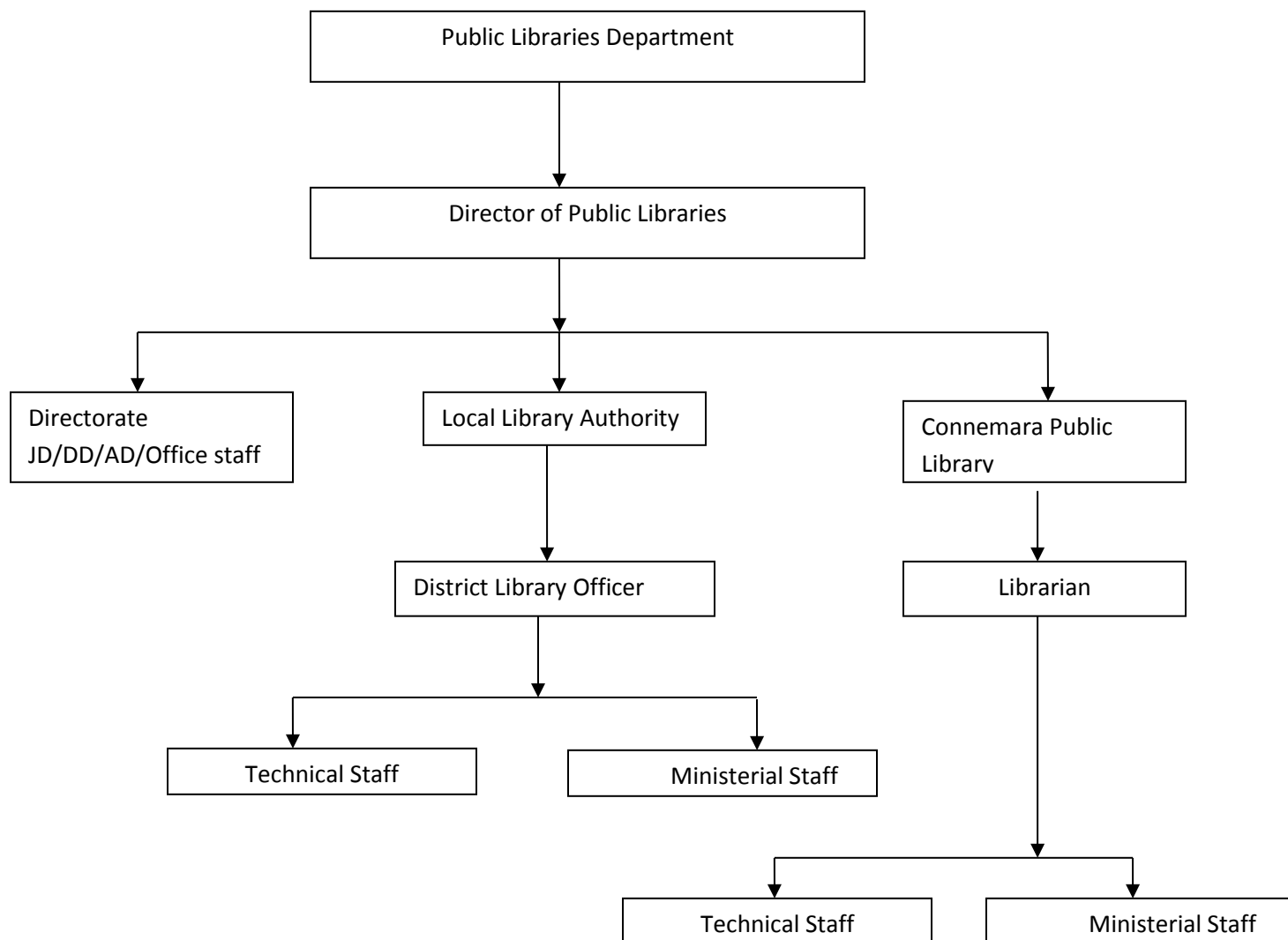
Organizational structure

Objective : to render best library service to the greatest number at the least cost.

Vision / mission statement:

1.   To promote public library movement.
2.   To provide lifelong self education

Main activities:

Main activities are:

1.   Popularizing to public library movement
2.   Providing adequate infra-structural facilities
3.   Providing reading materials
4.   Resource building and mobilization of funds

ACHIEVEMENT

1.Sanction of Regular Time Scale To 739 Village Libraries: 739 village librarians working in the local library authorities on consolidated pay of Rs 1500/- have been brought in to regular time scale of Rs 3200 -85-4900 as librarian grade III.
2.Counseling: 739 village librarians have been promoted as grad III Librarians And Posted To Various Libraries By Adopting Counseling Method For The First Time In The Department During November / December 2006.
3.Renovation of Connemara Public Library Old Building: the old building of CPL has been renovated by the archaeological department without any change in its antique, at a cost of Rs 1.28 core and its has been dedicated on the public on 22. 11.2006. the honorable ministers and department officials felicitated the function.
4. Opening of New District Library Office And District Central Library: opened new district library office and district central library at krishnagiri district.

SERVICES AND PROGRAMMES

The following are the main services and programmes of the Department:
1.Lending Service.
2.Reference Service.
3.Audio Video Service.
4.Reprographic Service.
5.Linkage of the Schools.
6.Conducting National Seminars/Conferences.
7.Training programmes to staff members.
8.Opening of part time Libraries/ Village   libraries in rural areas.
9.Adding latest books to the   libraries.
10.Encouraging every educated person to become a member of the   library.
11.Providing basic amenities to   libraries.
12.Construction of new   library buildings.
13.Modernizing the   libraries by introducing latest techniques.

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