

## **Library & Information Science Education in Panjab University, Chandigarh: an overview.**

**Website: <http://x.puchd.ac.in/libsc/index.html>**

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### **Introduction**

Panjab University, was the premier University in the northern region to start Library and Information Science education. It is being provided at two levels, one as a regular course run by the Department of Library and Information Science and second through Distance Education Programme.

Panjab University instituted a training course in librarianship at Lahore before the partition of India. A Post-graduate Diploma in Library Science was instituted by the University at its Chandigarh Campus in 1960. It was redesignated as Bachelor of Library Science from the academic session 1968-69 and as Bachelor of Library & Information Science from the academic session 1988-89. The University instituted the *Master of Library Science* course from the academic session 1970-71 which was re-designated as Master of Library & Information Science course from the academic session 1988-89. Ph.D. in Library Science was introduced from the academic year 1972-73, which was also redesignated as Ph.D. in Library and Information Science from the academic year 1988-89. Keeping in view the recommendations of the Curriculum Development Committee of the U.G.C., a Two-Year Integrated Course leading to Masters of Library & Information Science has been started with effect from the academic session 2003-04.

### ***The Mission***

The faculty of the Library and Information Science Program educates students at the master's and doctoral levels to become leaders in libraries, archives, and information centers; conducts research to advance the information sciences. The faculty, staff, and students of the Program constitute a community of learners in support of this mission. The department aims to prepare individuals for positions of responsibility in the field of library and information service and to contribute to the advancement of knowledge in the field. The desire is not simply to ensure that each gains adequate employment, but to prepare graduates to assume responsible positions in libraries and information centers. Faculty are expected, through their instructional, research, and service activities, to contribute tangibly to the development of the knowledge base that makes library and information science a discipline as well as a profession.

### ***Statement of Objectives***

The purpose of the Department of Library & Information Science is to stimulate interest in, participation in, and knowledge of all the facets of library & librarianship. The objectives of the department are as under –

1. To provide students an understanding of the basic principles and fundamental laws of library and information science and to enable them to understand and appreciate the functions and purpose of the libraries and information centers.
2. To professionally train the students in diverse area of librarianship
3. To educate the students in the philosophy of librarianship, basic principles, fundamental laws, professional ethics and management of Library and Information Centers.

4. To enable the students to understand and appreciate the functions and purposes of Library and Information Centers in the changing social cultural, technological and economic environment.
5. To provide students the knowledge of information technology (IT) and its application in library and information activities.
6. To train the students in the advanced skills of information knowledge, gathering, processing, organization and retrieval.
7. To train the students in information knowledge analysis, repackaging and marketing.
8. To provide the students thorough understanding of IT applications in information environment including networks and communication systems.
9. To train the students in the analysis, planning and management of the systems of library and information centers.
10. To provide an understanding of research methods and activities of research organizations.

### **Faculty**

At present the department has four faculty members which includes two Readers, one Lecturer, and one Lecturer-cum-Assistant Librarian. One post of Professor and one of Reader are vacant. At present the department is headed by Dr.(Mrs.) Ranjana Vohra.

### **Courses:**

The department offers two year integrated course in Master of Library and Information Science. The course duration of two years is further divided into four semesters with each year having two semesters. The scheme of examination comprises of internal as well as external assessment of the students. For the internal assessment the department holds one house test, one snap test and assignment in each paper.

The department also offers Ph.D. degree in diverse areas of library and information science. Till now about 40 research scholars have completed their Ph.D. programme and at present about ten research scholars are pursuing Ph.D in the department.

### **Students:**

Students in the Masters of Library and Information Science degree program come from a wide variety of backgrounds. A significant number of the students are recent graduates or post graduates. -- from Panjab University or the colleges affiliated to Panjab University -- seeking careers of service as librarians or information specialists. But there is also an important place in the MLIS program for students interested in pursuing a second career. The research Scholars pursuing Ph.D. programme have done their Masters degree in Library & Information Science from Panjab University itself or from other universities located in other states. Among the research scholars also are the professionals working in different libraries at various capacities like library assistants, assistant librarians, deputy librarians and librarians. Total intake of students is more than 30 and 8 NRI seats.

### **Publications and Professional Development:**

Faculties have contributed a lot in the growth and development of the subject of Library and Information Science. This contribution has come in the form of publications in reputed national and international scholarly journals and participating in various conferences and seminars. The department has been organizing Seminars, Refresher Courses for the professional development and career growth of library professionals.

### **Project Works:**

- Research in Library and Information Science in India funded by Indian Association . of Teachers of Library and Information Science. Project duration 1 year
- Who's Who among Library and Information Science Teachers in India funded by Indian Association . of Teachers of Library and Information Science.
- Directory of Library & Inf. Sc. Schools in India funded by Indian Association . of Teachers of Library and Information Science.
- Performance Appraisal of Library Professionals Working in Chandigarh in the research area of Library Manpower Development.

### **Conferences, Seminars & Workshops:**

- ICSSR sponsored seminar on "Documentation and Information Services in India: their problems and relevance, held during January 31 to February 03, 1991.
- ICSSR sponsored seminar on "Information Products and Services in Social Sciences", held from March 13-14, 2003.
- International CALIBER 2007 (12<sup>th</sup>). Organized by INFLIBNET, India on the theme Information and Knowledge Management in Networked World jointly hosted by A. C. Joshi Library (Panjab University Library) and Department of Library & Information Science, Panjab University, Chandigarh during February 8-10, 2007.

### **Admission Guidelines for Masters of Library & Information Science:**

The minimum qualifications for admission to the course for the degree of Master of Library & Information Science (Two-year Integrated Course, Semester System) are:

- (a) Bachelor's degree with at least 50 per cent marks in the aggregate from this University or from any other University the Bachelor's degree of which has been recognized by the Syndicate; or
- (b) Master's degree from this University or from any other University the Master's degree of which has been recognized by this University ; or
- (c) B.A. degree of the University through O.T./Modern Indian Language (M.I.L.) and English only examination, in which case the aggregate of 50 per cent marks shall be calculated for taking into account the marks obtained in English and the Elective subjects taken together; or
- (d) Any other qualification recognized by the Syndicate as equivalent to (a), (b) or

## **Admission Guidelines for Ph.D.**

The Department provides instruction and research guidance for a doctoral degree. Eligibility for admission to Ph.D. is according to prescribed regulations, which may be consulted. A few research scholarships and fellowships are available.

### **Curriculum Stipulated Study Tour:**

The department organizes study tours which form the curriculum of the two year course. The objective of study tours are :

- To acquaint the students regarding the organization and management of libraries of national and international importance.
- To acquaint the students the working and management of modern libraries using modern ICT tools.
- To expose them to automates and networked libraries on-site.
- To make them understand the diverse information services being offered by libraries and information centers covered in the study tour.
- Assessment and comparison of different libraries in a critical manner.
- Get an overview of the latest trends and development in information science and their application in libraries.

Two types of study tours are being organized by the department – One day tour which covers nearby areas and one -week study tour which may cover the information institutions spread over the entire northern region of India.

### **Infrastructural Facilities**

#### **1. Computer Laboratory**

The department has a well developed computer laboratory consisting of 10 computers connected to high speed Internet connection. Faculty, Students and research scholars can access scholarly web resources which are acquired by the Panjab University Library using this laboratory.



## 2. Library:



The Library subscribes to 18 journals in addition to a collection of about 2000 books and reference sources. It also provides online access to the University catalogue (OPAC). The library has at present one computer and is in the process of automation. Library has recently acquired multiple sets of classification schemes including Dewey Decimal Classification (DDC) (21<sup>st</sup> edition) and Universal Decimal Classification (UDC) Scheme. The library provides the students a rich and conducive environment for the students to learn and share knowledge. It also facilitates group-learning. The library is managed by professionally trained staff consisting of Assistant Librarian and Library Assistant.

### **Department of Correspondence Studies:**

Learn while you earn is the motto of distance of distance learning. Keeping this in mind one year Bachelor of Library and Information Science degree course (B.Lib. & Inf. Sc.) was started by the Department of Correspondence Studies, Panjab University, Chandigarh, from the session 2001-2002, with the intake of 150 students. Bachelor's Degree with 50% marks is the criteria for admission. Admission starts in the month of July and examination are conducted in the month of the April the following year. (Annual Examination System).

Syllabus is comprising of eight papers includes six theory and two practicals further divided in four units and sub-units in each paper. Syllabus is prepared by the Board of Studies and is updated every year.

The study material (lesson scripts) is provided by the Department. The lessons have been prepared by the experienced faculty from the Department of Library Science, Panjab University (Regular) and librarians from the Panjab University Library (also known as A.C. Joshi Library) and from the various colleges. There are more than 80 lessons covering all the eight papers.

To give a personnel touch to this course, the department organizes Personal Contact Programme (PCP) twice a year. First series of PCP for Practicals starts in the month of November and second series for theory in the month of January, every year.

There is a computer laboratory with 12 computers for giving the students hand on training in ICT applications in libraries, learning library automation softwares and for practicals itself.

This course is backed by a fully automated library with more than 1 lac books which includes text books as well as reference books and the library subscribes to about 70 journals in various disciplines. Borrowing and lending facilities are also provided to the students and teachers.

Another important feature of the department is the Educational Media Center (EMC) engaged in producing Educational Audio and Video programmes and keeps an Audio Visual Library for the students. It has produced 325 audio lessons and 9 video programmes. Most of its video programmes have been telecast on Doordarshan in the UGC-countrywide classroom programme.