
Library Administration in the 21st Century

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Foreword

It is with great pleasure that I introduce this timely and insightful book on: “Library Administration in the 21st Century”. As the information landscape continues to evolve at an unprecedented pace, this book provides a much-needed guide for navigating the complexities of modern libraries.

The author brings a unique blend of industry experience and academic expertise to the table, making this book a valuable resource for students, practitioners, and educators alike. The chapters are carefully crafted to address the changing roles of libraries, librarians, and information professionals, with a focus on emerging trends, technologies, and best practices.

What sets this book apart is its emphasis on innovation, strategic management, and forward-looking administration. The author’s vision for libraries as vibrant, indispensable institutions that can thrive in the digital age shines through in every chapter.

Author Dr. Sushanta Banerjee is a seasoned professional with experience in corporate organizations, foreign missions, and academic institutions. Having taught Library and Information Science students, he recognized the need for a practical guide that addresses the evolving challenges of the field. This book reflects his passion for empowering information managers to lead and innovate in the 21st century.

I am confident that this book will serve as a valuable resource for Library and Information Science students, researchers, and professionals, and will inspire a new generation of information managers to shape the future of libraries in India and beyond.

Prof. Arun Kumar Chakraborty

DLIS, NSOU, Kolkata

Former: Director General National Library and
RRRLF Ministry of Culture GOI

Preface

The journey that led to the writing of this book has been shaped by diverse professional experiences across multiple sectors. After completing my Master's degree from the Indian Statistical Institute, I worked in various corporate organizations, followed by assignments with two foreign missions. These professional engagements provided me with exposure to administration and management practices across different organizational, cultural, and economic environments. Eventually, my career brought me to academic institutions, where I began teaching students of Library and Information Science.

While teaching, especially to students from marginalized backgrounds and first-generation learner families, I realized a significant gap between traditional textbooks and the rapidly changing realities of the information world. Although several books are available on administration, management, and library science, most of them are rooted in conventional theories and practices that do not adequately address the profound transformations taking place in society, technology, economy, knowledge creation, and information dissemination in the 21st century.

The contemporary information environment is dynamic, technology-driven, and user-centric. Libraries today are no longer confined to physical spaces or traditional services. They are knowledge hubs, digital platforms, community centers, and engines of innovation. However, a common perception exists that libraries are gradually losing their relevance. Contrary to this belief, I strongly feel that libraries can retain—and even enhance—their importance if they continuously innovate, adapt, and respond creatively to the evolving needs of users. Innovation, strategic management, and forward-looking administration are the key forces that can transform libraries into vibrant and indispensable institutions.

This book is an attempt to address these emerging realities. It focuses on administration and management in the context of Library and Information Science, with special emphasis on the challenges and opportunities of the

21st century. Several chapters included in this book introduce new and contemporary concepts that are still evolving in the field. The book discusses changing roles of libraries, librarians, and information professionals, along with the impact of new technologies, digital resources, knowledge management, and global information trends.

Special care has been taken to present the content in simple and clear language so that students can easily understand complex concepts. The book is designed to serve as a handy and practical guide for students, teachers, and professionals working in academic libraries, public libraries, special libraries, and information centers. It aims to bridge the gap between theory and practice and to prepare students for real-world administrative and managerial challenges.

As this is my first book, there may be certain limitations or lacunae. I sincerely hope that readers will view these with a constructive spirit. Despite these limitations, I am confident that students of Library and Information Science—from certificate courses to Ph.D programs—will find this book immensely useful.

The primary objective of this work is to encourage the development of information managers, not merely traditional librarians. In an era where information is power, library schools must produce professionals who can manage information systems, lead institutions, and contribute meaningfully to the knowledge society. I hope this book will serve as a valuable resource—and perhaps even a guiding text—for students and research scholars striving to understand and shape the future of Library and Information Science in India and beyond.

Dr. Sushanta Banerjee

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