

THE FIVE LAWS OF LIBRARY SCIENCE

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1. **Books are for use**
2. **Every reader his/her book**
3. **Every book its reader**
4. **Save the time of the reader**
5. **The library is a growing organism**

First Law: Books are for Use

The First Law of Library Science is simple and states a self evident truth. In ancient and medieval periods, the use of books was limited and the emphasis was on storage and preservation rather than on use. The libraries were regarded as institutions for preserving the books. With the onset of post-industrial society, the concept of modern library came into being. The library is now regarded as a service institution to serve the social information needs of its users. Ranganathan did not reject the notion, that preservation and storage were important. But, he asserted that the purpose of such activities was to promote the use of books. By emphasizing on the use of books, he focused attention on access-related issues such as location, building, library hours, book selection, library staff, etc. Ranganathan suggests following methods for maximizing the use of books.

Implications of the First Law

1. Library Location
2. Working Hour
3. Library Building and Furniture
4. Library Staff
5. Book Selection

Second Law: Every Reader His/Her Book

The second law “Every reader his/her book” (the variant form of which is “books for all”) is perhaps the most under stated; even Dr. Ranganathan acknowledged that with this one principle lies so much of what libraries mean for society. “The law relates to the fact that we all have diverse interests and that there is a book out there to satisfy that for all of us”. In other words, the law stands for the mandatory provision of library service to each person according to her/his need. Stated in a different manner, the law advocates the universalization and democratization of library service. However, in earlier days only a privileged few belonging to aristocracy and upper classes of society were given access to libraries and books. But, with the advent of democracy which ensured the participation of every citizen in governance, the position dramatically changed. Democracy, for its sustenance and survival, needs an educated knowledgeable citizenry. Hence, education and acquisition of knowledge through whatever institution possible became the basic right of all citizens without any discrimination. Hence, the law “Every Reader His/Her Book”.

Implications of the Second Law

☐ Obligation of the State

Recommends making a provision for
Union Library Act
National Central Library Law
Finance

☐ Obligation of Library Authority

Choice of Books
Choice of Staff

☐ Obligation of the Reader

The Second Law imposes certain obligations on the reader towards library. It is the duty of the reader to follow the rules and regulations of the library in order to use and utilize library resources in an effective and efficient manner

Third Law: Every Book its Reader

The Third Law stresses the maximum use of books by their readers. It urges that an appropriate reader should be found for every book. It is closely related to the Second Law, but it focuses on the book itself suggesting that each book in a library has an individual or a number of readers who would find that book useful. It is the duty of the library staff to bring the readers in contact with books. The Law advocates an open access system, classified shelf arrangement, subject analytical entries, provision of reference services, publicity methods, extension services and book selection policy.

Implications of the Third Law

1. Open Access
2. Shelf Arrangement
3. Easy Access
4. Catalogue
5. Publicity
6. Publicity

Fourth Law: Save the Time of the Reader

This Law requires that there should be no time lag between the demand received from the user and the document supplied. This Law makes its approach from the point of view of the user. It almost completely centres on the user from the moments he/she enters the library to the moments he/she leaves it. The objective of this Law is to save the time of the reader. To provide better services, it is required that, latest technologies in library operations be adopted and users be trained to use them independently.

Implications of the Fourth Law

1. Classified arrangement
2. Catalogue Entry
3. Open Access
4. Reference Services
5. Issue Method
6. Centralized/ Pre-natal Cataloguing
7. Stack Room Guides
8. Library Location

Fifth Law: Library is a Growing Organism

The Fifth Law states, “library is a growing organism”. It is an accepted idea that a library along with its services is a growing organism. This Law maintains that the library as an institution, has all the attributes of a growing organism, which takes in new matter, casts off old matter, changes in size and takes new shapes and forms like human beings. Since library is trinity of books, readers and staff, it is bound to grow in all three respects. Therefore, library authorities should plan the library building in such a way so as to make it easy to keep pace with the necessary growth in size of collection, number of readers and the members of staff.

Implications of the Fifth Law

☐ Growth in Size

☐ Library Building

Stack area

Circulation area

Reading room area, etc.

☐ Growth of Readers

The size of the reading room

The issue method

Certain safeguards (in case of open access system)

☐ Growth of Staff

ANY
QUESTION

THANK
YOU