Extension Services (ES) of Libraries

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Extension Services (ES)

- Definition
- Objectives
- □ Facets
- Programmes

Definition Of ES

Dr. S. R. Ranganathan,

"Apart from such methods of pure publicity, libraries are now a days developing certain new types of work which, in addition to their being directly educative or recreational, lead also to publicity as an important secondary product." These activities are named as the extension services of libraries.

Krishan Kumar,

"An extension service aims at converting non-readers in to readers. It creates and stimulates the desire for good reading. This is done by bringing books and readers together. This results in exploitation and promotion of collections."

Objectives Of ES

The main objectives of Extension Services are :

- 1. It is an attempt to turn the library in to a social centre which encourages reading;
- 2. Its aim is to convert readers in to non-readers;
- 3. It creates and stimulates the desire for good reading and brings book and reader together;
- 4. It makes maximum use of library resources.
- 5. It is to create image of the library among the public and government.

Facets Of ES

- To perform the extension services effectively the following facets in terms of infrastructure, equipments, skilled staff, etc. are needed:
- To execute any extension service a proper planning by considering all the concerned aspects is necessary. Inadequacy at any part may fail the whole programme;
- All the extension services must be to encourage the people to use the library and to make the maximum utilization of library resources for the development of the society.
- The library should have a lecture hall, an exhibition lobby, conference rooms etc. to organize workshops, lectures, debates, exhibitions, music concerts and other social and cultural programmes;

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- The library should have multimedia projector, audio-visual equipments like slide and film projector, mike, recording facility etc. also required in the library;
- The librarian and other library staff should be able to establish good public relations in the community so that maximum community members may participate in such programmes actively;
- The coordination and cooperation among the staff members is also an important element for successful execution of extension services.

Programmes

The Extension Services may be organised through various programmes. Dr. Ranaganathan has given the following techniques or programmes to provide library extension services:

- 1. Reading To Illiterates;
- 2. Translation Of Manuscript/ Local Language;
- 3. Reading Circle;
- 4. Intellectual Centre; Library Talks And Public Lectures;
- 5. Library Exhibitions;

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- 6. Story Hours;
- 7. Festivals And Fairs;
- 8. Display Of New And Topical Books;
- 9. Mobile Services;
- 10.Quiz Programmes;
- 11. Celebration Of Books Week.



