

Editorial

Dr. Muhammad Haroon Usmani
Chief Editor

Mr. John Hickok, International/Outreach Librarian, Coordinator of Library Instruction, California State University Fullerton, in his SWOT Analysis of the Punjab University Library has detected a threat regarding low status of librarians. He has stated that:

Perceived low status of librarians. In previous decades, librarians may have been merely caretakers of items. But today's modern librarians, particularly User Services Librarians, are information expert teachers, providing information-on-demand (Reference), full classroom teaching (instruction), and the latest, cutting-edge information knowledge management (new sources, new databases, new websites, etc.) A threat, or challenge, to harnessing this incredible talent base would be for old-thinking leaders to continue viewing or funding Librarians as merely caretakers.

This threat is not only related to the Punjab University Library but the whole librarianship in Pakistan also. Fortunately some appropriate steps have immediately been taken by the authorities of the University of the Punjab. Punjab University Syndicate has approved the service structure and up-gradation for the librarians of the University of the Punjab. In compliance with this approval of the Syndicate the Vice Chancellor, University of the Punjab has ordered that:

All the Deputy Chief Librarians & Senior Librarians working in the various Departments, University of the Punjab are up graded from BS-18 to BS-19 and BS-17 to BS-18 respectively with effect from 04-05-2013 in accordance with the decision of the Syndicate, notified vide No. 2466/Est. II dated 25-06-2013.

The post of Chief Librarian has already been up-graded from BS-19 to BS-20 couple of years ago.

At the same time orders has been issued by the Government of Punjab, Higher Education Department to sanctioned re-organization/up-gradation of 4tier service structure of College Librarians@1: 15: 34: 50. This service structure will benefit about 415 Professionals working in the Colleges in the Province of the Punjab. Now there would be 04 seats of Chief Librarians (BS 20), 62 Seats of Deputy Chief Librarians (BS 19), 141 Seats of Sr. Librarians (BS 18) and 208 Seats of Librarians (BS 17). All the existing vacant posts of Assistant Librarians (BS 16) will stand abolished and in future induction in BS 17 must only be through initial recruitment.

We appreciate the untiring efforts of the professionals of University of the Punjab, PLA and PCLA exerted in getting approved Service Structure and Up-gradation of the Librarians. These steps have undoubtedly lessened the intensity of the threat, but the job has not yet been completed. Majority of the professional librarians are still depriving of their due status. It is now the sole responsibility of the Pakistan Library Association (PLA) to follow the precedent set in University of the Punjab and Province of the Punjab for getting implemented this service structure in all the provinces, other universities, institutions and public libraries of the country.