

Libraries and society
Role, responsibility and future in an age of change

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Libraries have been a feature of society for thousands of years. One could argue that even the prehistoric drawings on cave walls were a means to pass on stories to future generations and preserve those for others to see. The basic function of a library is to provide access to information and knowledge. As librarians, we know the value of our community services, and our patrons appreciate their importance as well. But in an increasingly digital world, we see the role of libraries as community and cultural centers at times undervalued, and occasionally under fire. When shrinking municipal budgets combine with the nonstop technological revolution, public library services that focus on building community Chapter-1 Library, Information and Society: Role and its implications. 2. Unit 1 Library, Information and Society : Concepts. 1.1. Introduction. The information and knowledge are the driving factors in the development of the society. But, as society advanced the use of the knowledge preserved in the library become more prominent. Hence, the definition given by S. R. Ranganathan, father of library science in India, is more appropriate from the perspective of use of the library materials and their preservation.