

## BOOK REVIEW

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**Pioneers of Library Movement in India: A Tribute by Satkal. Edited by Jagtar Singh. Published by Punjab Library Association, Patiala. Dec 2012. 328 p. ISBN 978-81-9033-0-2.**

Development of a nation depends on wide and extensive spread of education. Education is the basis for all kinds of developmental activities in any society. In fact education is nothing but learning process aimed at developing the mental faculty for accomplishing all kinds of work. The best tool of education in the modern world is library- an institution charged with the function of providing education and information to the masses. The contribution of the libraries to the human society as a whole can in no way be underestimated. It is a centre of learning. Hence there have been library movements in several countries aimed at establishing libraries steered by individuals, societies/associations. The public library movement in India gathered real momentum in the last two decades of 19<sup>th</sup> century.

From 1906 to 1911, Sayaji Rao Gaekwad built up an elaborate library system in Baroda by involving people of the state. Thereafter, library movement started in other parts of the country particularly in Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal, Madras etc. The credit for initiating and guiding library movement was to individual stalwarts who played dominating and decisive role in not only motivating people but also the governments to set up libraries. The luminaries like Sayaji Rao Gaekwad, Iyanki Venkat Ramanayya, Asa Don Dickinson, Ranganathan and a galaxy of many more dedicated people initiated and nurtured such movements.

The present generation of young professionals should get inspiration from the life and works of such eminent personalities. The book under review edited by Prof Jagtar Singh is an attempt to provide biographical sketch of such great personalities who were associated with library movement in India. Collecting information regarding such people is by no means an easy task and one can easily understand the amount of efforts put in by the editor of the book. The book contains an authentic and critical profile of 56 library doyens contributed by 43 Library and Information Science experts. This book appears to be an authentic and valuable source of information about the eminent library pioneers. Going through the content of the book, one can say beyond doubt that it is a unique addition to the professional literature.

The book will certainly inspire the present and future generation to emulate their role models. The articles contained in the book are well written and edited. The printing quality is by all means satisfactory. It will prove to be a valuable addition to the collection of Library and Information Science in any library.

I am confident that the book will be widely read in India and abroad by scholars who want to have more authentic knowledge about the life and works of legendary library & information professionals of India.

**Prof. H. N. Prasad**  
Department of  
Library and Information Science  
B.H.U., Varanasi