

Raja Rammohan Roy Library foundation, India: A Study**Suvarna R. Inamdar**Librarian, Kamla Nehru
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The year 1972 is a significant year in the history of library movement in India. It was bicentenary year of birth of Raja Rammohan Roy as well as silver jubilee of independence. It was also an international book year. Department of culture, Government of India established Raja Rammohun Roy Library foundation on May 1972 to spread library services all over the country in cooperation with the governments, union territory administrations and other agencies and organizations working in this field. RRRLF promotes public library movement in India.

RRRLF is central autonomous organization established and fully financed by the Ministry of Culture, Government of India. RRRLF is registered under the West Bengal Societies Registration Act, 1961. It is the nodal agency of the Government of India to support public library services and systems and promote public library movement in the country commensurate with the objectives as embodied in its Memorandum of Association.

The supreme policy-making body of RRRLF is called the Foundation. It consists of 22 members nominated by the Government of India from amongst eminent educationists, librarians, administrators and senior officials. The administrative and financial affairs are looked after by the administrative committee. The Minister of the Department of Culture, Government of India or his nominee is the Chairman of RRRLF. Professor Brij Kishore Sharma is the present Chairman of RRRLF and Director General is the executive head and ex-officio Member-Secretary of the Foundation.

The Foundation functions in each State/Union Territory through a machinery called State Library Committee (SLC). The Foundation works in close association and active cooperation with different State Govts. and Union Territory

Administrations through a machinery called State Library Planning Committee (SLPC/SLC) set up in each State at the instance of the Foundation. To participate in Foundation's programmes, a State Government/U.T. is required to contribute a certain amount fixed by the Foundation.

Since 2005-06 the Foundation has also taken up the initiative to develop the District Youth Resource Centre (DYRC) in collaboration with Nehru Yuvak Kendra Sangathana, an autonomous organization under the Ministry of Sports & Youth Affairs.

RRRLF renders assistance to public libraries in different states and Union Territories under its various schemes. It is also a grant giving activity. It supports research projects and surveys. It organizes special seminars, workshops and special lectures. It provides consultancy services in initiating a publication program and in developing specialized library. The most important initiative taken by RRRLF relate to the drafting of the National Policy on Library and Information System i. e. NAPLIS.

The memorandum of the foundation has listed 29 objectives out of which the most significant 10 are given below:

1. To promote the library movement in the country.
2. To enunciate a library policy and to work towards it.
3. To help build up a national library system integrating the services of national, state and central libraries, also the district libraries, other types of libraries and specially through interlibrary lending system.
4. To propagate the adoption of the library legislation in the country.
5. To provide financial and technical assistance to libraries.