

PANORAMA OF BRAZILIAN LIBRARIANSHIP AND PROFESSIONAL LEADERSHIP ACTION

1994

Brazil is a big country. Its terretory covers half of South American Continent with 8 million and 500 thousand square kilometers.

Brazil has about 160 millions inhabitants. It is a federal republic with 27 states. These states presents the differents levels of economic and cultural conditions. Brazil lacks finances resources for education and has a growining necessity to prepare librarians to help in the development of the country.

THE BRALIAN LIBRARIANSHIP

As you know a professional class reaches real possibilities of being highly recognized in society by means of two positions: professional background and associative organization. The first one, will enable good performance, and second, will strengthen its action, social prestige, and determine its importance as a class and a significant part of the development of societies to which it is liked. This is an important message for us. Then. We will give to you a panoramic view of our education and professional leading associative action.

In Brazil, there are around 20.000 librarians. enrolled at Librarianship Regional Councils: from these, 16.565 are at work.

2.1 Education in Librarianship

Librarians education, in Brazil, is done through undergraduate courses: the title obtained is "Bacharel em Biblioteconomia".



The first course was settled in the begin of the century; 1911 and began in April 1915. Its aims were in the first times to enable the professional education needed by the reorganizations of services at National Library in Rio.

The second one was, held in 1936, at Mackenzie College, in São Paulo, today Mackenzie University. It was developed under the orientation of American Schools. Then, first students came from different parts of the country and as they graduated, they returned to their States, multiplying Associations and Library Science Schools, that today cover all the country. In fact, there are thirty schools that follow a common minimum curriculum, in order to have professionals similarly educated, but with the possibility to compose a "plenum curriculum" to fulfill regional necessities and continuous atualization.

From a French humanistic influence to an American technical one, the Education of librarians in Brazil is looking for, now, its own identify.

The decade of 70 is representative because begin the first pós-graduate courses in Brazil.

There are 6 courses with different concentration areas and their own research programs. The courses qualify professionals for developing research activities, teaching at university courses, doing research and contribute to the development of knowledge in the area of information.

We have four hundred dissertations and thesis are registred till now.

2.2 Associations and its organization

The first librarians graduate in 1938 in São Paulo, showed so much enthusiasm for the carrier that we have as result a serious associative organization.

So, associative leadership originate with the "Associação Paulista de Bibliotecários", settled in 1938, in São Paulo.

It was a pioneer work, conspicuous in summing up efforts for the conscientization of professional class union spread in all states of Brazil.

Today are 23 associations that multiply informations to all the librarians located in their region, offering courses, conferences, meetings, and incentivig the production of bibliographic tools, and applied researches... Some of them have "Work Teams" in specialized areas or in technical aspects, that are coordinated by Brazilian Commissions of Documentation and Information, organs of FEBAB.

These Commissions of Documentation have been representing so important role in the bibliographical control and dissemination of information, and also in the discussion of the emergent subjects with their community. We consider them as "potential nucleous" for the free enlargement of the profession and bibliographic organization in the emergent areas of knowledge. Possibly, the "critical mass" of librarianship gave first steps, with those people.

de los mejor organizados

From the leadership of these Commissions bloom up the managers of specialized and university libraries; members of faculties, and our first specialized literature, such as technical terminology, thesauri, subject headings lists, translations of descriptive cataloguing; indexing; bibliometric, user studies, manuals of bibliographic instruction, etc. ~~and~~ we reached, in 1970 our four principal journals: at Minas Gerais, Brasilia, Rio de Janeiro, São Paulo, and our approximately 400 dissertations and doctoral theses in the academic area, where spring the real "critical mass" of Brazilian librarianship.

2.3 Libraries and Information Systems

2.3.1 Libraries

Today are 21.602 about libraries in Brazil, classified as National; Public; School; Children and Youth; University and Special Libraries.

Each one having its peculiarities and different problems to be solved, in all the country. We have many regional differences.

In better conditions, are, first, the Special Libraries, followed by the Academic ones. Then, come the Public Libraries (with tremendous differences in the States, São Paulo, for instance, has a new good system of Public Libraries, and in Brasilia there is no one and so on). Unfortunately, the School Library, practically, not existenting in Brazil, with a very good excepections. A national system for public libraries, is being designed now. The National Library with this new government is passing for changes, cut the National Institute of Book and other organs!!

National Library (in Rio de Janeiro) the greatest institution for the preservation of historical collection and the current bibliographic production, has been an agent of cultural dissemination, and in these two last decades developed multiple activities that confirm its value.

The modernization of its managerial and technical services on behalf of the democratization of culture is seen through its organizational structure where a "Data Center and a human resources improving center" can be found. Concerning the special attention giving to automation, there is still a long way ahead, established by the Computer Science Director Plan", recently developed.

Academic Libraries have worked under a new dynamics since University Reformulations held in 1968/69, when centralized campus and more integrated universities have appeared. Today there are 907 university libraries, some of them centralizing holdings and services, in beautiful buildings sometimes, but a great part is complaining about insufficient human and material resources. The librarie have the efficient support the PNUB! (of National Plan of University Libraries) linked to Higher Education

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Secretary of Ministry of Education, and also at the level of cooperative work with the Brazilian Commission of University Libraries, organ of FEBAB.

Special and Enterprises Libraries receive in Brazil different denominations, as: Department of Research; Documentation Centers; Informations Services etc.

Even, having rare courses for specializing librarians in knowledge areas, having no in-training service, the librarians, in this type of library (government, enterprises; institutes; offices etc), are severely recruited, earning good salaries, and also having a "high professional posture"; may be for the quality of personal library service given to the user.

Indeed, specialized libraries could have a good and substantial financial supporting, the most of them are connected to national and international network, and already applied new technologies for a rapid interchange and access to Data Bases having a strong prestige in the area of Science & Technology.

IBICT (and its data bases), organ of National Council of Science and Technology, has contribute actively to a better access to the information in these areas, being a vital organism for the development of the country.

Unfortunately, the situation of the School, and children and adult libraries is not the same, as there is a shortage of financial and human resources, a situation that is harmful for the development of library services and programmes for reading enhancement.

The situation of Public Libraries is very unsatisfactory, either on quantitative or qualitative points of view. They also face a shortage of financial, material and human resources. According to the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics - IBGE - there are 4.174 public libraries in Brazil, some of them being well settled with a new active network, but the major part, being poor ones.

School Libraries are present in 13% of the amount of 230.000 grammar and secondary Brazilian schools; that is: there are 30.000 libraries (according to non-official data). Some efforts are felt in the some States, but the results are still expected. The presence of libraries in these schools is mandatory but the situation is adverse.

From that time until now about 47.820 reading rooms were settled, and three millions books were purchased, and human resources were considered for improvement. For the development of this work, the Brazilian Commission and School Libraries - an organ of FEBAB, was of much help.

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2.3.2 Library Systems

Library System are being developed in Brazil a long time. It is included some Documentation and/or Informations Centers, based on the convenience of adopting integrated actions to face difficulties generated by "bibliographic explosion", mainly from 1970 on wards. So, the solution was unit library services with informatics.

In Brazil, the user profile of electronic library is

5
basically composed by graduate professionals and enterprises, that recognize information as an essential tool for their activities being 90% of library systems supported by government organs, and only 10% is part of private institutions.

60s → grandes desarrollos

2.4 New Technologies

The most outstanding advance in information technology nowadays is the creation of telematics, after the interaction between telecommunications and computer science.

In Brazil "data communication" is developed by Brazilian Enterprise of Telecommunication EMBRATEL, that uses TRANSDATA (for information transfer throughout the country), and RENFAC (National Network of Data Communication) - responsible for data transmission among host computers and terminals. It is also linked to telephone networks and telex.

For the access to remote data bases, we have INTERDATA (International Service of Data Communication), that allows users to inquire data bases settled in Brazil and abroad.

Another conspicuous leading action of EMBRATEL was the creation of a Message Processing Services (STM-400).

We have notice from using, here and there, of videodisc, videocassette, teletext, optical fiber, facsimile, electronic publications, holography, and even the called "integrated communications", that enhance expansion for the delivery of information "bar codes", also, have been used in some libraries, for bibliographical control, circulation of materials and labels.

Regulación

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3 Professional Leading Action

3.1 Class Structure

In Brazil, there three representative organisms, with well defined functions:

- . the ASSOCIATION - the first one
- . the COUNCIL - that was a result from associative efforts.
- and
- . the SYNDICATE

participación social

3.1.1 Associations - There are twenty three state associations linked by FEBAB - Federação Brasileira de Associações de Bibliotecários - whose aims are leading action, coordination, development, dissemination and class representative in technical, cultural, social and economical areas.

3.1.2 Councils- The CFB - Conselho Federal de Biblioteconomia - through fourteen other regional councils - CRBs - aims to orient, discipline, supervise, and control librarian professional activities and to contribute for Library Science improvement.

Librarians work is ruled throughout the country by specific law (Law 4084/62 and Decree 56725/65), that guarantee professional activities development.

One librarian is adequately qualified for professional activities where he is enrolled at Regional Council and pays the mandatory tax.

3.1.3 Syndicates These are 3 State Syndicates in order to class defense, mainly for labour questions.

The first one is from the State of São Paulo, created in 1985, followed by that from state of Paraná, created in 1988, and from State of Rio de Janeiro, 1989.

There are also: ABERD (Associação Brasileira de Ensino de Biblioteconomia e Documentação), whose aims are to link library science teachers to reflect about educational problems and to find out solutions derived from class decisions; and another is ANCIB (Associação Nacional de Pesquisa em Pós-Graduação em Ciência da Informação e Biblioteconomia), created in June 1989, that has the purpose of enhance exchange and cooperation among institutions, researches and graduate students of Information and Library Science. A new national association is being created: SAIBA (Brazilian Association for Information Brookers).

3.2 Continuing Education

It is one the main points concerning Library Science area. These are several short periods complementary courses, seminars, talks and conferences organized either by associations or by library science schools.

Among many of them, the most recent ones can be mentioned as follows:

Courses

Specialization Courses (minimum of 460 hours)

- For librarians working at College and Academic Libraries
- Public and School Libraries Management
- Technological Information
- Cultural Action
- Archives Organization

Professional

- Reference Service
- Library Management
- Archives (Administration, Documentation and Inf. Retrieval)
- Marketing for librarians

- Planning Information System
- Administrative System

Workshop

- Computer Science Applied to Library Science
- Non-book Materials
- Information Management

SEMINARS, Congress, Meeting, happened

- Conference on Managemeng of documentation and Archives
- Conference on Library and Information Science
- National Meeting of Library Information Science Edication

3.3 Serial Publications

Our main specialized journals are:

- 1- Ciência da Informação. Brasília. IBICT, 1972-
- 2- Revista Brasileira de Biblioteconomia e Documentação. São Paulo, FEBAB, 1973-
- 3- Revista da Escola de Biblioteconomia da Universidade de Minas Gerais. Belo Horizonte, 1972-
- 4- Revista de Biblioteconomia de Brasília. Brasília, ABDF, 1973-

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We are missing production of manuals and textbooks; translations; proceeding; referenceworks and bibliographic guides; directories; research in progress etc.

3.4 Financial Supporting Agencies

The main agencies are:

- CNPq - National Council of Research
- FINEP - Financial Committee for Studies and Projects
- CAPES - Coordination for Improvement of University Personnel

- 4 Brazilian Federation of Librarian Associations - FEBAB

4.1 History

FEBAB is an institution maintained by the librarian Associations of Brazil. It was founded in 1959 in São Paulo. It is a private, nonprofit organization representing 23 librarian associations in the country as a whole.

4.2 Purposes of FEBAB

To congregate the librarian association of the country, to further the profession in the technical, cultural, social and economic areas.

To contribute with solutions to problems of the profession, both at regional and national levels.

To render all possible assistance to affiliated associations.

To serve as a documentation and information center for the librarian of the country.

4.3 How it works

It is constituted by the following Directing Bodies:

Directing Council, the highest body of FEBAB, empowered, within the limits of Law and of its Statutes, to solve all questions and to decide on all acts of the organization. It is composed by the presidents of the affiliated associations or their designated representatives.

Board of Directors: the executive body of FEBAB consists of a President, Vice-President, Regional Vice-Presidents (North, Northwest, Southwest, Midwest, South), General Secretary, First and Second Secretaries, First and Second Treasures, Legislative Observer, Editor, Professional Valorization and Publicity Consultant. This body is elected for a three-years term of office, through the direct and secret voting of the Directing Council.

Fiscal Council: controlling body of the finances and assets of FEBAB. It is formed by three members drawn from the Directing Council.

Permanent Committees: auxiliary bodies of the Board of Directors, consisting of groups of librarians dedicated to study specific problems of Library Science and Documentation. Currently, they are as follows:

Brazilian Committee of Agricultural Documentation

Brazilian Committee of Biomedical Documentation

Brazilian Committee of Legal Documentation

Brazilian Committee of Technological Documentation

Brazilian Committee of Documentation for Technical Processes

Brazilian Committee of Public and School Libraries

Brazilian Committee of Documentation for Social Science and Humanities

Brazilian Committee of University Libraries

Brazilian Committee of Documentation for Aerospace Technology

Brazilian Committee of Documentation for Pulp and Paper

The twenty-three affiliated associations of the Federations are autonomous, have own regulations and autonomy to develop a program according to local and regional needs.

The affiliated library association play an important role in the continuing education of librarians through courses, events, publications and reproducing information came from FEBAB and other entities. Several associations has their own "Work Team".

4.4 FEBAB PUBLICATIONS

In 1960, FEBAB began editing its bi-month Information Bulletin, during thirteen years which was substituted by Revista Brasileira de Biblioteconomia e Documentação.

There are also technical books translated and produced by FEBAB.

4.5 EVENTS

The main events supported by FEBAB:

- . Brazilian Congress of Library Science and Documentation.
- Brazilian Congress of Publications
- Brazilian Reprography Seminar
- Permanent Commissions Assembly
- National Seminar of Library Science and Documentation
- Law Librarians National Meeting
- Library and Cultural Development Seminar

4.6 Professional Improvement

FEBAB has proposed a program of professional improvement aiming to:

- . Enhance education level of librarian
- . Provide information on the importance of librarian's work to society
- . Other self-improvement of librarian

It is being designed a scientific research for detecting factors of negative image of Brazilian librarians. In collaboration with specialists of Public Relations Department of School of Communication of USP (long term), and a study for revealing this profession also, is being prepared for immediate term.

5. Conclusion

10

The aims of association efforts have been felt since its beginning, and as a result an evolution of the class was reached. The union of education ideals is still being looked for, with the support of association efforts.

The number of schools increased; today they are thirty: the Associations are twenty-three, there are three Syndicates, and also ABEED in the educational field, and ANCIB for Post-Graduation personnel.

From 1954 to 1991, there were 16 Brazilian Congresses, 4 of Permanent Commissions, 1 Latin-American Congress, 1 International Meeting of Librarians of Portuguese Language, 2 Publications Seminars, 3 Reprography Seminars, under the responsibility of Associations and Permanent Commissions of FEBAB.

Specialization awareness has been improved with Graduate

Courses and also by the Work Teams of the Associations, the Permanent Commissions and as a result there is a great number of publications available at FEBAB. There is also the Technical Archive of Association efforts that is expected to be microfilmed and distributed, soon.

The principal critical point of this entity is to obtain financial support of governmental agencies and private entities, for neutralizing several difficulties.