

History of Public Library in Maharashtra

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Abstract

History of public library in Maharashtra: In this article, modern library establishment of the imperial of the library, growth of public library and development is 100 year old, public library in Maharashtra is studied in this article.

Key Words: Public library, history, Maharashtra

Modern Libraries: The first landmark in the pre-independence history of the public library system in India is the enactment of delivery and registration of publications Act of Bombay government in May 1808.

Establishment of the Imperial of the Library: The first three decades of the 20 can be marked as the golden period of Indian Library system. On 31st Jan 1902 the Imperial Library Act was passed and Lord Curzon transformed the Calcutta Public Library into Imperial Library in 1906. Another two important landmarks in the pre independent history of public libraries in India are: Baroda state public Library Network of late Shri Sayajirao Gaikwad-III of Baroda. He invited Mr. M.A. Borden, as American Librarian in 1910 to introduce a scientifically organized free and open access public library system. He established stated wide free public library network in the state.

1. Organization of library conferences: Series of conferences were organized in continuation of the Indian National Congress Sessions. A few of them are mentioned below;
 - i. The First conference of library workers and persons interested in Library

Movement was held at Beswada, Andhra in 1914.

- ii. The first All India Library conference of Libraries was held at Madras in 1934.
- iii. The first All India Public Library Conference was held at Madras in 1934.
- iv. The first All India Library Conference was held at Calcutta in 1933.

Post-Independent Period: After independence the growth of libraries in general and public libraries in particular, have been remarkable. But it is observed that the development of public libraries, compared to the growth of other types of libraries, is not so remarkable.

National Library:

After independence in 1948, the name of the Imperial Library was changed to the National Library. The origin of National Library, Calcutta can be traced to the Calcutta public Library, which came into existence around 1836. The Calcutta public library and an imperial Library formed in 1881 were amalgamated in 1903 to become the imperial library of colonial India and finally named the same as a National Library by the central government of India in 1948.

Growth from physical point of view of public libraries from year 1967-68 to 2016-17 :

Growth from Physical Point of view			
Year	No of Libraries	Year	No of Libraries
1967-68	474	1990-91	4649
1968-69	524	1991-92	4875
1969-70	574	1992-93	5161
1970-71	639	1993-94	5290
1971-72	720	1994-95	5597
1972-73	799	1995-96	5876
1973-74	1045	1996-97	6099
1974-75	1082	1997-98	6584
1975-76	1340	1998-99	6281
1976-77	1327	2000-01	5675
1977-78	1327	1999-2000	6490
1978-79	1499	2001-02	6053
1979-80	2087	2002-03	6600
1980-81	2676	2003-04	6600
1981-82	3119	2004-05	7503
1982-83	3478	2005-06	7503
198.-84	3380	2006-07	8201
1984-85	3821	2007-08	8637
1985-86	3965	2008-09	9624
1986-87	4084	200910	10730
1987-88	4268	2010-11	11933
1988-89	4367	2016-17	12858
1989-90	4481		

Maharashtra State

Maharashtra state came into being on 1st May, 1960. The state occupies the 3rd largest position in India in respect of population (9.68 crores) and area (3,07,713 Sq. Km). The percentage of literary (2001) is 77 and the highest percentage of literacy (2001-in Brihanmumbai) is 87. The Maharashtra consists of 6 revenue divisions, 35 revenue districts, 356 talukas and 44,000 villages.

The total revenue expenditure on General Education is Rs. 1010 crores (2005-2006). The total budgetary provision for the public libraries in the state is of Rs. 51.00 crores (2005-2006).

HISTORY OF PUBLIC LIBRARY IN MAHARASHTRA

LOKMANYA WACHANALAYA (Srirampur) (1957)

Srirampur is an important town on the industrial map of Maharashtra. There is regular bus service to Srirampur from Pune city. The original town is Belapur. There is a cooperative sugar factory at Srirampur. New social life started evolving in this region after the establishment of the sugar factory. Mr. Gopalrao Mokashi took lead in establishing the public library at Srirampur. Funds were made available by the public and the proceedings from the performance of a drama 'Gharebaheer' of Acharya Atreya were used for building-up the collection of the library. The then administrator of Srirampur made the municipality to take-up the responsibility of running the library with public participation. On 26th January 1957, the library was declared as 'Lokamanya Tilak Wachanalaya and Sangrahalay. During 1960-61 'Balwachanalay' was started. Efforts were made to make the

library as a social activity centre. Lectures, celebrations, festivals, competitions, etc., are being organized regularly.

SHRI DATTA MOPHAT WACHANALAYA (Kadoli) (1918)

Earlier Chief Minister of Mumbai State Late B. G. Kher took keen interest in spreading libraries on cooperative basis in the state. Many libraries started providing good service with the help of the State government. One such library is located in Kolhapur's Panhala Mahal taluka, Kadoli village library. This library was named as 'Shri Datta Mofat Wachanalay'. It was founded in 1918. The library has its own building. Apart from the library, there is reading room where newspapers and magazines were kept. Many of the students in the village also make use of this library. The librarian is a qualified person. The library has circulation, newspaper and periodical, Information Centre of the Social Welfare Department, etc. 'The library has been getting gift of books from Central and state agencies. Important among them are Gazette, Shetkari, Lokrajya, etc.

SHRI SHYAMLAL MOTILAL PARDESHI WACHANALAYA (Kurduvadi) (1948)

Shyamlal Pardeshi was a great revolutionary in those days. They revolted against the Nizam government. The Nizam imprisoned him. People believe that the government killed him by giving poison. Shyamlal remained a source of inspiration to all the revolutionaries in the Nizam State. Shyamlal Pardeshi of Kurduvadi and his work is known to all in Maharashtra. In order to perpetuate his memory, public of Kurduvadi founded a library and named after him. Thus this library became

exemplary in Maharashtra.

NAGAR WACHANALAY(Ahmednagar)
(18380)

This library was originally established as 'Ahmednagar City Library' in 1838 with the support of Captain P. T. French. Thus this is regarded as the first public library to be established in Maharashtra. The centenary celebration of the library was celebrated in 1939. The library was renamed during this period as 'Nagar Wachanalaya'. As a part of the centenary celebration the library invited 'Marathi Sahitya Sammelan' and 'Maharashtra Granthalaya Parishad'. The 'Lokmanya Free Library' established in 1920 after the demise of Tilak was later amalgamated with this library. The library has its first building named as 'Dudhia' was constructed with the initiative of Messers G.D. Nishal, V.M. Bhide, and V.S. Lachimandas Jawaharalal. The building was extended in 1884. On the northern side of Dudhia an office room and a small hall were constructed between 1930-36 with the financial support of Seth Dharamji Saha. The hall was named in 1932 as 'Lokmanya Hall'. During the centenary year, it was decided to have the second floor of the building and accordingly a hall 55*35' was constructed by 1950. Lokmanya Tilak Smarak Mandir The foundation stone for this Hall was laid at the hands of Hon'ble Senapati Bapat on 1st August 1956 and the construction work was inaugurated on 26th January 1957, i.e., on the republic day at the hands of Dr A.V. Ketkar. The hall was inaugurated by Dr C.D. Deshmukh on 11th January 1958. The library has an 'Open Access Wing' where people can freely move around; circulation section; women's section; etc.

A section for students wherein textbooks were collected and placed was opened in 1956. A children's section was opened in 1958. Tuition classes were started for 10th and 12th standard students in 1958. Hindi teaching classes were also held in the library. Lectures from eminent personalities are being organized regularly in the library.

DAVID SASSOON LIBRARY AND READING ROOM (Mumbai) (1847) This Institute traces back its origin to 1847. In September of that year the foreign mechanics employed in H M's Bombay Mint and the Government Dockyard convened a meeting in that early Educational establishment in Bombay, known as Mr. Mainwaring's School. They drew up a set of rules, which was confirmed at a subsequent meeting on 30th November 1847, and thus came into existence the original "Bombay Mechanics' Institute." Its object was to acquire a library, to have a museum of models, architectural designs, patents and other matters dealing with engineering and Mechanical Science and to promote the knowledge of these subjects by lectures and discussion on literature and science. In October 1863, Mr. David Sassoon, the great Merchant Prince of Mumbai and the venerable head of the Sassoon Family, happily came to the aid of the Mechanics Institute by presenting Rs 60,000 to Government to provide it a suitable building. Government generously gave a like amount and leased at a nominal rent an excellent site on the Esplanade, measuring 1485 square yards for a term of 999 years. The foundation stone was laid on the 21st February 1867, by the Government of Bombay, Sir Bartle Frere to whom we

owe our new Bombay, and the name of the Institute was then changed to that of "The David Sassoon Mechanics' Institute." The Building was formally opened on the 24th March, 1870 by the then Governor of Bombay, Sir Seymour Fitzgerald.

PUNE NAGAR WACHAN MANDIR (1848) This library was established as 'native General Library' in 1848 in Budhawarpeth area of the Pune city. Mr. Gopal Hari Deshmukh was the founder President. It was started with 300 books and 4 newspapers. The library received encouragement and support from Sir George Clark, the then governor and Justice Henry Brown. Other founder members were Messer Krishnashastri Chiplunkar, Kesopant Chafre, etc.

Unfortunately fire broke-out in Budhawarpeth on 13th May 1879. All the houses including the library were affected. Through the efforts of the founder members part of the library could be shifted to different places and thus save valuable collection. The management of the library was keen to have its own building. They purchased the present land on 15th May 1882. Justice Mahadeo Govind Ranade played an important role in acquisition of the land. A beautiful two storied building was constructed and the library was shifted to the new building on 1st April 1889. With a resolution passed in the General Body on 23rd October 1921, the library was renamed as 'Poona City General Library'. Looking to the growing needs of the library, another plot was acquired on the Lakshmi Road. A three storied building was constructed by 1936 at the old site and a new building was constructed on Lakshmi Road by 1952.

Centenary of the library was celebrated on 12 May 1949 and the new building was named as the 'Centenary Building'. The Library has major collection of books in Marathi, Sanskrit, Hindi and English. The library observes Kalidas Din, Gadkari Smriti Din, Independence and Republican day, etc. Several lectures are arranged every year by eminent scholars on diverse subjects. Celebration of Kojagiri is an important event of the library. The library has a gallery of freedom fighters from all over India. Paintings of Shivaji, Sant Gyaneshwar, Tukaram, etc., are placed in the reading room. Maharashtra Granthalaya Parishad was held on 13th May 1949 and conference of the Maharashtra Granthalaya Parishad was held in 1964. The library is gaining strength from time to time with the help of its devoted workers.

KARVEER NAGAR WACHAN MANDIR (Kolhapur) (1850) The library was established in 1850 as Kolhapur Native Library. Thus it has completed 150 years in 2000 AD. There may be very few libraries having this distinction not only in Maharashtra but all over India. The library was 'inaugurated' by the then Political Superintendent Col. H.L. Anderson. He took initiation to collect money for purchase of books and furniture. Rs. 5,000 was gathered for this purpose. Out of this Rs. 1,000, the library was brought into Nagpurkar Wada in 1938. In 1939, the Political Advisor granted Rs. 2569-3-8p for purchasing an old building for the library. A small house was purchased for the library at a cost of Rs. 500 in 1870. Efforts were continued for a fitting building for the library. The work of constructing a new building was started in

1879 and was completed in 1881. The library was shifted to the new premises on 1st November 1881.

Efforts were made once against 1893 to acquire site for the library building as the building as the building constructed 1881 was found to be insufficient. A Hall (32'*24') was constructed in 1907 and named it as 'Prince Shivaji Reading Hall.' In 1924-25, the library's name was changed from Kolhapur Native Library to 'Kolhapur General Library'. 2nd April is observed as its 'Foundation Day'. The library observed its jubilee from 25-27 Nov. 1931. The 17th Maharashtra Sahitya Sammelan was hosted by the library in 1932. It was in 1934, the library got its present name 'Karveer Nagar Wachan Mandir'. The golden jubilee of the library was celebrated on 29th November 1936. The 14th foundation day was observed in 1943.

A Landmark in the History : Declaration as State Central Library The Government of Karveer passed the Kolhapur Public Library Act in 1944 and declared the Wachanalaya as the State Central Library. But this created confusion in the minds of the Managing Committee. A delegation met the Maharaja. After getting clarification the General Body of the library adopted the resolution according to the provisions of the Act. The centenary celebration could not be observed in the desired fashion as the chief guest Mr. B. G Kher fell ill in 1950. Visvanath Parvathi Gokhale Sabhagrih With the munificent donation of Rs. 11,000 made by Mr. M.V. Gokhale an auditorium was added to the library In 1957- 58. 'Gyan Dan' Nidhi In order to conduct various lecture programmes the library created a fund

called 'Gyan Dan' Nidhi in 1959. The library building was further extended in 1965-66. Post-Centenary Silver Jubilee The library observed the "Post-Centenary Silver Jubilee" in 1975-76; and Post-Centenary Golden Jubilee in 2000-2001.

NATIVE GENERAL LIBRARY (Nasik) (1853) The Native General Library, Nasik was established on 29th January 1853. The Library was receiving a grant of Rs. 300 annually for purchase of books. The monthly subscription for members is Rs. 5. At Nasik there were in fact two libraries, one library is Nasik Hindu Library established in 1953 by Laxman Nrisimha Joshi, Government School Master at Nasik and Babaji Nagpurkar, a Pandit by profession. The second one established by Ramakrishna Antaji, a native Christian. He wanted to cooperate with the library established by Laxman Nrisimha Joshi on the condition that he should be elected the President of the Managing Committee and be vested with two votes. But this proposal was disapproved by a majority in the meeting and therefore he established a separate library. As this library was not visited by the people, he solicited reconciliation with the first library and the two libraries were amalgamated. The library was provided free accommodation in the new place. An expenditure of Rs. 30 was incurred for repairing a room for the Nasik Library by the Government. The library of Nasik received major part of the income from European residents. At Nasik, 'European Book Fund' was formed for which English book from England were purchased. In 1889 books worth Rs. 138 were purchased. In those days, majority of the books purchased were in English.

DHONDO SHYAMRAO GARUD
WACHANALAY (Dhule (1853)

On 11th October 1853 with the encouragement of the then Resident English Officer, English School Committee was formed and a school was established at Dhule. In 1854, the Zilla Judge of Khandesh took initiative to form a small library at Dhule. This library was run for about six months and thereafter the responsibility of running this library was given to the English school. The Zilla Collector M.S. Mansfield was the Chairman of the Library Committee and Mr. Madhavrao Janogi Pawar was the Secretary. A children's library was also started in the school premises and it was under the care of Mr. Narayan Bhallal, the Headmaster of the School. In recognition of the efforts made by Mr. Richardson in the establishment of the children's library, the library was named as "Richardson Library and Reading Room" in February 1855. Along with the monthly school fee of six annas, a small amount was also collected towards running of the library. In 1863, the library at the English school was converted into a public library and opened the same for all and named it as 'Native General Library'. Mr. Richardson was made the Chairman of the Native General Library. A Marathi school was established in 1869 in Dhule and a two storied building was constructed near Travellers Bungalow where the English school was housed. Nearer to the Marathi school, an impressive building in octagonal shape was constructed for the library. The building the Municipality and a landlord of the town Seth Hanumandas Sevakdas gave funds. The library was registered with Director of Public Institutions, Mumbai in

1867-68 (Regn. 252, dt. 6-5-1867). There were 120 books in the library in 1880 and the income of the library was Rs. 778 and expenditure was Rs. 775 in 1883. Looking to the growing needs of the library, the Management of the library requested the Municipality to allot a suitable piece of land for constructing a new building. Accordingly in 1905, the space behind the Garud High School in the Municipal Park was spared. The new building was completed by 1907 and was named as 'Garud Wachanalaya'. The income of the library was Rs. 1140 in 1919. Mr. Gho Sha Garud became the Chairman of the library in 1923.

HIRACHAND NEMCHAND
WACHANALAYA (Sholapur) (1857) This is one of the oldest libraries in Maharashtra. It was established in 1857. The centenary of the library was celebrated in 1957 with inauguration by the then Governor of Maharashtra Sri Sriprakash. As a part of the celebration Eighth Marathi Granthalaya Parishad was organized. The library was established in 1857 as Native General Library, Sholapur. It was started in Room No. 1 of the Municipal School with about 1450 books. In 1912, the library was shifted to a place called 'Danibhuvan'. A building for the library was constructed with the donation of Rs. 14,500 from Mr. Hirachand Nemchand Doshi. In recognition of the large heartedness of the donor, the library was then named after him.

BABUJI DESHMUKH LIBRARY (Akola) (1860) The Native General Library, as the Institution was originally called, was started in 1860. The late Narayan Rao Babuji Deshmukh, a big land-holder of Mhaisang in Akola Tahsil, donated a building and a

piece of land at Mazlapur to the Library to commemorate the memory his father, Babuji Deshmukh, after whose name the institution was registered in 1930, and is known as such.

By incurring a loan of Rs. 35,000 the Institution built a large and magnificent building of its own in 1930s with two spacious terraces commanding a very fine view of Akola, along with two big halls. The lower portion of the building is rented and the debt was paid, off through this source of income the building is located in a very important place of Akola. The institution is one of the biggest libraries, of erstwhile CP & Berar. It has books in Marathi, English, Hindi, Gujarati, French and German. The Library got a gift of a splendid collection of books from the Mechanical Engineers Association. The Institution is being remodeled on Scientific lines. The Normal attendance every day is 250, and Library runs under its auspices the following institutions: Students Study Circle, Ladies Study Circle, Teachers Union, Citizens Study Circle, Historical Research Society, and Library Day.

MAHATMA GANDHI GRANTHALAY AND WACHANALAY (Penn) (1862)

This library is more than a century old. It was originally established in 1862 as Sarvajanic Wachanalay and Granthalaya with the initiative of Mr. Agashe Guruji. This library is receiving grants from the Government as Penn Taluka library. The library has a beautiful two storied building in the warf of the town. It was initially contributed in 1948. The library was known in those days as the library of 'Bhagini Samaj'. The library hall was

known as 'Manohar Hall'. The site where the library was presently located was given free of charge by the Mumbai Municipal Corporation to Gandhi Smarak Nidhi. Mr. Apparao Bhave and Aamdar Nanasahab Kunte took interest, collected funds and completed the building by 1954. The library was later named as 'Mahatma Gandhi Granthalaya and Wachanalay'. The library became hub of all social activities of the town. The library is organizing exhibitions, elocution competitions, lectures by various scholars. It was like Town Hall of Penn.

LOKMANYA WACHANALAYA (Arvi) (1865)

This library was originally established as Native General Library in 1865. Initially it was located in Telengarai Temple premises. Ariv Municipality was established in 1868 and Municipal English Middle School was established in 1888. In 1870, Arvi had a population of 8,256/ Though the library was named as Native General Library at the initiative of the British officers, the local people were averse to the term 'native'. In 1901, Queen Victoria's Jubilee was celebrated all over India. Many institutions were established or existing one were renamed after the Queen. At the initiative of the Advocate Abaji Deoskar, Vasantrao Patil, Balakrishna Pant Deshpande this library was also renamed as 'Victoria Library'. In the first decade of the 20th century, a building was constructed for the library at a cost of Rs.

15,000. A new building was erected before the old building (which is still intact) and was leased to Bank of Baroda at a rent of

Rs. 1,000. The new building was addressed as 'Nagar Bhavan'. But a separate building was constructed for Town Hall in 1911.

Lokamanya Wachanalaya

The library was once again renamed in 1921. Lokamanya Tilak visited Arvi in his tour of Vidarbha in 1918. He was given a warm welcome by the public. Tilak passed away in 1920. Thereafter, in memory of this illustrious son of India, the library was renamed once again in 1921 as 'Lokamanya Wachanalaya'. The building was remodeled in 1927 with a Hall and a tower. In 1927 'Nehru Dalan' was constructed with the help of the Maharashtra Government.

AMRAVATI NAGAR WACHANALAYA (1867) The presently known Amravati Nagar Wachanalaya was established as Native General Library in November, 1867. A foundation meeting was held in 1867 where eminent social workers like Messrs. Shriram Bhikaji Jathar, Bapuji Ranganath Udgikar, Atmaram Bhikaji Prabhu, Chimnoji Rajaram Patak and Ekanth Tatya Oak attended and unanimously resolved to start a public library and reading room. The library was finally started in November in the house of Mr. Purnamalji Heda, a Money Lender. The 'Native General Library' was changed to 'City Library' at a later date. In 1936, it assumed the present name as 'Nagar Wachanalaya'. The Municipal Committee of Amravati granted land measuring 200*90 sq. fit. to the library, which was later extended by Nazul by 6*10 sq. ft? On this land the main structure of the Library was built in 1935. This was inaugurated by Kakasaheb Puranik, Judge and Social Worker of Nagpur. In the year 1958 shops

were constructed on either side of the library building to increase the financial resources of the library. This Library was recognized by the Government of Maharashtra as grade 'A' Library and receives financial assistance.

RAJARAM SITARM DIXIT WACHANALAYA (Nagpur) (1869) Sitabuldi Library's S. Dixit Library holds an important position in the cultural life of Nagpur. The library was established in 1869. It was named as 'Sitabuldi Library'. Many individuals spared their valuable time and money for the development of the library. Today, it holds a place of pride in the social life of Nagpur. Mr. R.B.C. Narayanaswamy was the first President and Mr. Krishnarao Pathak was the Secretary of the 'Sitabuldi Wachanalaya'. In order to meet the growing needs of the library in terms of space, it was decided to construct a building of its own. A plan was drawn which was estimated to cost Rs. 5,000. Mr. Rajaram Sitaram Dixit Contributed Rs. 3,000 for the purpose. Hence his name was added to the library. The new building of the library was inaugurated on 11th October 1895. Not only Mr. Dixit gave a donation of Rs. 3,000, but also worked hard for the library all through. Kakasaheb Puranik was the President of this library between 1931 and 1948. During his time, the library expanded its activities. Under his Presidentship, the library celebrated its Golden Jubilee in 1945. From 1965-66, the library started receiving a grant from the State Government.

SHRI SAHU WACHANALAYA (Gargoti) (1873) It is said that Mahamuni Garg Rishi lived here with his students and a Kunti college was built for him. In

memory of this Rishi a Kuti was constructed in 1935 and the place is called 'Gargokuti'. Gargoti is the wrong address of Gargokuti. In 1973, some prominent people of this region started a public library under the name 'General Library, Gargoti'. This library was named in the Bombay Gazetteer. This is one of the 14 libraries in the Kolhapur region in the 18th century. Mamledar of those days Mr. Bakhale collected about Rs. 300 from public and constructed a small room with a warandah for the library. Government also extended financial support for the library building and a grant of Rs. 25 a month was given since 1890. Since then, this library was addressed as 'Native General Library'. After the passing away of 'Rajarshi' Shri Shahu Chhatrapati, the library was again renamed as Shri Sahu Wachanalaya in his memory. A new block was added on the eastern side with financial and material support from the Government. A second extension was made and was inaugurated in 1928. The library was recognized as 'Taluka Library' in 1949 and 75 per cent of the expenditure was made as grant to the library. Since then, the library has been receiving aid from the government and has been progressing well.

BALLABHDAS BALAJI WACHANALAYA (Jalgaon) (1877) This library was established in 1877 as Native General Library. Initially, there were 10 members. A separate building was constructed for the library in 1909 and was given the name "Ballabhdas Balaji Wachanalaya". The Jalgaon Municipality started extending financial support to this library since 1956. Earlier in 1948, this

library was recognized by the Bombay Government and since then it started receiving government assistance.

NAGAR WACHANALAYA (Yavatmal) (1887) Yavatmal is considered to be in the forefront in every activity. Literature is not a reception. In those old days when the percentage of the literates in Vidarbha was hardly twenty per cent, Yavatmal thought it proper to have a full-fledged library. In the year 1887, the Silver Jubilee of the coronation ceremony of Empress Victoria was solemnized throughout the country and in this very year some leading citizens of Yavatmal came together and after deliberations decided to establish a library. Since it was the Jubilee year of Queen Victoria, it was also decided to name the library as Jubilee Library. This was how the Jubilee Library which is the first library of its kind in this district and the oldest one came into existence. During that period Yavatmal was; practically a village and was being known as Yawata. Rao Bahadur B.V. David was the First President of this library. Nagar Wachanalaya, Yavatmal has been recognized by the Government as an 'A' grade library. The library received 'Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Award' from the State Government for its outstanding performance.

DASTUR RATANJI LIBRARY (Khamgaon) (1880s) In 1880s, Khamgaon was a small village with 12 to 13 thousand inhabitants. It was a Taluka place. As this place was cotton growing area. Some British businessmen established 2- 3 big industries. Some Parsi men started auxiliary industries. To help the British and fellow Parsi men, Shri Ratanji started a

library at his home. The entry to this library was mainly confined to Parsi community. Till 1912, the library was kept at the residence of Manekshaw. Later a new building named as "Coronation Tent" was constructed and the library was shifted there. Once the library was shifted to its own building the Pratap Wachanalaya was merged with Ratanji Library. Initially sheets were to used as roof. In 1954, sheets were removed and slab was laid on either side with a central hall on the first floor. The constitution of the library was framed in 1953 and registered under Societies Registration Act, which enabled the library to receive Government grants. The library remained a great source of knowledge and information to the public of Khamgaon.

LOKMANYA TILAK
WACHANALAYA (Nandurbar) (1883)
Nandurbar has a long history. Earlier it was known as Nandgaon. During the period of Chhatrapati Shahu Maharaj, Nanasaheb Peshwa acquired this town along with other regions of Khandesh from Nizams. Nandurbar's Desai Kanungo was made the revenue officer and Jahagirdar and Vatandar. Later it was under the rule of Holkar of Indore. In 1883, Lord Rippon Wachanalaya was established in Nandurbar. The site for the building was acquired by the ten Secretary Yadav Govind Parkhi from Bikambhat in 1885. As per records Mr. Sonusing Paradesi was on roll of the library almost from the beginning till 1937. In the early days, the library was kept open from 5.00 to 9.00 p.m. The local Municipality was giving a grant of Rs. 50 in 1930s to the library. The library was named as Lokamanya Tilak Wachanalaya from 1944. Apart from

library service, the library is organizing lectures of eminent personalities. There are women's section; children's section, reference section, etc.

PEOPLE'S FREE READING ROOM AND LIBRARY (Bombay) (1891) This library was established in Bombay in 1891 by the generosity of its donor, Damodar Govardhandas Sukhadwala and was the first of its kind in the city of Bombay where both the reading Room and Library were open to the public without any distinction of caste, creed or sex. The inaugural ceremony was done at the house owned by D.G. Sukhadwala at Manhordas Street, Fort, Bombay. It was presided by justice K. T. Telang, who along with Pherozshah M. Mehta, Sorabji Shapurji Bengalee, D.E. Wacha, K. R. Cama and other well known gentlemen evinced great interest in its welfare. Seth D.G. Sukhadwala, the founder, died on 11-11-1913 leaving a Will, the Executors of which, after disposing off several items, transferred the residuary legacy of three properties, one at Hornby Road, second a Ginning factory at Sharda and their a bungalow at Mahabaleshwar, the second and third properties were subsequently sold off and the amount realized thereby was invested in Government papers. The first named property is still in the possession of the library. Out of the income of the rents and interest on Securities and Shares, the library is full maintained and no grains are received either from the Government or from the Municipality. Both the Reading Room and Library are located on the first floor of the Sukhadwalla Building, Hornby Road. In 1912, average daily attendance in the Reading Room was 300, Number of

books circulated was 9,859 (4,824 in English language and 5,035 in Gujarati language). Receipts amounted to Rs. 2,594 and expenditure of Rs. 2,854 was incurred. The deficit was made good by D. G. Sukhadwala. Here also provided a more spacious building. The Library Miscellany commented on this report as follows-

MUMBAI MARATHI GRANTH SANGARHALAYA (Bombay) (1898) This library was established in 1898 in Dadar area of Mumbai. Eng of 18th century can be considered as the beginning of the new Indian. More and more people started taking English education. The youth has the vigour and vitality to do 'something' positive. The Mumbai Marathi Grantha Sangrahalaya had its beginning in a small room in Thakurdas Vibhag (called in those days as Palva Road) with a box containing 300 books. The library was established on the Nariyal Poornima day (of Saka 1820) i.e., 1st August 1898. In fact, the first 'Marathi Granthasangrahalay' was established in Mumbai in 1893. It started with the outbreak of plague and died with it. The foundation meeting of the Mumbai Marathi Grantha Sangrahalaya was held on 10 July 1898 at Brahman Sabha's Sabhagrih. Finally, the library came into being on 1st August 1898 with Vinayak K. Oak as president. The library could muster the support of leaders like Mahadeo Govind Ranade. A catalogue of the collection of the library was prepared in the year 1926 by M.N Wame soon after the Silver Jubilee celebration of the library observed in 1824.

SEWA KARYLAY WACHANLAYA (Vairag) Vairag was vibrant during Peshwai period. There used to be a saint philosopher

Santanth in this place and thus this place got the name Vairag. Influenced by the Philosophy of Mahatma Gandhi this place is known for its integration unity among all sections of the society. This all happened with the arrival of Mr. Parashurama Sitaram Rathi a disciple of Gandhi to this village. He started 'Sevakarayalay'. The first activity started by this body was to read newspaper and inform the public the changes and developments in the society and increase interest in reading and writing. The workers of this organization used to go round the village from door to door and make them subscribe and read the newspapers. With the rise in the interest in reading, there arose the need for starting a library, and Sewakaryalay took lead in starting library. But, there was no money to purchase the books. The youth said how long we beg the public? They hit-up and idea. There was a marriage ceremony in the village. All the workers of the Sewakaryalay were present there. They requested the guests to give all donations to the bride and bridegroom in the form of books. Since then, when there is any function in the village, a part of the gifts goes to the library.

The library has its own building constructed at a cost of Rs, 10,000. Everyone in the village extended sramdan (labour) and worked freely in the construction.

k. R. CAMA ORIENTAL INSTITUTE
MULLA FIROZ LIBRARY (Mumbai)
(1909)

The institute was founded in memory of the late Mr. Khurshedji Rustamji Cama, the famous Avsta Scholar and Orient list, who died on 20th August 1909. A Memorial Committee was appointed in December

1919, to collect funds for a suitable memorial to commemorate the eminent literary and other services of the great scholar.

The consensus of opinion of the Memorial Committee was, that the most suitable monument of the late Mr. KR Cama would be an Oriental Institute for encouraging scholars to prosecute Oriental studies in general and Iranian studies in particular, and for offering facilities by way of accommodation, etc., to the existing societies and institutions with which he was connected and for which he had worked during his lifetime with such exemplary zeal and self-sacrifice.

The late Mr. Damodardas Gordhandas Sukhadwalla, founder of the People's Free Reading Room and library, great Hindu Philanthropist of Bombay and a friend and admirer of Mr. Cama, headed the memorial fund with a munificent donation of one lac of rupees, and this princely donation paved the way to the formation of an Oriental Institute. The inauguration ceremony of the Institute was performed on 18th December 1916 by His Excellency Lord Willingdon, the then Governor of Bombay when a large and influential gathering of the citizens of Bombay attended the function.

The Government of Bombay was pleased to make a grant of Rs. 30,000 to the institute for the foundation of a government Fellowship to carry a research work in the field of Oriental literature. The Parsi community of Bombay, also contributed sum of Rs 12,100 and the Bombay Citizens Memorial Fund Committee collected Rs, 8,548 to be added

to the General Fund of the Institute. Subsequently, various philanthropic Parsi ladies and gentlemen have donated sums, both large and small, to the funds of the Institute with a view to enable it to do useful work.

SHRI SANTANA DHARMA SABHA LIBRARY (Akola) (1910) The library was Established around 1910 in Akola. Till 1950, the library had only books on religion and philosophy. Thereafter, they started adding books on other subjects as well and gave it the shape of a public library. The collection in the library is classified and follows open access system. Inter-library loan facility is also provided. It has regular exchange programme with the British Council and American Information Resource Centre, Mumbai. The library is very keen to have latest collection of books in Hindi and Marathi.

PUND MARATHI GRANTHALAYA (1911) Poona was somewhat late in emulating the example of Thane and Bombay. A library named as Marathi Granthasangrahalaya was established on 2nd October 1911 under the Chairmanship of Rao Saheb Nanasaheb Bhavanrao Pavgi. V.D. Talvalkar, pleader and R.D. Paradkar, Editor, Loksangraha Magazine and owner of Loksangraha Press were its first secretaries. N.C. Kelkar was Vice-President from 1911-1917.

In 1893, B.G. Tilak along with his colleagues G. G. Agarkar, Prof. S.G. Jinsiwale etc. Thought of establishing a library with the name 'Saraswati Mandi' but it could not materialise. In the same year Bhikajipant Hardiakar, associate of B. G. Tilak, decided to establish a library of

Marathi books in Poona and collected some books, for the same. But due to his immature death, the library could not make any progress. In the later period this project did not receive attention by Poona people firstly due to the plague epidemic, followed by partition of Bengal, transportation of Lok.

Tilak to Mandalay in 1908 and lastly there was already a public library- the Poona Native General Library- in a flourishing condition catering to the needs of the Poona people.

For the first six years, the library's working seems to be nominal. Reports about the working of the library for this period are not available. Only a rough income and expenditure statement from 1911 to June 1916 is available. As per this statement, an amount of Rs. 848 was received during these years by way of subscriptions and donations. Out of this amount, Rs. 246 were spent on house rent, Rs. 200 on pay of the clerk, Rs. 30 each on dead stock and purchase of books and the remaining amount on newspapers and magazines, with a balance of As 6 only on 1st June 1916.

PARVATI MOPHAT VACHANALAYA (Poona) (1912) Parvati Mophat Vachanalaya was founded in 1912 may be treated as the First free public library in Poona. It was established by G. G. Ketkar Headmaster and one of the promoters of the Anath Vidyarthi Griha, a school for educating orphans. Newspapers and magazines were sent by the editors of newspapers and magazines, and individuals for use of these students and these materials were made available to

public at large along with the students. Shrimati library. As many people used to get to Parvati Hill in the morning, this library on their way proved useful to these people also. Phadke Free Reading Room- may be the second of its kind established in Poona. Its first anniversary was Nanasaheb Pavgi. It was provided free accommodation in D. Potdar, Sardar Khanderoa Mehendale and L. R. Phadnis and other youths in Poona started Shriram Mophat Vachanalaya in 1913 and the Phadke Free Reading Room was merged with this reading room.

GARDE WACHANLAYA (Buldhana) (1916) Famous citizen of Buldhana Shri C. V. alias Baburao Garde constructed a building on the main road at Buldhana in 1916 and established a library in memory of his illustrious father. He also made available Rs. 2,000 for purchasing furniture, etc. required for the library. The library is receiving all popular magazines, newspapers, periodicals, books, etc. The library has open access system.

SHRVAJANIK WACHANALAYA (Nasirabad) (1916) Dhule and Jalgaon, both these districts are close to Vidarbha and Marathwada. Thus they have many similarities between the two regions. Muslim rulers have changed the names of many places and gave their own. Dharashiv was named as Osmanabad. Nasirabad was also like that. Who this Nasir is an issue for research. The public library is Nasirabad was established in 1916. Soon after the First World War the youth started taking interest in political affairs of the nation. It was decided that each one in the village will subscribe to a different newspaper or journal and these will be given to the library after reading.

TARUN MANDA'S MOPHAT WACHANALAYA (Shirala) (1926) Shirala village is in Sangli district. It is 14 Kms away from Islampur. Shirala is well-known for the Nagpanchmi festival on which day snake charmers bring different kinds of snakes to this place and make the dance before the Goddess in the local temple. This practice is still in vogue. Maharashtra Rashtra Guru Samartha Ramdas constructed several Marathi Temples in different village. Shirala is one such place of Gorakhnath (one among the nine naths) in this village. There is a stone-decree still in existence in the temple premises. Inspired by the call 'swaraj' given by Lokamanya Tilak, some of the youth in the village established 'Tarun Mandal' they started reading newspapers for illiterates. Finally they established a free library in 1924. One important point worth mentioning her is the minutes of all meetings of the mandal are recoding very well.

KESARI MAHARATTA LIBRARY(Pune)(1933) Kesari Mararatta Library was founded on 1st Aug.1932 in Pune. This library is one of the leading newspaper libraries in Pune. This Library is rich in Committee and Commission reports; biographies, Maratha history and newspaper clipping collection. The clipping are well indexed and well maintained. In addition, it has complete files of Kesari Maharatta (From 4 Jan,1881 and 2 Jan 1881 respectively); Sahyadri magazine (all volumes); Addresses and speeches of Lokamanya, etc. Tilak's Library at Mandalay holds a place of pride in this library. Kesari Maharatta Library was founded on 1st Aug. 1932 in Pune. This library is one of the leading newspaper libraries in Pune.

Lokmánya Tilak Museum in is now a part of this library.

SHRI SHYAMLAL MOTILAL PARDESHI WACHANALAYA (Kurduvadi) (1948)Shyamlal Pardeshi was a great revolutionary in those days. The revolted against the Nizam government. The Nizam imprisoned him. People believe that the government killed him by giving poison. Shyamlal remained a source of inspiration to all the revolutionaries in the Nizam State. Shyamlal Pardeshi of Kurduvadi and his work is known to all in Maharashtra. In order to perpetuate his memory, public of Kurduvadi founded a library and named after him. Thus this library become exemplary in Maharashtra. The Library is not only a tribute to Shri Shyamlaji, it is a memorial for his mother, Shyamlal and these friends Finally, the library was inaugurated on 11th May 1948. Mr. Bhausahab Hire inaugurated it building. Messes Krishnarao Parbhat, R. D. Kumbhare took keen interest in the development of the library.

SHRIDATTAMOPHATWACHANALAYA (Kadoli) (1918)Earlier Chief Minister of Mumbai State Late B. G. Kher took keen interest in spreading libraries n cooperative basis in the state. Many libraries started providing good service with the help of the State government. One such library is located in Kolhapur's Panhala Mahal taluka, Kadoli village library. This library was named as 'Shri Datta Mofat Wachanalay'. It was founded in 1918. The library has its own building.

Apart from the library, there is reading room where newspapers and magazines were kept. Many of the students in the village also make use of this library. The librarian is a qualified

person. The library has circulation, newspaper and periodical, Information Centre of the Social Welfare Department, etc.

Conclusion :

History of public library in Maharashtra. In this article, Lokmanya vachnalaya, Shri Datta mophat vachnalaya, Shri Shyamlal Motilal parsed vachnalaya, Kesari Marathi library, Tarun mandal mophat vachnalaya, Sarvajanic

vachnalaya(Nasirabad), Garde vachnalaya, Parvati mophat vachnalaya, Pune Marathi Granthalaya, Shri Sanatan dharma Sabha library (Akola), K. R. Cama oriental institute Mulla Firoz library, nagar vachnalaya, Ballabhdas Balaji vachnalaya, Shri Sahu vachnalaya, Rajaram Sitaram dixit vachnalaya, Amravati nagar vachnalaya, Pune nagar vachnalaya mandir. In this article there is a brief study of all this libraries.

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