WHO'S WHO IN LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE

LIS 111

Introduction

- This discussion covers the roles and contributions of individuals, such as scholars, librarians, archivists, scientists, researchers, etc to the development of library and information science.

- It will highlight how they shaped LIS through foundational classification systems, philosophical laws and organistional techniques.

- The discussion will help students appreciate the sacrifice made by these great people in fostering the LIS discipline.

Introduction

- We shall be looking at individuals like:
- King Ashurbanipal
- Thomas Bodley
- Suzanne Bret
- Richard de Bury
- Johannes Gutenberg
- Melvil Dewey
- S.R. Ranganathan
- others

Ashurbanipal, King of Assyria (668-around 630 BC)

- Ashurbanipal was the last great King of the Neo-Assyrian empire in Nineveh near Mosul in Iraq.

- He was responsible for assembling The Royal Library of Ashurbanipal, thought to be the oldest surviving Royal Library in the world.

- The library consisted of 30,000 cuneiform tablets and writing boards on a range of subjects including historical inscriptions, letters, administrative and legal texts, alongside found thousands of divinatory, magical, medical, literary and lexical texts.

- The fragmented remains were discovered in the 1850s and are now kept in the British Museum.

Thomas Bodley (2 March 1545 – 29 January 1613)

- He was the founder of Oxford's famous Bodleian Library.

- He was a member of parliament and diplomat for Queen Elizabeth I

- Bodley worked on restoring the Library known as Duke Humfrey's, which had fallen into disrepair.

- The restored library reopened in 1602 containing some 2000 volumes, and included works in Hebrew, Turkish, Arabic, Persian and Chinese.

- Today the Bodleian is one of Europe's oldest libraries and also functions as one of the UK's six legal deposit library alongside the British Library, the National Library of Scotland, the National Library of Wales, the University Library, Cambridge, and. the Library of Trinity College, Dublin.

Suzanne Briet (1 February 1894 – 13 February 1989)

- Suzanne Briet was known Madame Documentation.

- She began her career in librarianship at the Bibliothèque Nationale de France (BNF) in 1924.

- She co-founded the Union Française des Organismes de Documentation (UFOD) with the Chemist, Jean Gérard, in 1931.

- She influenced the development of library education in her role as Director one of France's oldest library schools.

- She published *Qu'est-ce que la documentation? In 1951.*

- The publication considers documents not as material objects but *"evidence in support of a fact"*

Richard de Bury (1281−1345)

- He was one of the first English book collectors.

- He founded a library at Durham, searching far and wide for books and manuscripts.

- Prior to his death on 1345 De Bury wrote his Philobiblon, a collection of essays concerning the acquisition, preservation, and organization of books, in which he describes *'his means and method'* of collecting books.

Johannes Gutenberg (born 14th century, Mainz —died probably February 3, 1468)

- Gutenberg devised the printing press that precipitated the "Printing Revolution in Europe".

- It was Guttenberg's method of printing with movable type, that would usher in the development of printed books in the west, influencing the reformation, renaissance and libraries.

- He and his partners produced he first ever book to bear the name of it's printers', the Psalter (Book of Psalms).

- The Mainz Psalter was printed with 2 colour capitals, using a method of woodblocks and multiple inking.

Gabriel Naudé (2 February 1600 – 10 July 1653)

- Naudé was well educated and was an avid reader of authors classic and modern.

- Having attended several colleges, and receiving the title master of arts he enrolled in the University of Paris to study medicine.

- Despite his medical training never practiced medicine but instead was offered the position of Librarian to President Henri de Mesme.

Gabriel Naudé (2 February 1600 – 10 July 1653)

- Whilst working for de Mesmes, whose library contained some 8,000 printed books, Naudé wrote his famous *Advis pour dresser une bibliothèque,* considered the first modern treatise on Librarianship.

- Naudé's *Advis* consisted of 9 chapters dealing with the selection, acquisition and arrangement of books under the subject headings that included *"Theologie, Physick, Iurisprudence, Mathematicks,* and *Humanity"*.

- Naudé' used his *Advis* to advocate his vision for a universal library that was open to the public.

Thomas Jefferson (1743−1826)

- Thomas Jefferson (1743−1826) was a Founding Father, the principal author of the Declaration of Independence (1776), and the third president of the United States (1801−1809).

- Thomas Jefferson played a foundational role in the development of library and information science (LIS) in the United States.

- His primary role was the creation of an extensive personal library, the development of a unique classification system, and his pivotal role in rebuilding the Library of Congress.

- After the British burned the U.S. Capitol and the original Library of Congress in 1814, Jefferson sold his personal collection of 6,487 books to Congress for $23,950.

- The sale transformed the institution from a small legislative library into a national repository.

Melvil Dewey (10 December 1851—26 December 1931)

- Melville Louis Kossuth (Melvil) Dewey was called "the father of modern librarianship"

- He invented the Dewey Decimal Classification(DDC) system.

- Whilst working on the reclassification library of Amherst College, Dewey devised a system of decimal numbers on top of a knowledge structure originally outlined by Francis Bacon.

- The system outlined in *A Classification and Subject Index for Cataloguing and Arranging the Books and Pamphlets of a Library*, became the Dewey Decimal Classification System, which he Copyrighted in 1876.

Melvil Dewey (10 December 1851–26 December 1931)

- He helped establish the American Library Association, the ALA.

- He served as Secretary to the American Library Association (ALA) from 1876 to 1890 and then president for the 1890/1891 and 1892/1893 terms.

- Dewey founded the first ever library school, the School of Library Economy, which opened in 1887,with a cohort of 20 students, mostly women, at Dewey's insistence.

S.R. Ranganathan (1892–1972)

- Renowned as the "Father of Library Science" in India
- He formulated the *Five Laws of Library Science*.
- He created the [Colon Classification](#) system, pioneered faceted classification.
- He developed "librametry," an analytical approach to library services.

Paul Otlet (23 August 1868 – 10 December 1944)

- Paul Otlet was a Belgian bibliographer, lawyer and entrepreneur.

- He was described as the 'father of Information Science' and the 'father of the Internet'.

- Whilst working as an intern at the offices of Edmond Picard, he met fellow lawyer Henri La Fontaine, who shared Otlet's interest in bibliography.

- Otlet and La Fontaine formed the International Institute of Social Bibliography and began a bibliographic survey of sociological literature.

- In 1895 they established the Institut International de Bibliographie and turned their focus to the cataloging of published information across all subjects.

Paul Otlet (23 August 1868 – 10 December 1944)

- Together they created their Universal Bibliography, a card catalog comprising over 400,000 entries recorded on index cards, each assigned a class number, initially based on the Dewey Decimal Classification and later his own UDC.

- Otlet and La Fontaine initially decided to use a translated version of the Dewey Decimal Classification, with the agreement of Melvil Dewey, in the process they developed and adapted it to their needs, creating a classification scheme they named Universal Decimal Classification.

- Like Dewey UDC divided all knowledge into 10 main categories, that could further be subdivided into any number of subcategories.

Claude Shannon (30 April 1916 – 24 February 2001)

- Widely regarded as the '*Father of the Information Age*' Claude Elwood Shannon was born in Petoskey, Michigan.

- After obtaining bachelor's degrees in Mathematics and Electrical Engineering from the University of Michigan, Shannon began his graduate studies in electrical engineering at MIT in 1936.

- His familiarity with Boolean Algebra allowed him to design electrical switching circuits based on Boolean Logic.

- His master's thesis, A Mathematical Theory of Communication, was described as "the Magna Carta of the information age."

- It was Shannon who first established that data could be measured in "bits" (a term derived from the contraction of *binary* and *digit*) in his 1948 paper "*A Mathematical Theory of Communication.*"

Claude Shannon (30 April 1916 – 24 February 2001)

- He continued to work on Information Theory, having realized that the encoding of messages in cryptography could be applied on a theoretical level to communication in general.

- Shannon stated that all communication systems can be broken down into the same essential components, *information source, source, transmitter, channel, noise source receiver and destination.*

- He was able to determine that the encoding of message by the transmitter was the key to ensuring the accuracy of the message and the avoidance of noise.

Tim Berners-Lee

- Sir Tim Berners-Lee invented the World Wide Web while at **CERN**, the European Particle Physics Laboratory, in 1989.

- He wrote the first web client and server in 1990.

- His specifications of URIs, HTTP and HTML were refined as Web technology spread.

- He is the co-founder and CTO of **Inrupt.com**, a tech start-up that uses, promotes and helps develop the open source **Solid** platform.

- Sir Tim is the Founder, Emeritus Director, and an Honorary Member of the Board of Directors of the **World Wide Web Consortium (W3C)**, a Web standards organization that he founded in 1994 which develops interoperable technologies (specifications, guidelines, software, and tools) to lead the Web to its full potential.

Luciano Floridi (Born 16 November 1964)

- Luciano Floridi is currently Professor of Philosophy and Ethics of Information at the University of Oxford, and Director of the Digital Ethics Lab of the Oxford Internet Institute.

- Flordi's main areas of research are Information and Computer Ethics (Digital Ethics), the Philosophy of Information, and the Philosophy of Technology.

- Floridi also argues that we are moving into the 4th revolution, following the Copernican, Darwinian and Freudian revolutions.

- In the Fourth Revolution information becomes our environment, the 'infosphere'.

Luciano Floridi (Born 16 November 1964)

- Floridi argues that following the Fourth revolutions we are becoming interconnected inforgs (informationally embodied organisms) amongst other inforgs.
- Luciano Floridi described the evolving nature of human and machine interactions in the digital age.
- Floridi's work confronts the philosophical, ethical and moral issues of this new reality in which we find ourselves.

Conclusion

- These, along with others, transformed libraries from mere storage houses into organized, accessible, and user-centric information centers.
- Without their pioneer works, there would be no discipline as LIS and no profession as Information work.