

## Ethical Aspects of Librarianship and S. R. Ranganathan in the Light of Vedic Values

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### Abstract

**Purpose:** This study examines the ethical foundations of librarianship through the lens of Vedic values and the contributions of S.R. Ranganathan. It aims to explore how Vedic ethical principles such as Satya (Truth), Dharma (Righteous Duty), Seva (Selfless Service), and Loka-Sangraha (Welfare of Society) align with contemporary library ethics, professional responsibilities, open access practices, and digital librarianship.

**Design/Methodology/Approach:** A qualitative research design was adopted, drawing on an extensive review of primary and secondary literature related to Vedic philosophy, library ethics, and Ranganathan's writings. Content analysis was used to examine the intersections between Vedic values, Ranganathan's Five Laws of Library Science, and the Colon Classification System, highlighting their relevance to modern Library and Information Science (LIS) education and professional practice.

**Findings:** The study reveals strong parallels between Vedic ethical principles and contemporary librarianship, particularly in relation to truthfulness, equitable access, social responsibility, and ethical knowledge stewardship. Ranganathan's Five Laws of Library Science reflect several Vedic ideals, reinforcing value-based knowledge management practices. The analysis also shows that Vedic approaches to structured categorization resonate with Ranganathan's Colon Classification System. These insights demonstrate that Vedic ethics can support ethical decision-making in digital librarianship, especially concerning access, equity, and responsible dissemination of information.

**Research Limitations:** The study is based primarily on conceptual and literature-based analysis without empirical data collection. The interpretations of Vedic texts may vary across philosophical schools, which could influence contextual understanding.

**Practical Implications:** Integrating Vedic ethical principles into LIS education and professional practice can strengthen moral reasoning, promote ethical digital librarianship, and enhance value-based service delivery. Libraries may adopt these insights to address challenges related to digital access, equity, and professional integrity.

**Originality/Value:** This research offers a unique synthesis of ancient Vedic wisdom and modern library ethics, presenting an innovative framework for ethical librarianship. It expands scholarly understanding of Ranganathan's

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*philosophies while contributing a culturally rooted perspective to contemporary discussions on library ethics, digital knowledge stewardship, and professional development.*

**Keywords:** Library ethics, Vedic Value, Library Service, Digital Library, S. R. Ranganathan

**1. Introduction:** Ethics plays a crucial role in librarianship, ensuring the fair and responsible dissemination of knowledge. The Vedic tradition, rich in philosophical and ethical teachings, provides a framework that can be applied to modern library ethics. This research can explore how Vedic values align with and enhance ethical principles in librarianship. Librarianship, as a profession, has always been deeply rooted in ethical principles, serving as a guiding force for the dissemination of knowledge and the preservation of intellectual heritage. Ethics in librarianship encompass fundamental values such as truthfulness, impartiality, respect for intellectual freedom, and service to society. These principles closely align with the wisdom found in the Vedic tradition, which emphasizes the connectivity and association of ethics in librarianship. Dr. S. R. Ranganathan, widely regarded as the father of library science in India, introduced a systematic and ethical approach to library management. His Five Laws of Library Science (Ranganathan, 1931) and professional ethics resonate with several Vedic ideals, including the pursuit of knowledge (Jnana), righteousness (Dharma), and the welfare of all (Loka Sangraha). His emphasis on selfless service and equitable access to knowledge aligns with the Vedic tradition of learning and wisdom-sharing without discrimination. This study explores the ethical aspects of librarianship considering Vedic values, analyzing how Ranganathan's contributions reflect these ideals. By drawing connections between ancient wisdom and modern library ethics, we can develop a deeper understanding of the moral responsibilities of librarians and their role in shaping an enlightened society.

**2. Review of Literature:** Gupta and Satija (2024) examine analogies and examples from various episodes of the *Ramayana* in Ranganathan's writings, exploring the holistic vision that emerges from them. It also highlights key *sutras* he derived from the *Ramayana* to define and advocate professional virtues essential for libraries. Additionally, the paper reviews previous scholarly discussions on his deep admiration for this great epic. Rigopoulos (2024) examines the profound influence of the Sanskrit Scholar S. Kuppuswami Sastri (1880–1943) on S.R. Ranganathan (1892–1970). Kuppuswami Sastri's contributions played a pivotal role in advancing Sanskrit learning in South India, leaving a lasting impact on Ranganathan's intellectual development. Kumar (2023) pointed out that the Bhagavad Gita fosters spiritual awakening and intellectual growth, enriching the library system with a value-based work culture. Its teachings enhance professional integrity, flexibility, and ethical leadership among library staff. Jayapradeep and Devi (2019) explores the spiritual and philosophical dimensions, particularly those found in the Upanishads, *Ramayana*, and Sreemad Bhagavad Gita, that influenced Ranganathan in formulating the laws, principles, and theories that elevated Library Science to the status of a scientific discipline. Nandram (2014) explores how integrating a Vedic learning style into management education in India can foster

transformational learning and enhance ethical behavior. Kumar (1992) explores the creative thinking of S.R. Ranganathan and his adaptation of Vedic knowledge in his research, highlighting how ancient wisdom shaped his innovative contributions to Library Science. Ranganathan (1989) explores philosophy of library classification, highlighting its foundational principles and impact on modern library science. Chappell (1976) examines the fundamental principles from which effective library practices can be systematically derived. While Ranganathan asserted that he formulated his *Five Laws of Library Science* through a rigorous scientific process, it is evident that these principles and the concept of librarianship built upon them—are deeply rooted in his Hindu philosophical tradition. Ranganathan (1931) explores the Five Laws of Library Science alongside the ethical values of librarianship, highlighting their philosophical foundations and practical significance in the profession.

**3. Research Questions:** The ethical foundation of librarianship is crucial in ensuring the responsible dissemination, preservation, and accessibility of knowledge. Drawing from ancient traditions, Vedic ethical values offer timeless wisdom that can enhance contemporary library ethics. This study seeks to explore how the principles embedded in the Vedic tradition influence modern knowledge-sharing practices, particularly in the context of open access and digital librarianship. By examining the ethical responsibilities of librarians alongside the roles of Vedic scholars, this research aims to identify key parallels and insights that can strengthen ethical decision-making in the field. Furthermore, the study evaluates the relevance of Dharma as a guiding framework for addressing ethical challenges in digital library environments.

- i) How can Vedic ethical values enhance contemporary library ethics?
- ii) How does the Vedic tradition influence modern concepts of open access and knowledge-sharing?
- iii) What parallels exist between the librarian's ethical responsibilities and the role of Vedic scholars?
- iv) Can the principles of Dharma guide ethical decision-making in digital librarianship?
- v) How can S. R. Ranganathan's principles of library science be interpreted and enhanced through the lens of Vedic values?

**4. Methodology:** This study is based on a comprehensive literature review, drawing insights from Vedic education principles and transformational learning theories. The research involves an in-depth analysis of existing literature on library ethics and key works authored by S.R. Ranganathan, particularly those related to his contributions to Library and Information Science (LIS). The methodology follows a qualitative approach, emphasizing content analysis of primary and secondary sources, including books, research articles, and scholarly discussions on Vedic knowledge, ethical values in librarianship, and Ranganathan's philosophies. The study also examines how these principles can be systematically applied to LIS education, fostering a value-based and ethically sound professional framework. By synthesizing insights from ancient educational traditions and modern library ethics, the research aims to establish connections between traditional wisdom and contemporary LIS practices, offering a holistic

perspective on ethical librarianship and the transformative role of education in the field.

**5. Vedic Ethical Values and Library Ethics:** Vedic ethical values emphasize wisdom, selfless service, fairness, and the pursuit of truth, which closely align with the core principles of library ethics. Libraries function as pillars of knowledge dissemination and societal progress, reflecting the Vedic ideals of collective well-being and intellectual empowerment. Fundamental concepts such as Loka-Sangraha (welfare of society), Yajna (selfless service), Sama-Darshana (equal vision), and Paropakara (benevolence) serve as guiding principles for ethical librarianship. These values promote inclusivity, intellectual integrity, and equitable access to knowledge, ensuring that libraries remain spaces of free and unbiased information exchange. By integrating Vedic wisdom into library ethics, libraries can enhance their role as agents of learning, social harmony, and empowerment. The identification of fifteen key Vedic values is based on insights from various Hindu scriptures, including the Vedas, Upanishads, Bhagavad Gita, and Dharmashastra texts. While no single ancient text compiles these values in a specific sequence, they collectively represent the foundational principles of Vedic thought, which have been adapted over time to guide ethical, spiritual, and professional responsibilities.

Libraries serve as guardians of knowledge and intellectual freedom, ensuring access to information for all individuals regardless of background or status. As institutions dedicated to learning, research, and cultural preservation, libraries uphold a strong ethical framework that governs their operations and interactions with users. Library ethics encompass principles such as intellectual freedom, privacy, equity of access, professional integrity, and social responsibility. A well-defined ethical foundation ensures that libraries function as neutral and unbiased spaces, providing accurate and reliable information while respecting user confidentiality. Ethical librarianship demands fairness, inclusivity, and the responsible management of resources, ensuring that information is accessible without discrimination or censorship. Modern library ethics align closely with ancient wisdom, including Vedic ethical values, which emphasize truth, selflessness, fairness, and the pursuit of knowledge for collective well-being. By integrating these values, libraries can strengthen their role as catalysts for education, social empowerment, and lifelong learning. Ethical principles in librarianship not only guide professional conduct but also reinforce the library's mission as a democratic institution committed to public service.

**a) Vedic Values of their Origins:** Vedic values stem from the four Vedas:

- i) Rigveda – Focuses on hymns, cosmology, and prayers to deities.
- ii) Yajurveda – Deals with rituals and sacrificial ceremonies.
- iii) Samaveda – Contains chants and melodies for worship.
- iv) Atharvaveda – Includes wisdom on ethics, health, and daily life.

The Vedas were orally transmitted in the early days and later written in Sanskrit. They were composed by ancient sages (Rishis), who received divine wisdom through deep meditation and spiritual insight. The Vedic tradition provides a profound ethical and philosophical framework for human life, emphasizing harmony, righteousness, and self-realization. Rooted in the Vedas, Upanishads, Bhagavad Gita, and other ancient scriptures, these values guide individuals toward a balanced and meaningful existence. These

Vedic values are not only essential for personal development but also contribute to societal well-being. They address key aspects such as truth, duty, service, compassion, self-discipline, and collective welfare. The integration of these principles in daily life fosters spiritual growth, ethical decision-making, and a harmonious world. Below is an overview of these Vedic values and their significance:

**Table 1: Vedic Values Integration with Library Ethics**

Sl. No.	Values	Meaning	Veda/ Upanishad	Shlokas	Integration with Library Ethics
1	Satya	Truthfulness	Rig Veda (10.190.1) Mundaka Upanishad (3.1.6)	ऋतं च सत्यं चाभीद्धात् तपसोऽध्यजायत सत्यमेव जयते नानृतम्	Ensuring Intellectual Honesty to Information Services
2	Dharma	Righteous Duty	Bhagavad Gita (2.31)	स्वधर्मे निधनं श्रेयः परधर्मो भयावहः	Ethical Responsibility of Librarians
3	Seva	Selfless Service	Bhagavad Gita (3.19) Yajur Veda (40.2)	तस्मादसक्तः सततं कार्यं कर्म समाचर कुर्वन्नेवेह कर्माणि जिजीविषेच्छतं समाः	Commitment to Public Good
4	Aparigraha	Non-Possessiveness	Bhagavad Gita (6.10)	योगी युञ्जीत सततं आत्मानं रहसि स्थितः। एकाकी यतचित्तात्मा निराशीः अपरिग्रहः॥	Open Access and Knowledge Sharing
5	Ahimsa	Non-Violence	Yajur Veda (36.18)	आ नो भद्राः क्रतवो यन्तु विश्वतः	Intellectual Freedom and Respect for Diversity
6	Shraddha	Reverence for Knowledge	Chandogya Upanishad (7.19.1)	श्रद्धावान् लभते ज्ञानम्	Preservation and Conservation of Heritage
7	Sangati	Collaboration	Rig Veda (10.191.2-4)	सं गच्छध्वं सं वदध्वं सं वो मनांसि जानताम्	Networking and Knowledge Exchange
8	Vidyadana	Gift of	Taittiriya	सत्यं वद। धर्मं चर।	Librarians as



		Knowledge	Upanishad (1.11.1)	स्वाध्यायान्मा प्रमदः॥	Knowledge Facilitators
9	Anrishamsya	Compassion	Manusmriti (4.246)	अनृशंस्यं परो धर्मः	Inclusivity and User-Centered Library Services
10	Tapas	Discipline and Dedication	Rig Veda (10.154.5)	नान्यः पन्था विद्यतेऽयनाय	Professional Integrity in Librarianship
11	Upaya	Right Means	Mahabharata (Shanti Parva, 131.8)	उपायेन हि यच्छ्रेयः स कर्तव्यः सुखावहः	Ethical Information Retrieval and Resource Management
12	Loka-Sangraha	Welfare of Society	Bhagavad Gita (3.20-26)	कर्मणैव हि संसिद्धिमास्थिता जनकादयः	Libraries as Community Service Centers
13	Yajna	Selfless Contribution	Rig Veda (1.164.50)	यज्ञार्थात्कर्मणोऽन्यत्र लोकोऽयं कर्मबन्धनः	Ethical Knowledge Sharing in the Digital Age
14	Sama-Darshana	Equality and Fairness	Bhagavad Gita (5.18-19)	विद्या-विनय-सम्पन्ने ब्राह्मणे गवि हस्तिनि। शुनि चैव श्वपाके च पण्डिताः समदर्शिनः॥	Neutrality and Non-Discrimination in Libraries
15	Paropakara	Helping Others, Benevolence, or selfless service	Hitopadesha (1.90)	परोपकाराय फलन्ति वृक्षाः। परोपकाराय वहन्ति नद्यः॥	Library Outreach and Community Development

The ethical foundation of librarianship aligns closely with Vedic values, which emphasize truth, service, knowledge-sharing, and the welfare of society (Table-1). Vedic ethical values align seamlessly with library ethics, reinforcing principles of truth, fairness, inclusivity, and selfless service. Satya (truthfulness) ensures intellectual honesty in information services, while Dharma (righteous duty) emphasizes a librarian's ethical responsibility. Seva (selfless service) and Paropakara (helping others) highlight the commitment to public good and community development. Aparigraha (non-possessiveness) supports open access, ensuring knowledge is freely shared. Ahimsa (non-violence) fosters intellectual freedom and respect for diversity, while Shraddha (reverence for knowledge) emphasizes the preservation of cultural heritage. Sangati (collaboration) and Vidyadana (gift of knowledge) promote knowledge exchange, with librarians serving as facilitators of learning. Anrishamsya (compassion) ensures inclusivity in

user services, while Tapas (dedication) and Upaya (right means) uphold professional integrity and ethical resource management. Loka-Sangraha (welfare of society) establishes libraries as community service centers, and Yajna (selfless contribution) aligns with ethical knowledge sharing in the digital age. Lastly, Sama-Darshana (equality and fairness) upholds neutrality, ensuring non-discriminatory access to information. By integrating these values, libraries become catalysts for learning, social harmony, and empowerment, fostering a knowledge-driven and ethical society.

**b) Vedic Influence on ‘Open Access’ and ‘Knowledge-Sharing’:** The Vedic tradition upholds knowledge as a sacred and universal asset, emphasizing its free and unhindered dissemination for societal progress. In ancient India, wisdom was transmitted through oral traditions, manuscripts, and Gurukul education systems, ensuring accessibility to all seekers. This philosophy aligns closely with the modern principles of open access, which advocate for the unrestricted sharing of information to foster education, research, and innovation.

**Table 2: Vedic Culture Impact on Open Access and Knowledge-Sharing**

Sl. No.	Vedic Influence	Integration with Librarianship	Vedic Concept	Modern Application
1	Yajna (Selfless Contribution)	Open Access	Knowledge as a selfless offering for the benefit of society.	Open-access publishing, Creative Commons licensing, free research platforms (e.g., arXiv, pubmed Central).
2	Guru-Shishya Parampara	MOOCs & E-Learning	Oral transmission, direct mentorship, and personalized learning.	Free online courses (MOOCs), mentorship-driven platforms (e.g., Coursera, edX, Khan Academy).
3	Loka-Sangraha (Welfare of Society)	Digital Repositories	Preservation and sharing of sacred texts for the upliftment of society.	Digital libraries (e.g., Google Books, NDLI, Open Library) that provide unrestricted knowledge access.
4	Sama-Darshana (Equality)	Knowledge Equity	Equal access to knowledge, irrespective of background.	Free educational resources for all (e.g., Wikipedia, OER Commons, Open Library).
5	Dharma (Ethical Responsibility)	Responsible Knowledge Use	Ethical learning, truthfulness, and responsible dissemination of wisdom.	Open peer-review systems, fair use policies, academic integrity in digital learning.

Table 2 outlines the impact of Vedic culture on open access and knowledge-sharing, highlighting key Vedic values alongside their influence on contemporary initiatives. Vedic culture profoundly influences open access and knowledge-sharing, promoting selflessness, equity, and ethical responsibility in librarianship. The principle of Yajna (selfless contribution) aligns with open-access publishing, where knowledge is freely shared for the benefit of society through platforms like arXiv, PubMed Central, and Creative Commons licensing. The Guru-Shishya Parampara (teacher-student tradition) inspires MOOCs and e-learning, fostering mentorship-based and personalized learning on platforms such as Coursera and Khan Academy. Loka-Sangraha (welfare of society) emphasizes digital repositories for preserving and disseminating sacred texts and knowledge, as seen in Google Books, NDLI, and Open Library. The concept of Sama-Darshana (equality) ensures knowledge equity, promoting unrestricted access to educational resources like Wikipedia and OER Commons. Lastly, Dharma (ethical responsibility) upholds responsible knowledge use, advocating academic integrity, open peer review, and fair information dissemination. By integrating these Vedic ideals, modern librarianship fosters inclusive, ethical, and universally accessible knowledge systems, bridging ancient wisdom with contemporary digital advancements.

**c) Parallels Between the Role of Vedic Scholars and the Librarian's Ethical Responsibilities:** The ethical responsibilities of librarians closely mirror the role of Vedic scholars, both serving as custodians of knowledge, ensuring its preservation, accessibility, and ethical dissemination.

**Table 3: Parallels Between the Librarian's Ethical Responsibilities and the Role of Vedic Scholars**

Perspectives	Vedic Scholars	Librarians	Parallel
Guardians of Knowledge and Cultural Heritage	Preserved sacred texts through oral traditions and manuscripts, ensuring their authenticity across generations.	Manage archives, manuscripts, and digital repositories to safeguard cultural and intellectual heritage.	Both serve as gatekeepers of knowledge, preventing its loss and distortion over time.
Knowledge Organization and Classification	Developed structured texts like the Vedangas (limbs of the Vedas), classifying knowledge into subjects such as grammar, astronomy, and philosophy.	Use classification systems (e.g., Dewey Decimal System, Library of Congress Classification) to organize and retrieve knowledge efficiently.	Both follow systematic classification methods to ensure structured access to vast knowledge.
Ethical Responsibility and Intellectual Integrity	Upheld Dharma (righteousness) by teaching knowledge truthfully, ensuring its ethical use, and preventing	Ensure intellectual neutrality, providing diverse perspectives while avoiding bias or censorship.	Both maintain ethical responsibility in knowledge dissemination, ensuring

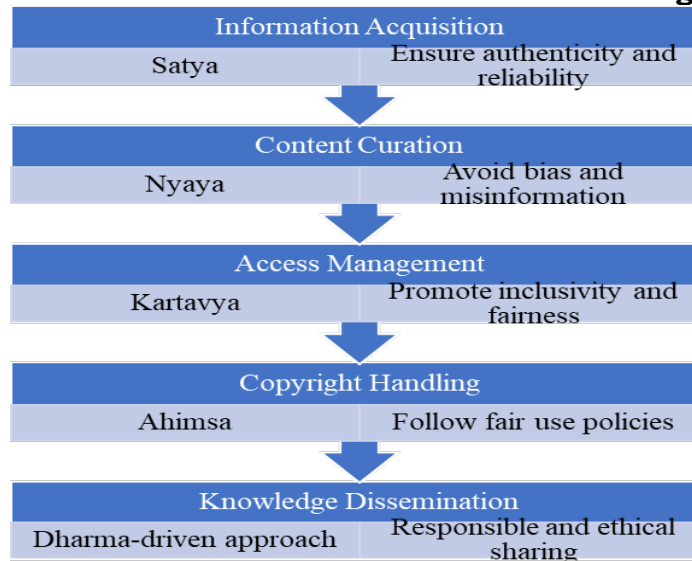


	misinformation.		truthfulness and impartiality.
Accessibility and Democratization of Knowledge	The Guru-Shishya tradition ensured free transmission of wisdom, making knowledge accessible to sincere seekers.	Promote open access, digital literacy, and free educational resources, breaking barriers to information access.	Both believe in knowledge as a right, not a privilege, working to remove restrictions on learning.
Adaptation to Changing Knowledge Systems	Transitioned from oral transmission to written scriptures as society evolved.	Adapt to digital repositories, AI-based search systems, and evolving information technology.	Both embrace new methods of knowledge preservation and dissemination to stay relevant.
Role in Shaping Intellectual and Ethical Societies	Educated students in ethics, philosophy, and self-realization, shaping enlightened communities.	Guide readers in information literacy, critical thinking, and ethical research, shaping informed societies.	Both influence intellectual growth and ethical awareness within communities.

Table 3 explain about the Parallels Between Roles of the Vedic Scholars and Librarians Ethical Responsibilities. Librarians and Vedic scholars share a common ethical mission of safeguarding, organizing, and disseminating knowledge for societal benefit. Vedic scholars preserved sacred texts through oral and written traditions, ensuring continuity across generations, akin to librarians archiving rare manuscripts and historical records. The oral tradition parallels modern digital repositories and open-access platforms, broadening access in diverse formats. The Gurukul system's emphasis on lifelong learning and mentorship reflects librarians' educational outreach and continuous learning support. Both respect diversity of thought—Vedic scholars embracing multiple philosophies and librarians curating inclusive collections upholding intellectual freedom while serving as custodians of wisdom for present and future generations.

**d) Principles of Dharma and Ethical Decision-making in Digital Librarianship:** In the digital age, the ethical challenges of librarianship demand a value-based approach rooted in integrity and responsibility. The principles of Dharma provide a timeless ethical framework, ensuring that digital librarianship upholds truth, fairness, and inclusivity in knowledge management. Here is the Decision-Making approach:

**Figure 1: Ethical Framework of Decision-Making**



- a) Satya (Truth) in Information Acquisition → Authenticity is the foundation of knowledge. Upholding truth ensures that digital collections are reliable and credible, preventing the spread of misinformation.
- b) Nyaya (Justice) in Content Curation → Ethical librarianship demands impartiality. By curating content with fairness, digital libraries can become platforms of unbiased and accurate knowledge.
- c) Kartavya (Duty) in Access Management → Knowledge should be a universal right, not a privilege. Libraries must uphold inclusivity, ensuring equal access to information for all, irrespective of socioeconomic barriers.
- d) Ahimsa (Non-Harm) in Copyright Handling → Ethical use of intellectual property safeguards both creators and users. Fair use policies must balance accessibility with respect for authorship.
- e) Dharma-Driven Knowledge Dissemination → The goal of a librarian is to serve as a custodian of knowledge, ensuring responsible, ethical, and purposeful sharing that benefits humanity.

**6. S. R. Ranganathan's Principles of Library Science through the Lens of Vedic Values:** Dr. S. R. Ranganathan's principles used in five laws of library science and colon classification can be analyzed from the following point of views:

**a) Laws of Library Science vs Vedic Values:** S. R. Ranganathan's Five Laws of Library Science, when viewed through Vedic values, reveal deep philosophical synergy. Books are for Use aligns with Satya (Truth & Utility), ensuring knowledge serves practical human upliftment. Every Reader, Their Book reflects Nyaya (Justice & Fairness), advocating equitable access to information. Every Book, Its Reader parallels Kartavya (Duty), emphasizing the librarian's responsibility to connect resources with their rightful users. Save the Time of the Reader resonates with Tapas (Discipline & Efficiency), valuing systematic organization. The library is a growing organism mirrors Dharma (Righteous Growth), underscoring continuous evolution while preserving core wisdom.

**b) Colon Classification vs Vedic Values:** Ranganathan's Colon Classification System (CCS) shares conceptual harmony with Vedic

principles. Its PMEST facets echo the Vedic division of knowledge, reinforcing Rta (Cosmic Order) through hierarchical structure. Facet analysis aligns with Tattva (Fundamental Truths), revealing subject components at their essence. CCS's interdisciplinary nature parallels Advaita, recognizing interconnected knowledge. Adaptability reflects Dharma, ensuring sustainable evolution. Its symbolic precision mirrors Nyaya (Logical Categorization), while its focus on retrieval efficiency reflects Satya (Truth & Utility). The system's equitable access aligns with Kartavya (Duty), upholding the moral responsibility of knowledge dissemination. Together, both CCS and Vedic traditions champion structured, purposeful, and accessible wisdom.

**Table 4: Philosophical Aspect of Colon Classification and Vedic Values**

Aspect	Colon Classification (S. R. Ranganathan)	Vedic Values & Knowledge Organization
Fundamental Structure	Facet-based classification (PMEST: Personality, Matter, Energy, Space, Time)	Knowledge categorized into structured components (Vedas, Vedangas, Upanishads)
Principle of Organization	Hierarchical and logical classification system	Rta (Cosmic Order) - structured and systematic knowledge dissemination
Facet Analysis	Subjects broken into fundamental components for precise classification	Tattva (Fundamental Truths) - knowledge divided into core elements
Interdisciplinary Approach	Allows flexibility in classifying multi-disciplinary subjects	Advaita (Interconnected Knowledge) - all disciplines are interwoven
Adaptability & Growth	A dynamic system that evolves with new knowledge	Dharma (Continuous Evolution) - knowledge expands but retains its essence
Precision & Logic	Uses symbols and notations to ensure specificity	Nyaya (Logical Categorization) - knowledge structured through reasoning
Knowledge Utility	Ensures efficient information retrieval for users	Satya (Truth & Utility) - knowledge meant for practical application
Equitable Access	Provides an unbiased system for knowledge organization	Kartavya (Duty) - Ensuring knowledge reaches the right seekers

Colon Classification (CC) and Vedic knowledge share deep structural similarities in organizing wisdom systematically (Table-5). Ranganathan's PMEST facets align with Vedic Tattvas, both breaking down reality into fundamental aspects. The concept of isolates parallels Vedic Angas, refining broad disciplines into specialized branches. Common isolates resemble Upangas, universally applicable across subjects. Notational symbols in CC function like Sutras, condensing vast knowledge into precise forms. The Chain Principle mirrors Vedic hierarchy (Rta), ensuring logical progression from broad to specific. These parallels highlight how both systems strive for accessibility, coherence, and interconnectedness in knowledge organization.

**Table 5: Comparison of Colon Classification Term and Vedic Values**

<b>Colon Classification Term</b>	<b>Definition in Library Science</b>	<b>Vedic Parallel</b>	<b>Explanation in Vedic Context</b>
Facet (PMEST Model)	Personality, Matter, Energy, Space, Time	Tattva (Fundamental Elements)	Just as facets break knowledge into core aspects, Tattvas classify existence into fundamental truths.
Main Class	Broad subject category (e.g., Science, Humanities)	Shastra (Sacred Disciplines)	Vedic knowledge is divided into disciplines such as Vedanta, Ayurveda, and Arthashastra.
Isolate	Specific subcategory within a main class	Anga (Limbs/Branches of Knowledge)	Like isolates in CC, Vedic texts have specific branches like Jyotisha (astronomy) within Vedanga.
Common Isolate	Recurrent categories applicable across subjects	Upanga (Subsidiary Texts)	Just as Upangas supplement Vedic study universally, common isolates apply across multiple knowledge areas.
Sector Notation	Notational symbols to represent subjects	Sutra (Concise Aphorisms)	Vedic texts use Sutras—short symbolic phrases—to encapsulate vast knowledge, similar to CC notation.
Array	Group of subjects at the same level	Varga (Categorized Groups)	In Vedic classification, knowledge is grouped into categories like Devatas (deities) or Yugas (ages).
Chain Principle	Knowledge organized hierarchically from broad to specific	Rta (Cosmic Order & Hierarchy)	Vedic wisdom follows a structured hierarchy, from Brahman (supreme reality) to individual consciousness.

**7. Finding:** The alignment between Vedic ethical values and library ethics highlights a deep-rooted commitment to truth, fairness, and selfless knowledge dissemination. Libraries uphold Satya (Truthfulness) and Dharma (Righteous Duty) by ensuring intellectual integrity and unbiased access to knowledge, much like Vedic scholars preserved sacred wisdom with authenticity. The principle of Seva (Selfless Service) manifests in open-

access initiatives, reflecting the Vedic emphasis on knowledge as a shared societal resource rather than a commodity. Similarly, Loka-Sangraha (Welfare of Society) and Sama-Darshana (Equality and Fairness) promote inclusivity, ensuring that information remains universally accessible. The Guru-Shishya tradition of direct mentorship finds a modern parallel in MOOCs and e-learning platforms, fostering personalized education. Ethical knowledge-sharing practices in digital libraries and open-access publishing resonate with Yajna (Selfless Contribution) and Upaya (Right Means), reinforcing responsible knowledge management. Furthermore, Shraddha (Reverence for Knowledge) and Ahimsa (Non-Violence) underscore the importance of cultural preservation and intellectual freedom, preventing the distortion of knowledge. Just as Vedic scholars adapted from oral traditions to written texts, modern libraries evolve with digital repositories and AI-driven information systems. Ultimately, both systems serve as custodians of wisdom, ensuring knowledge remains a tool for enlightenment, ethical governance, and social progress.

Ranganathan's Five Laws of Library Science align deeply with Vedic values, reinforcing ethical and purposeful knowledge dissemination. Satya (Truth & Utility) emphasizes that knowledge should be actively used for learning, mirroring the first law. Nyaya (Justice & Fairness) and Kartavya (Duty & Responsibility) ensure equitable access and responsible knowledge distribution, resonating with the second and third laws. Tapas (Discipline & Efficiency) and Dharma (Continuous Evolution) highlight the need for structured growth and adaptability in libraries, reflecting the fourth and fifth laws.

The Colon Classification System (CCS) and Vedic knowledge organization share a common foundation in structured, logical, and purposeful knowledge dissemination. PMEST facets align with Vedic divisions, ensuring systematic classification, while Rta (Cosmic Order) reflects CCS's hierarchical approach. The interconnected nature of knowledge in CCS parallels Advaita, promoting interdisciplinary understanding. Additionally, Nyaya (Logical Categorization) and Satya (Truth & Utility) resonate with CCS's emphasis on precision, retrieval efficiency, and the ethical duty of knowledge dissemination.

The Colon Classification System (CCS) and Vedic knowledge organization both emphasize a structured and hierarchical approach to categorization. The PMEST facets parallel Tattvas, breaking down knowledge into fundamental elements, while Shastra disciplines resemble CCS's main classes. The use of Sutras (concise aphorisms) in Vedic texts mirrors CCS's sector notation, ensuring brevity and precision. Additionally, Rta (Cosmic Order) aligns with CCS's chain principle, reinforcing systematic knowledge organization from broad to specific levels.

**8. Conclusion:** The profound alignment between Vedic knowledge systems and modern library science underscores a shared commitment to ethical, structured, and inclusive knowledge dissemination. Vedic values such as Satya (Truth), Nyaya (Justice), Dharma (Righteous Duty), and Seva (Selfless Service) resonate deeply with the principles of library ethics, ensuring intellectual integrity, universal accessibility, and responsible information management. Ranganathan's Five Laws of Library Science and the Colon Classification System (CCS) mirror the structured and hierarchical approach



found in Vedic traditions, reinforcing the timeless necessity of organized and purposeful knowledge preservation. The Guru-Shishya tradition, akin to modern MOOCs and open-access initiatives, highlights the continuity of mentorship-driven learning, while Yajna (Selfless Contribution) and Ahimsa (Non-Harm) promote ethical knowledge-sharing practices. As libraries evolve in the digital age, integrating AI-driven repositories and adaptive classification models, they continue to reflect the Rta (Cosmic Order) of knowledge, ensuring that wisdom remains a tool for enlightenment, equity, and societal progress. This research reaffirms that both Vedic and library sciences serve as custodians of knowledge, upholding the timeless pursuit of truth, accessibility, and ethical scholarship for the betterment of humanity.

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