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## Librarians rue lack of proper legislation

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**Ahmedabad:** Maharaja Sayajirao Gaekwad started the first public library movement in the country from Gujarat. Still, the state does not have a library legislation for years. This was what most librarians from across the state rued at a conference on 'Management Librarians and Their Role in Promoting Research' organised at Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India, (EDI) on Saturday.

Over 95 librarians from across the state participated in the first roundtable conference conducted by Management Libraries Network (MAN-LIBET), a network of librarians from Indian management institutes established in year 2000.

The conference also expressed concern over stagnation of public li-

braries. Anil Kumar, librarian at IIM-A, said, "All over the world, libraries are moving towards print to digital form. But, the importance of spacious libraries has not diminished."

About the focus of the conference, B Ganapathi, librarian at EDI said, "We wanted to provide a forum to management library professionals to discuss the strategies and the mechanism of sharing latest information among the members."

Omprakash Gupta, professor of management at Prairie View A&M University, US, said, "Most of the US libraries have modern facilities and are funded by the state. But here, public libraries are in deplorable state and no accountability for them. "During my childhood, I used to enjoy Bal Bhavan. But, today it seems to be defunct," added Gupta.