

Ranganathan, Dewey, and Bong-Suk Park*

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ABSTRACT

This article investigated the lives and careers of three great librarians in India, USA, and Korea: S. R. Ranganathan, Melvil Dewey, and Bong-Suk Park, respectively. It also explored their influences and contributions.

Their births and early years, and marriage; college years; commitment toward librarianship and careers; achievements in other areas; personalities; and commemorative activities, among others, were analyzed. Their contributions to librarianship and library community in the general theory of library science, professional education, classification and cataloging, library administration and management, and library associations and library movement were also investigated.

Special focus was on Bong-Suk Park, with a special regard to his unrealized dream for the Korean library community as well as insufficient estimation related to him and his achievements.

Keywords: Ranganathan, S. R.; Dewey, Melvil; Bong-Suk Park; Five Laws of Library Science; Library History – Korea; Korean Library Association – History

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1. Introduction: Three Great Librarians in India, USA, and Korea

More than ten years have passed, since the author said, in an “Introduction” to *The Life and Thought of a Librarian Bong-Suk Park*, “a kind of my feeling of hunger resulted from a vague envy the author has had since the time when starting to learn library and information science” (Oh 2000, 9), to the library cultures and librarianships of more developed countries. After deciding to study library and information science and getting to know Dr. Ranganathan and Dewey, the author has respected for their achievements they had done in almost all areas of our fields. However, the author's feelings of hunger did not satisfied, but felt more hunger, comparing them with our situations in Korea.

This has made the author to have an attention to a pioneer in the modern Korean library community, Bong-Suk Park. Since finding out about him when studying library classification, the author has tried to investigate his life and works both in our areas and others. And during the editing and writing the above mentioned book, the author met his sons and their families and heard about some unknown stories about him. In the process of the study and during the interviews, the regrets at a unfortunate librarian have been growing larger.

This paper will try to take a glance at the lives and their contributions to librarianship, of three pioneers of the library community in India, USA, and Korea, with a special emphasis on Bong-Suk Park.

2. Their Lives and Careers in Brief¹⁾

2.1 Births and Early Years, and Marriage

Melvil Dewey (10 December 1851 - 26 December 1931, aged 80) was born in Adams Center, New York, as the fifth and last child of Joel and Eliza Greene Dewey, and named Melville Louis Kossuth Dewey. His father made boots and shoes, and ran a general store. Linderman described his childhood, based on his diary, that “regular attendance at church and Sunday School and at a lodge of Good Templars ... fishing, hunting, sleigh rides, ... study both during and

1) This part is mainly based on the articles of Linderman (1972), “Melvil Dewey” (2011), Wiegand (2000), Nam (2011), Garfield (1984), Gopinath (1972), “S. R. Ranganathan” (2011), and Oh (2000).

between school terms” (Linderman 1972, 144). He adopted his parents' strict Republican and Baptist values (Wiegand 2000), Dewey had married to Annie R. Godfrey (1878) and his only son Godfrey was born 1887. In 1924, he married Emily McKay Beal, after the death of Annie.

Ranganathan (9 August 1892 - 27 September 1972, aged 80) was born in the small town of Shiyali, Tamil Nadu in British-ruled southern India. He was “the first of four children and the first grandchild of maternal and paternal grandparents” (Matthews 1980, 27). His family belonged to the Brahman community, but his father died when he was only six. So, he was brought up under the influence of his grandfather, who was a schoolteacher. He invested Ranganathan with a lifelong love of Hindu sacred literature (Garfield 1984, 37). He was known as an excellent student, despite poor health and frequent lack of funds (Matthews 1980, 27), and a handicap of stammering (“S. R. Ranganathan” 2011).²⁾ He married Rukmini in 1907, and after her death, married Sarada in 1929 who bore his only son T. R. Yogeswar Ranganathan in 1932.

Bong-Suk Park (22 August 1905 - 1950?, aged 45) was known to be born in a country village in Milyang-Gun, Kyoungnam Province, Korea. However, it is not clear about his birth and elementary education, etc – it is said that even his name did not listed during 20 years in the family register for some uncertain reason (Won 2000, 30). He seemed to learn the Chinese classics in a village school (seodang) and to graduate from elementary school at the age of 16 (1921). Jong-Lin Won supposed that he studied elementary course in the Sajipkwa (四集科) of Tongdosa Temple Haklim (Won 2000, 32). In 1922, he entered Chungang High School. School records showed that he was excellent in the subjects of mathematics and history, and received “excellent” in the general appraisal on personality (Won 2000, 34). After graduating from Chungang High School (1927), he taught student at elementary school in his hometown a year (1927-1928). He married when he was college student, and had a first son, Ki-Hong Park, in 1931 (Park, Ki-Hong 2000, 96). But not much are known about his family.³⁾

2.2 College Years

Dewey entered Amherst College in 1870 and was graduated from it in 1874, during which was “fairly routine” years. He began to have an interest in a kind of shorthand and simpler

2) He gradually overcame it in his professional life.

3) The author of this presentation had met several times with Bong-Suk Park's two sons, Ki-Hong and Kwang-Uk, and received some pictures of Bong-Suk Park, and heard that his one of the grand-daughters had studied librarianship and worked in the National Assembly Library in the past. But could not obtain more information about his family.

spelling. He was known to have more women friends than men, and to begin his friendship with W. S. Biscoe (Linderman 1972, 144). He began to work in the College library from his junior year and stayed there until April 1876. He earned a bachelor's degree in 1874 and a master's in 1877.

Ranganathan earned B.A. (1913) and M.A. (1916) degrees in mathematics from Madras Christian College, Tamil Nadu, and received a professional teaching certificate (1917) from at Teachers College, Saidapet, to teach mathematics. After appointed to Madras University librarian, he travelled to University College London to study library science, and received an honors certificate from the school. During his nine-month stay there, he visited over a hundred libraries to observe their operation.

Bong-Suk Park, after resigning his teaching job, entered Hehwa College (1929), under the financial support of the Tongdosa and Pyochungsa Temples. According to his school register, he got good grades (4th among 24 students), and especially good at philosophy and gymnastics (Won 2000, 35). However, other information about his college years are not sufficient.

2.3 Commitment toward Librarianship and Careers

Dewey, since he started his work in the library as a student assistant in 1873, devoted himself to the library profession. Based on his brief memoranda, Amherst College adopted in 1873 and published his classification scheme in 1876. After 1876 meeting of librarians in Philadelphia, he began to attract attention from the American library community. After a few years of work with American Library Association including editing of *Library Journal*, he became chief librarian at Columbia University (1883-1888), director of the New York State Library (1888-1906), and secretary and executive officer of the University of the State of New York (1888-1900), to contribute to the library community.

Ranganathan, in 1924, applied for “the well-paid post” of Madras University librarian, and to his surprise, won the appointment, with lacking any library training, except his knowledge of librarianship from an *Encyclopedia Britannica* article he read days before the interview (Garfield 1984, 38). At the beginning, he was reluctant to embrace librarianship and forced into the field against his will (Garfield 1984, 38). However he became devoted to library science since his return from London in 1925, and his contributions had worldwide influence. He stayed Madras University as a librarian and professor from 1925 to 1944, during which emerged his major works including *Five Laws of Library Science* (1931), *Colon Classification* (1933), *Classified Catalog*

Code (1935), etc. After teaching at Hindu University in Varanasi (Banaras) (1945-1954) and at the University of Delhi (1947-1954), he was engaged in research and writing in Zürich (1954-1957). After returning to India he served as visiting professor at Vikram University. In 1962 he founded and became head of the Documentation Research and Training Centre in Bangalore.

Bong-Suk Park's commitment to library was begun when he got a job in the library of the Japanese Government-General of Korea in 1931 immediately after he graduated from the college. In 1939 he passed the librarians' license examination from Japanese Department of Education, and in 1942 promoted to 3rd place among more than 80 employees in the library (Won 2000, 36-37). During the period of Japanese occupation, he continuously published many articles and book reviews in various journals. After the liberation of Korea (1945), he had led the Korean library community as a key person in it. He was one of the most influential persons in the modern Korean library community (Lee and Jo 2006, 6). He served as Deputy Librarian of the National Library, professor of National Library School, Preparatory Committee Chair of the Chosun (Korean) Library Association. During these periods, he produced his major works, *Korean Decimal Classification* by Park (KDCP) and *Korean Catalog Rules for Oriental Books*. His efforts and activities were continued until he kidnapped to North Korea during the Korean War (1950).

2.4 Achievements in Other Areas

Dewey had interests in various fields, including metric system, spelling reform,⁴⁾ resort development, etc. In 1876 when he moved to Boston, he helped found the Spelling Reform Association, the Metric Bureau, and the American Library Association. Through his Library Bureau, which was established by himself as a library and office supplies company in 1881, he resumed efforts to increase efficiency in library services and to advance spelling and metric reform (Wiegand 2000). He, in 1895, founded the Lake Placid Club as a health resort with his wife Annie. He, with his son Godfrey, had been active in arranging the 1932 Lake Placid Winter Olympics as the chairman of the New York State Winter Olympics Committee. He was known as the proponent of "Lake Stearns" in Florida formally changing its name to "Lake Placid" ("Melvil Dewey" 2011). He set up the Lake Placid Club Education Foundation and turned over all his assets to it, in 1922, to carry on such reform causes as metric conversion and simplified spelling as well as the publication of DDC after his death.

4) "He shortened his first name to Melvil as a young adult, dropped his middle names and, for a short time, even spelled his last name as Dui" ("Melvil Dewey Biography" 2011).

Ranganathan, after receiving a professional teaching certificate, taught physics and mathematics in many universities, including the Government College, Mangalore. He used so-called “library-centered teaching” and he was called as a “born teacher” (Gopinath 1972, 60). Then he was active in extracurricular activities, including the post of the secretary of the Mathematics and Science Section of the Madras Teachers' Guild, and public lectures, etc. However, after turning to librarianship, he dedicated himself to it for the rest of his life.

Bong-Suk Park, in addition to the vigorous activities and contributions in and to library community, exercised super-human efforts and abilities in various areas, including Korean history and bibliography, Buddhism, etc. He served as an standing committee member of Korean Association of Bibliography; established an evening school of higher education for working women, Kukhwa Women's School, and served as the principal of it; taught students bibliography as a lecturer at Dongkook University; organized the Young Men's Buddhist Association and served as the head of it; wrote many articles on Buddhism and Tripitaka, and many pieces of poems and essays; etc. One of his textbook on Korean history, *Kuksajeonghae* (meaning authentic interpretation of Korean history) had been one of the bestseller during almost 30 years.

2.5 Their Personalities

Dewey was a tall, powerfully built man, lithe and wiry, and gave an appearance of strength (Linderman 1972, 156). But he was also known to have difficult personality, and he established a pattern of making powerful enemies early in life (“Melvil Dewey” 2011). Linderman said that “he was serious, but approachable, energetic and aggressive but often tactless, a born organizer ... In spite of overwork and crowded schedules Dewey always found time for hospitality” (Linderman 1972, 156) and that “Dewey's active mind produced ideas rapidly, but he lacks the patience to educate others to his thinking. ... He himself never held any animosity toward people who opposed him and he expected others to react in the same way” (Linderman 1972, 157). Some reported that Dewey had sexually harassed several ALA women in public over the years (Wiegand 2000). He was known to have instituted at the Lake Placid Club restricting membership based on race and religion and it perpetuated and amplified the region's reputation for racism (Wiegand 2000). Wiegand describes him as “one who was driven, tense, often arrogant, ... who had an obsessive need to control ... and self-righteously denied his own racism and class prejudices” (Wiegand 1996, back cover).

Ranganathan was considered by many to be a workaholic — during his two decades in Madras,

he consistently worked 13-hour days, seven days a week, without taking a vacation for the entire time, and even worked his wedding day (“S. R. Ranganathan” 2011). He was “renowned for his abstemious life-style. ... He ate only lightly, shunned coffee and tea, and wore plain homespun garments. He usually walked barefoot to the library and worked there barefoot, ... As for his real home, it was sparsely furnished and lacked electricity” (Garfield 1984, 43). He endowed some of the saved money to a mathematics fellowship at Madras Christian College in honor of his mathematics professor, Edward B. Ross (1925), and to the Sarada Ranganathan chair of library science at the University of Madras in honor of his wife (1956) (Garfield 1984, 43). Some of followers of Ranganathan “viewed him as a yogi, and he concentrated his whole body, mind, and soul on the discipline of library science, so they felt he had embraced it as a path to spiritual perfection” (Garfield 1984, 43).

Jong-Lin Won described Bong-Suk Park, through the interviews with the former classmates in high school, as sincere, diligent, modest, introverted but sociable, and responsible man. He had strong national consciousness; his hobby was reading; and he was excellent in Chinese classics and especially good at football (Won 2000, 34-35). Others also said his personality in high school was not changed; and he was very diligent person in his work and in writing, all through his life (Park, Hee-Young 1968, 34-35; Park, Ki-Hong 1960, 95-97).

2.6 Commemorative Activities, etc.

Dewey has the title of “Father of Modern Librarianship” (“Melvil Dewey Biography” 2011), “Pioneer in Library Education” (“Melvil Dewey Biography” 2011), “Pioneer of Library Economy” (Cook 1956), “Father of Library Classification” (Kaula 1965), “Father of modern Library Classification” (Ranganathan 1959). He received honorary doctoral degrees from Alfred University and Syracuse University. ALA awards Melvil Dewey Medal, which is “an annual award ... of achievement for recent creative leadership of high order, particularly in those fields in which Melvil Dewey was actively interested: library management, library training, cataloging and classification, and the tools and techniques of librarianship” (ALA Homepage 2011). Comaromi summarized his roles as organizer, advocate, standardizer, librarian, and teacher (Comaromi 1980, 251). Hill described him as “the most influential and effective librarian who ever dwelt among us” (Hill 1932).

Ranganathan was awarded Padmashri (“S. R. Ranganathan” 2011)⁵⁾ in 1957, and honoured

5) It is the fourth highest civilian award in the Republic of India.

with the title of national research professor in library science in 1965, both by the Indian government, for valuable contributions to Library Science. His picture was once on a stamp in India. He received Margaret Mann Citation in Cataloging and Classification (ALA) in 1970, and Grand Knight of Peace (Mark Twain Society) in 1971. He received an honorary doctoral degrees respectively from the University of Delhi (1948) and from the University of Pittsburgh (1964). He received the title of “Father of Indian Library Science” (Garfield 1984, 37-44). FID established the Ranganathan Award in his memory in 1976. Ranganathan's birthday is being observed every year as the National Library Day in India (“S. R. Ranganathan” 2011).

Bong-Suk Park was awarded the Order of Culture Merit, second grade, in 2003. He was the first case of library personnel who received the order.⁶⁾ Except the Order, there have not been any special commemorative activities yet.⁷⁾ He received the title of “Pioneer of Korean Library Science” (Won 2000, 82).

3. Their Contributions to Librarianship and Library Community

3.1 In the General Theory of Library Science

Dewey, even though not writing any book for general theory or introduction to library science under his own name – of course there were many handbooks edited under his direction, minutes recording his remarks and statements –, did contributions to the development of it through a series of speech at library conferences, seminars, and lectures and teaching works at Columbia University, etc., as well as continuous publications of articles and essays to the journals including *Library Journal*.

Gopinath said that the most far-reaching effect of Ranganathan's contribution flows from his formation of the *Five Laws of Library Science* (Gopinath 1972, 66), consisting of the following statements: (1) Books are for use, (2) Every reader his book, (3) Every book its reader, (4) Save the time of the reader, and (5) A library is a growing organism. For Ranganathan and his followers,

6) After him, four members of library community have received the order: Dae-Sup Um (2004, 2nd grade), Bong-Soon Lee (2005, 3rd grade), Jae-Chul Lee (2006, 3rd grade), Byoung-Il Yook (2007, 3rd grade), and Won-Ho Cho(2011, 5th grade).

7) For more information, see chapter 4.

they were “a first step toward putting library work on a scientific basis” (Garfield 1984, 39). The laws were “succinct statement of reason of our profession” (Palmer 1966) and “help ensure that libraries are service-oriented” (Garfield 1984, 39).

Bong-Suk Park did not write any book for general theory or introduction to library science under his own name. But as a practitioner in this field, he contributed to the development of the general theory of library science, including through his lectures and teaching of “the introduction to library science” in the library school, etc.

3.2 In Professional Education

Dewey, as we all know, opened the world's first formal library school named the School of Library Economy in Columbia College, in 1887 – he himself became the librarian of the college in 1883. In addition, he “pioneered the creation of career opportunities for women” (“Melvil Dewey Biography” 2011) – this school “admitted seventeen women to its first, twenty-member class” (Wiegand 2000). In 1890, the school was removed to Albany, and re-established as the New York State Library School there under his direction. His library school had become a model for others opening across the country (Wiegand 2000). Since then, the professional education based on the systematic apprenticeship program emphasizing practical experience and library technical training had been the mainstream in American library schools, until Williamson reports were published in 1923. In addition, Dewey, as regents' secretary (1888-1900), helped to transform University of the State of New York (USNY) into a powerful organization that substantially improved the quality of New York's educational system (Wiegand 2000).

Ranganathan is said to establish “an edifice of high standards for the professional education of librarians in India” (Gopinath 1972, 74). He founded a library school in 1929 that was later incorporated into the University of Madras. He also started a master (1948) and a doctoral program (1950) at the University of Delhi, and founded the Documentation Research and Training Centre at Bangalore (1962), under the auspices of the Indian Statistical Institute. In addition, “the establishment of postgraduate courses, the curriculum and the textbooks for such courses, and the establishment of cadres for professional excellence were some of his important contributions” (Gopinath 1972, 74).

Bong-Suk Park, as Deputy Librarian of the National Library, helped to establish the National Library School in 1946, which was the first formal professional school to train and educate librarians. As a faculty member of the school, he taught students cataloging and classification, etc. 77 students

were graduated from this school from 1946 to 1950, and they had very important roles in the development of libraries in Korea at that time (National Library of Korea 2006, 336-338). In addition, he helped the National Library to organize the nation-wide library conferences, two of three of which were organized by the Korean Library Association. He took the lead of the preparations each time, and he himself participated in many of the programs (Nam 2011, 618-619). He also arranged the work to include the contents about libraries into the elementary school textbook – this resulted in the inclusion of a chapter on libraries in the Korean Language textbook for 6 grade students (Won 2000, 50).

3.3 In Classification and Cataloging

Dewey is the inventor of Dewey Decimal Classification (DDC), the most widely used system in the world till now, in the age of 21 as a student assistant. The idea of decimal classification came from Eureka moment as follows: “I dreamed night and day that there must be a satisfactory solution. ... one Sunday during a sermon the solution flashed over me so that I jumped in my seat and came very near shouting, “Eureka!”” (Dewey 1920). This system demonstrates the importance and power of practical applicability. DDC has been published 12 editions during his lifetime. Upon the cataloging, his Library Bureau sold high quality index cards and filing cabinets, and set the standard for the size of cataloging cards in 1877 (Wiegand 1996, 54).

Ranganathan's contributions to classification were well known by his analytico-synthetic ideas embodied in his *Colon Classification* (1933) and theorized in his *Prolegomena to Library Classification* (1937). When he saw the Meccano set, at Selfridge's store in London, which was created an entirely new toy with each new combination of metal strips, nuts, and bolts, he realized that his classification scheme should likewise consist of elements that could be freely combined to meet the needs of each specific subject (Garfield 1984, 40). Upon cataloging, he designed *Classified Catalogue Code* (1935), and invented Chain Procedure for deriving subject index entries. His works on these areas are his best recognized contributions, which were well described in the credits for his Margaret Mann Citation in *Cataloging and Classification*: “... for his Colon Classification which has profoundly influenced modern classification theory and research through its faceted analysis techniques, for his works on the principles and structure of the classified and dictionary catalog, and for a lifetime of signal devotion to the advancement of library science” (Atherton 1970, 582).

Bong-Suk Park's one of the well-recognized contribution to Korean library community was

his achievements in cataloging and classification area. He taught students at the National Library School this subjects, as well as editing his major works, *Korean Decimal Classification* by Park (KDCP) (1947) and *Korean Catalog Rules for Oriental Books* (1948). Both had been the most widely used major bibliographic tools in the early of the 1950s in Korea.

3.4 In Library Administration and Management

Dewey began his careers in the library as a student assistant, and became one of the most competent library director at that time. He became librarian in chief at Columbia College in 1883. Under his leadership, in five years a collection of 50,000 poorly cataloged, indifferently classified, and infrequently used volumes scattered over nine departments turned into 100,000 uniformly cataloged and classified volumes located in a central library, and circulation increased 500 percent (Wiegand 2000). He, as director of the New York State Library (1888-1906), completely reorganized the state library, making it one of the most efficient in America (“Melvil Dewey” 2011), as well as publishing bibliographies of “best” books and establishing a traveling library system (Wiegand 2000). He suggested the idea of the state library as controller of school and public library services within a state (“Melvil Dewey” 2011). He made the state library's collections to be grown by 1905 to 500,000 volumes, making it the fifth largest library in the country (Wiegand 2000).

Ranganathan's first post in the library was the Madras University librarian, without any preparation to the job. After returning from the nine-months travel for studying librarianship in London, in 1925, he took full charge of the library. In his *Library Administration* (1935), he broke down library works into approximately 1,000 component jobs, and “by precisely identifying many different library functions, he was able to simplify and streamline library routine” (Garfield 1984, 41). He designed public library cooperative systems, and participated many works to develop library standards.

Bong-Suk Park, upon the liberation of Korea (1945), led, as a head of the Task Force, the work to receive the library of the Japanese Government-General of Korea, prepared for it to re-start as the National Library of Korea, and became the Deputy Librarian of it (National Library of Korea 2006, 43-44). He himself was in charge of the heads of three departments of General Affairs, Cataloging, and Circulation of it at the beginning. He helped to establish the library school for the training of the librarians, and prepared the national conferences for librarians. He tried to acquire and collect the materials including the handouts, of the liberation years, organizing

the Collection Task Force. He refused to the request to transfer the law collection from the National Library to the Law Library of Military Administration (National Library of Korea 2006, 47-48), in order to maintain the centralized collection of the National Library. He was said to attend the National Library, even after the North Korean soldiers had occupied the area during the Korean War, in order to carry out his responsibility. On 13 July 1950, when he was preparing to go to the library, janitor of the library came to his house and called him. When he opened the door, there were North Korean polices, and they took him. Since then, we could hear nothing from him any more.⁸⁾

3.5 In Library Associations and Library Movement

Dewey participated, as one of the founders, in the American Library Association and was secretary (1876-1891) and president (1890/1891 and 1892/1893). He also founded and became editor of *Library Journal* in 1877 when he moved to Boston. Miksa interestingly said that “Dewey's original version of what the ALA should be was obviously a combination of a public good combined with private enterprise” (Miksa 1983, 95). Namely, he begun it “not to continue as a practicing librarian but rather to make his living from independent commercial projects which centered on publishing both his classification scheme and a library periodical and on selling library as well as other educational supplies” (Miksa 1983, 74). Whatever the reason, since then, he had actively participated in ALA till 1906 when his opponents forced him out of it (Wiegand 2000).

Ranganathan participated actively in the library organizations both in India and abroad. He formed the Madras Library Association in 1928 to promote development of public libraries in the state of Madras. He later served as president of the Indian Library Association (1944-1953), as the president of the Madras Library Association (1958-1967), and as vice president of the Governing Council of the Indian Standards Institute (1965-1972). He participated actively in the activities of such international organizations as UNESCO, IFLA, ISO, and FID. He founded the FID committee on classification theory, served as vice president of the FID Council, and became honorary chairman of the FID Committee on Classification Research.

Bong-Suk Park begun to organize the Chosun (Korean) Library Association, immediately after the liberation in 1945, to maximize the power of the library community and to cope with many

8) This is based on the witness from his son, Ki-Hong Park (Oh 2000, 14-15). But some materials including *The History of the National Library of Korea, Sixty Years* (National Library of Korea 2006, 49) record him as just “missing” during the Korean War.

problems through cooperative efforts, in the confused times. As a Preparatory Committee Chair of it, he prepared the first General Conference of the Association. At this conference, he transferred the post to Director of the National Library, Jong-Wook Lee. Since then, he had been in charge of general works of it as a executive director (Won 2000, 44-45).

4. Unrealized Dream of an Unfortunate Librarian, Bong-Suk Park

This article tried to shed new light on the lives of three pioneers in the library community, and investigated again their contributions to library community and library and information science, with comparison. Dewey pioneered American library community through active participation in all around of the library management, educations of library professionals in particular and of the public school in general. In addition, he achieved much in many areas of interest including metric system, spelling reform, resort development, etc. Ranganathan pioneered international as well as Indian library community through his well-known books and articles and through active participation in international organizations. Both of them lived long lives of 80s, had participated in the international activities without language barriers, and were known internationally. Now there are much amount of books, articles and research papers about them and their theories on library science, and we can search and read them very easily even through internet.

Bong-Suk Park had made much contributions to the modern Korean library community, comparable with those of Melvil Dewey in the American one and those of S. R. Ranganathan in the Indian one (Oh 2000, 9-19). Surprisingly, most of his major achievements had been done, within very short periods – only within 5 years (1945-1950). However, most of his achievements and contributions, unfortunately, were not continued to the next generations successfully, let alone having any chance to be known internationally. The basic tools such as *Korean Decimal Classification* by Park (KDCP) and *Korean Catalog Rules for Oriental Books* were not revised and not used any more, in spite of the merits of them. There must be many reasons for that. Certainly, one of the major reasons must also be based on the fact that he seemed to be kidnapped to North Korea, in only the age of forties, considering that Korea had experienced the dark days of a kind of “red complex.”

Three of them all were types of “workaholic” pioneers with great energy and patience. On the one hand, Dewey seemed to be a type of strategic entrepreneur who continuously tried to

find a new blue ocean making use of his own achievements just before. Ranganathan seemed to be a seeker of truth who only investigated a path for library science. On the other hand, Bong-Suk Park seemed to be a died-young unfortunate leader whose dreams to rebuild their country through the library were unrealized in the wild modern Korean history.

The fact that a pioneer of library community has not been valued justly is not only the misfortune for himself and his family, but also a great loss to our Korean library community. What makes us sadder are that we ourselves know not much about himself and his contributions to our library community as well as Korean society, and that it is very difficult to find or locate some documents or materials about him. In this regard, Prof. Pil-Mo Jeong must be the first person who attended a special interest in Park's achievements and contributions. Prof. Jeong advised a series of master theses on the life and thought of him, his *Korean Decimal Classification* by Park (KDCP), *Korean Catalog Rules for Oriental Books*, etc. (Oh 2000, 17). The author listened to him about Park, as a student. Upon Prof. Jeong's 70th birthday, the author edited a book about our forgotten pioneer, and arranged it with the publisher and the related authors. The author investigated related materials, and tried to meet and interview others, including his two sons. Resultant book *The Life and Thought of a Librarian Bong-Suk Park* was published in 2000, and fortunately received much more attention from the library community than expected.

Since the publication of it, there have been many things, both of the good and the regrettable – special lectures on the great librarians including Park were held by KLA; several books on the great librarians were published; Park and others were awarded the Order of Culture Merit; his alma mater seemed to proceed the publication of his collection, but heard nothing of it; deposit building of the National Library of Korea seemed to proceed to name after Park's pseudonym, Yong-Jae, but did not; upon the IFLA General Conference 2006 in Seoul, Korean Library Association (KLA) had tried to issue a set of commemorative stamp of Park, but did not. The author heard that the present president of KLA, Dr. Tae-Woo Nam, is now planning a set of commemorative activities for Bong-Suk Park. The author hopes only good things will be increased more in the future.

5. Concluding Remarks

People always expect for the heroes or heroines to leave a legacy, all for good. And it may be reasonable for us to expect them to show off only their good sides, when we shed new lights on the pioneers in our fields who have been forgotten for long time without any attention. However,

what we should do first is to collect related literature about them extensively and comprehensively, and to study and know both the good and dark sides about them more, including through archival research, enough to evaluate or judge them through the open and somewhat strictly fair and objective discussion both from within and without the library community. They might have waited so long time, not to be praised well, based on a kind of any subjectivity, but to be rightly and objectively appreciated, from their successors in the library community. The author sincerely hope that this article can be another starting point to begin to pay more attentions to the forgotten pioneers, in our fields in Korea including Bong-Suk Park. The author hopes next international conference on our pioneers in Korean library community can be held in India or in Japan, like the International Conference here in Korea, about Dr. Ranganathan.

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