

Representation of Library Infrastructure and Professional Identity of Librarians in the Web Series Library Ek Anokhi Varta: An Analytical Study

Ashish Sharma¹ & Dr Snigdha Naskar²

¹Ph.D. Research Scholar, Department of Library & Information Science, Rabindra Bharati University,
²(Supervisor) Assistant Professor, Department of Library & Information Science, Rabindra Bharati University

Abstract:

The study examines how libraries and librarians are depicted in the Gujarati web series Library Ek Anokhi Varta. Library Ek Anokhi Varta was directed by Jasmin Bhatt (Bhatt, 2023b). The researcher found that there are 60 minutes and 7 seconds of scenes with libraries in this web series. 7 of the 8 library episodes in this web series are set in the library. The library in the series is a college library. It has ceilings and wooden bookshelves behind glass doors. The books are arranged by subject. Patrons are allowed to bring bags into the study areas. The librarian, Mansukh Kaka, is a man over 50. He helps users circulate books, puts books on the shelves, watches over the library and makes sure everything is okay. People like him because he is polite and caring. Some scenes in the series show how reading can help students learn and grow. Suraj says, "A mind needs books like a sword needs a whetstone." Suraj visits the library every day to study. This shows that reading can help people be disciplined. The series is good because it shows younger people engaging with libraries. This series does not showcase modern library technology or a wide range of library staff. This web series is dedicated to the library. These libraries are cool places where students go to learn new things and sometimes even find romance. The way this series portrays libraries can really change what people think about libraries. I think that in the future, movies and television shows should show what modern libraries are and their role in society.

Keywords: library representation, librarianship portrayal, Gujarati web series, traditional infrastructure, media stereotypes, Library Ek Anokhi Varta, Academic library depiction

Date of Submission: 26-05-2026

Date of acceptance: 05-06-2026

I. INTRODUCTION

The way people see libraries and librarians in movies and television shows shapes their perceptions of libraries and the library profession (Seale, 2008). Library Ek Anokhi Varta is an example of this. It displays how libraries and librarians are seen (Bhatt, 2023b). The library in this series is the main part of the story. The study of this series can help us understand how libraries and librarians are portrayed on television. Library Ek Anokhi Varta is a Gujarati web series written and directed by Jasmin Bhatt. This is the First series, with 8 episodes; it uses the library as a setting where students read, interact, and pass the time. The story is set in a college library that appears about ten times. It is on the screen for about 60 minutes and 7 seconds. What is interesting is that the librarian does not have a personal room or cabin, and the librarian's desk was kept in the middle of the stack area beside the reading room. The librarian is shown as easy to talk to and is called "Mansukh Kaka," which means "Mansukh Uncle." This shows that the librarian is close to the library's users. This study explores how the library and the librarian are depicted in the series. It examines factors such as the library's condition, infrastructure, operations, and the librarian's role. The study states that the series does a good job of showing how the library is involved with the community. These findings are useful for professionals who work in libraries, as well as for scholars and students, as this motivates them to study in libraries and to build a reading culture. (Zhao & Li, 2025) Library Ek Anokhi Varta's depiction of libraries may increase library usage and foster a reading atmosphere.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

This study explores how libraries and librarians are depicted in the animated series Family Guy. The study closely examines some scenes with the character Joanna. It finds that the show often relies on clichés, such as portraying the librarian as smart but lonely. The library in the show is a place to study and socialise. The series still uses stereotypes, but it also shows that people generally view libraries and librarians positively. The study's results show that old stereotypes are still used (Miccichè, 2025).

This work explains how libraries and librarians are depicted in videos people make and post on YouTube. It pays attention to emerging stereotypes. The study found that, most of the time, libraries and librarians are portrayed in a positive light. Male librarians are often shown as being really awkward with people. Female librarians are often depicted disrespectfully and not shown doing their jobs. Libraries are often portrayed as places where people pull pranks and do things that aren't okay, rather than as places where people learn. These YouTube videos show that people still hold negative views of libraries and librarians, especially among younger people. This is a problem because it means the people trying to change the public's view of libraries and librarians are not very effective (Eric, 2008).

This research work of Sharma & Naskar examines how Indian libraries and librarians are portrayed in documentary films produced between 1990 and 2025. The study finds that some documentary films portray libraries as boring places and Indian librarians as very strict (Sharma & Naskar, 2026). Some documentary films portray libraries as happy places where Indian librarians help people and do good. The study also finds that the library's location and the type of Indian library it is can affect how it is portrayed in documentary films (Sharma & Naskar, 2026).

This study examines how librarians are portrayed in Season 1 of *The Librarian*. It uses Roland Barthes' approach to understanding signs to examine what the show says about librarians. The study finds that the character Miche is an example of what a librarian should be like. *The Librarian Season 1* shows what it means to be a librarian, grounded in KDKI's ideas. The show does a good job of explaining the values and skills librarians need. (Meilinda & Prasetyawan, 2024, pp. 62-70) This suggests that popular media, like *The Librarian Season 1*, can help people think positively about librarians and the work they do in society (Utomo & Lydia, 2023).

This study looks at how librarians are represented through the character in the second season of *Ascendance of a Bookworm*. Myne shows what a great librarian should be. She is smart, a leader, and comes up with new ideas. She is an example that can help change people's negative views of librarians. (E & Y, 2024) The character Myne in *Ascendance of a Bookworm* really helps show librarians in a positive light (Meilinda & Prasetyawan, 2024).

This research examines how people think about librarians in YouTube videos. It compares videos made by librarians and people who are not librarians. The study found that videos made by non-librarians often portray librarians in a negative light. They portray librarians as maids, policemen, or just not very good at their jobs. On the one hand, librarian-made videos portray librarians as heroes. The study says that even though librarians are trying to change what people think of them, people still have ideas about librarians. So librarians need to come up with interesting ways to show people what they really do (Attebury, 2010).

III. METHODOLOGY & LIMITATION

This study adopts a qualitative content analysis methodology (Selvi, 2019) to systematically examine the depiction of library infrastructure and librarianship in the Gujarati web series *Library Ek Anokhi Varta* (Bhatt, 2023b). More than ten times this web series was seen to conduct this research study. The main data were collected from this web series; all videos and verbal expressions with the library setup were critically analysed (Fazeli et al., 2023). Supplementary sources include the official trailer, IMDb synopses, and promotional materials, as no full script was provided. Reference followed APA 7 style.

The limitation of this work is that it examines only one web series, so we do not know whether the results hold for web series in general. This work is confined to this series only. The Study might also miss some important aspects of the Gujarati language.

IV. OBJECTIVES

1. To examine the representation of the library's physical and organisational setup in the web series.
2. To analyse the characterisation of the librarian and the depiction of his responsibilities.
3. To evaluate significant scenes that take place within the library setting.
4. To assess the extent of the library's screen time and its narrative significance.
5. To assess how users utilise the library for reading and social purposes.

V. PLOT SUMMARIES

The main characters in this web series are (Bhatt, 2023b):

- **Suraj**:- Suraj is intelligent, disciplined, and enjoys reading. He sometimes loses his temper, but he stays focused on his studies and responsibilities. He is waiting for his final results and already has a job offer from a company in Mumbai.
- **Aksa**:- Aksa is a modern woman who is not very interested in studying. She likes spending time in restaurants and travelling, and she often gets into conflicts. She is in her final year of psychology studies.

- **Aarav:** A young, wealthy boy who comes across as immature. He wants to live a comfortable, stress-free life. He studied commerce, took his exams last year, and is now waiting for his results.
- **Tara:-** Tara is simple, sincere, and responsible. She values tradition and relationships. She is also in her final year of studies.
- **Mansukh Kaka:-** Mansukh Kaka (Mansukh Uncle) is the librarian in the web series. He is not directly involved in the main events, but his role is important. He is cheerful, helps library users, and often helps settle conflicts among the other characters.

VI. STORY OF THE WEB SERIES EPISODE- WISE

- **S1. E1. A clash during the first meeting (Pehli Mulakaat Ma Takraar)**

Tara and Aksha are friends. They are very different. They meet Aarav in the library while studying. Then something happens with Suraj. The story explores the relationships and feelings of Tara, Aksha, and Aarav, and how they interact in the library. The library is like a place where students come for their study (Library - Ek Anokhi Varta - episode list - IMDb 2023).
- **S1. E2. If you're not there, then neither am I (Tu Nai Toh Hu Nai)**

This episode shows how people interact in a library. Tara has a time dealing with her emotions, but Aksha is there to help her. Aarav and Suraj have different roles, and Mansukhkaka, the librarian, helps his patrons by providing them with books. The library and a book they all read become things that connect the characters, showing how their relationships change and the problems beneath the surface (Library - Ek Anokhi Varta - episode list - IMDb 2023).
- **S1. E3. A New Friendship (Navi Dosti)**

At a cafe, Aarav, Aksha, Suraj and Tara become friends. Aksha is stuck between Aarav and Suraj, which worries Tara. Aarav gets to know Aksha, and Suraj is okay with it, even though he has feelings for Aksha. There is a lot of stress because Aksha can't decide. Later, Suraj tells Chinukaka, the owner of the house where Aarav and Suraj reside, that Aarav shows he cares about his friends, even when things are emotionally complicated (Library - Ek Anokhi Varta - episode list - imdb 2023).
- **S1. E4. The One You Run Away From, Will Come Closer (Jenathi Durr Bhaagso, Ejj Najeek Aavshe)**

This episode is about the library and the people in it, all connected by a book. Mansukhkaka helps users provide the required book. Suraj gives Tara a book that is not finished yet. We can see that Suraj really likes Tara. The library is where a lot of feelings and tough choices come up, and the users there are all learning how to deal with one another. The library shows how the relationships between the people in it are changing (Library - Ek Anokhi Varta - episode list - IMDb 2023).
- **S1. E5. A Fight Between Tara and Aksha (Tara and Aksha No Jhagdo)**

This episode is about the relationships between users in the library. The library is a place where users share books and ideas. Aksha is friends with Aarav and Suraj. She likes them in different ways, which makes things weird with Tara. Readers in the library have a lot of feelings, like love, jealousy and confusion. This makes it hard for them to figure out what to do. The library is a place where people have to make choices because of how they feel about each other (Library - Ek Anokhi Varta - episode list - IMDb 2023).
- **S1. E6. Tara and Suraj Came Closer (Tara ane Suraj Aavya Najeek)**

This episode is about the relationships between readers in a library. Mansukhkaka, apart from his profession, helps Tara and Suraj sort out their problems. The library is a place where people can see how others are feeling. The library setting is important because it is where all these relationships unfold, and it changes along with the characters, especially when it comes to love and relationships between characters like Tara and Suraj and Aarav and Aksha (Library - Ek Anokhi Varta - episode list - IMDb 2023).
- **S1. E7. Aksha is taking advantage of you (Aksha Taaro Misuse Kare Che)**

This episode is about a conflict that happens in a library. Mansukhkaka is a person who likes to serve his users best. Suraj and Aarav do not get along because of Aksha. They. This makes everyone feel bad. The library is a place where we can see that people do not understand each other well. The relationships between people are delicate (Library - Ek Anokhi Varta - episode list - IMDb 2023).
- **S1. E8. Final Chapter**

This episode is about the transitions that happen in a library. The library is where people interact with each other over books. Mansukhkaka says that Suraj is leaving, and this makes people tell each other how they really feel. The library is where people go to deal with their emotions and move on. It is a place where people can work through their feelings and understand their relationships with others. The

library shows how people are feeling and how their relationships are changing (Library - Ek Anokhi Varta - episode list - IMDb 2023).

VII. LIBRARY INFRASTRUCTURE/SETUP

The library in this web series looks like an academic library. It has an open-access system, so readers or users can enter and access the stack area and are allowed to bring their bags and other personal things into the reading and study areas. Look at the books or search for bookshelves by shelves. This shows that the library has a flexible policy. The whole library looks like an old-fashioned academic library (Bhatt, 2023b).

The library has a high ceiling, which makes it feel more open and spacious. The books are stored in old-fashioned wooden shelves with glass doors. These shelves are locked by the librarian. The reading area features wooden tables and comfortable chairs, making it a great place to study. The furniture looks old-fashioned, like the rest of the library. Even though the library looks old, it is clean and well-maintained. The books are organised by subject. There are signs at the top of each bookshelf that indicate what subject is on that shelf.

The library has a huge collection of books. The library has many bookshelves, so it has a lot of resources on various subjects. The library shown in this web series is well-maintained and works well. It is also easy for people to use the library, as we would expect from a regular academic library. The library in the web series has many books and resources. The library is a place where people can go to study and learn. The library's design creates a typical academic library environment. The library is a place where users can find books and other resources.

VIII. THE LIBRARIAN'S CHARACTER AND DUTIES

The librarian in the web series Library Ek Anokhi Varta (Bhatt, 2023b) is portrayed as a simple, cheerful person. He is also very good-hearted. This shows in the way he makes the library a warm and welcoming place. The librarian does not have a librarian's room; he just sits near the reading room, surrounded by all the bookshelves. This way, he can always see what is going on. Users can easily talk to him and take his help.

The librarian is very friendly. This helps him to quickly become friends with the patrons. It was his user-friendly behaviour that made him a librarian uncle. Every student in the library calls him Mansukh Kaka, meaning Uncle Mansukh,, to show their respect for the librarian. This shows that he is approachable and makes the library feel like a second home. The librarian is polite and always looks nice and decent. He usually wears shirts and trousers. The librarian looks like he is over 50. This makes him seem very wise and reliable. He tells the students to take their time to read the books.

Mansukh Kaka is the only library staff member who handles everything well. He is in charge of lending books, ensuring the reading room is quiet, putting books back on the shelves, and keeping track of all the library's resources. He does not have any help. He still manages to do everything very efficiently and effectively.

The librarian knows the library's collection well. He can always find the books that people are looking for. He does not need a computer to do it. When someone returns a book that's not complete, he does not get angry. Instead, he says, "take your time to finish the book and then return it". This shows that he cares more about students reading and enjoying books than about following rules. There are some memorable things that the librarian says. One time, he says to Tara and Suraj, "I have given people stories to read my life, but you two have given me a unique story". This is a nice thing to say, and it shows that the librarian is not just someone who lends books but also someone who cares about the people who use the library. The librarian often calls people by name who use the library. Sometimes he even calls them "beta", which means child. This shows that he really cares about people and wants to help them.

The librarian in this web series is a special person who plays an indirect yet important role. He is an example of what a librarian should be like. He is professional, but very kind and caring. He shows that a librarian is not just someone who lends books but also someone who can help users learn and grow.

IX. DISCUSSION

The web series starts with Tara and Aksa in the library reading a book. This is very important to say because the library is a key part of this web series. Tara is reading a book to relax her mind. She thinks the books she needs to read for class are boring. Tara tells Aksa that she should read books too. Tara thinks reading is important (Bhatt, 2023b). The web series has eight episodes. The library is in most of them except Episode 3. The library is where most of the story happens. 43.56% Of the series is about the library. This shows how important the library is to the story. The library scenes are 60 minutes and 7 seconds long. The whole series is 138 minutes long. In Episode 3, Suraj says something from an English web series. He says, "A mind needs books like a sword needs a whetstone". He explains what it means. He says that, like a sword needs to be

sharpened, our minds need books to learn and grow, for this library is important. This shows how important reading is. It also shows that libraries are places to learn and grow.

In Episode 6, Tara and Suraj argue in the library. The librarian comes there to help them resolve their issue. Mansukh Kaka goes out of his way to talk to them and help them understand what went wrong. This shows that the librarian truly cares about his users. The librarian's actions demonstrate his nature. Suraj also finds a place to stay with the library's help. This just goes to show that the library is more than a place to read books. The library and the librarian are really helpful (Bhatt, 2023b). These are the books students like to read. Some of these books are *The Difference Between Mad and Sensible*, *Every Breath*, *Falling in Love Again* and *The Last Letter from Your Lover*. These books show that the students like to read about emotional things. The last episode is very emotional. Suraj says goodbye to Mansukh Kaka and the Library. Suraj decides to stop going to the library. The librarian helps him with the paperwork. Give him back his money. They say goodbye. It is clear that they respect each other. The episode also shows that the Library is not always quiet. Sometimes arguments show that the Library is a place where people can express themselves. The series shows the Library in a positive way. It makes the Library look like a place to study and a social place. This is good because it can encourage users to visit the Library. The series also has some limitations. For example, the Library does not have any technology. This is not very realistic. Also, the Library only has one staff member. This web series is really important because it shows how the media can change how we think about things. It looks at the Library as a place where people can learn and come together. In the future, it would be great if the Library were shown realistically, with things like computers and digital arena technology. This can help people see why the Library is what it is. The Library is a place, and it would be good if we could understand that.

X. FINDINGS

The research identified the following key findings.

1. The library depicted in this web series lacks digital infrastructure.
2. In the reading room, students talked with each other, showing that it is a social space.
3. The library was open-access, and users were allowed to bring their bags inside.
4. Besides regular library duties, the librarian also provides personal advice and problem-solving.
5. The library was set up in a traditional way.

XI. CONCLUSION

This study examines how the Gujarati web series *Library Ek Anokhi Varta* (Bhatt, 2023b) depicts infrastructure and librarianship. It is a story that portrays traditional academic libraries as places where users come to study. The study examined 60 minutes and 7 seconds of scenes set in the library, out of a total of 138 minutes. This is 43.56 per cent of the total time across the 7 out of 8 episodes. The books are organised by subject. There are comfortable chairs to read in. The librarian, Mansukh Kaka, has a desk in the middle of the library. It is great to see that a Gujarati web series is about the library (Bhatt, 2023b). The old-style library shows that young students love to read and borrow books. The students like Tara and Suraj visit the library often. Ask for books for study. Suraj says he likes reading because it helps him finish his work. He thinks that if you can finish a book, you can finish anything in life. The library is a place where people can learn and fall in love at the same time. It is like a temple where the goddess of knowledge, Saraswati, is worshipped.

Some scenes in the series show how the library helps patrons. The library is a place where students can go to learn and make friends. It is not only a place to study but also a place to resolve. The series shows that the library is a place that helps people grow and learn. The good things about the series are that it shows young people using the library and learning from it. The bad thing is that it shows no tools and only one staff member. Overall, the series is a good example of how libraries can be portrayed positively. The web series *Library Ek Anokhi Varta* shows that libraries are not outdated but remain important today (Bhatt, 2023b). It shows that libraries can be places where people can learn and grow. It is still a good example of how libraries can be portrayed positively. Through this series, students and researchers can see the importance of libraries. This will help the masses think of libraries as places where they can learn and grow.

REFERENCES

- [1]. Attebury, R. I. (2010). Perceptions of a profession: librarians and stereotypes in online videos. *Insecta Mundi*. <https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/libphilprac/433>
- [2]. Bhatt, J. (2023b). *Library Ek anokhi varta* [Video]. MX Player. Retrieved May 4, 2026, from https://www.mxplayer.in/show/watch-library-ek-anokhi-vartha-series-online-70a9b9a96de067c3a98dc6d66b122d21?utm_source=google_web&utm_medium=watchaction . Gujarati
- [3]. Bhatt, J. (Director). (2023). *Library Ek anokhi varta*. Jasmin Bhatt Films. <https://www.imdb.com/title/tt29713492/>
- [4]. E, M. & Y, P. (2024). Representation of the Librarian in the Character of Urano Motosu in the Anime *Ascendance of a Bookworm*. *Tibannaru: Jurnal Ilmu Perpustakaan dan Informasi* 8(1). <https://doi.org/10.30742/tb.v8i1.2960>
- [5]. Eric, P. (2008). A whole new world of freaks and geeks : libraries and librarians on YouTube. *Library and Information Science Research E-Journal*, 18(2). <https://doi.org/10.32655/libres.2008.2.5>

- [6]. Fazeli, S., Sabetti, J. & Ferrari, M. (2023). Performing Qualitative Content Analysis of Video Data in Social Sciences and Medicine: The Visual-Verbal Video Analysis Method. *International Journal of Qualitative Methods* 22. <https://doi.org/10.1177/16094069231185452>
- [7]. Library - Ek anokhi varta: Episode list. (2023). IMDb. Retrieved February 18, 2026, from https://www.imdb.com/title/tt29713492/episodes/?ref_=tt_ov_epl
- [8]. Meilinda, E., & Prasetyawan, Y. Y. (2024). Representation of the Librarian in the Character of Urano Motosu in the Anime Ascendance of a Bookworm. *Tibannaru Jurnal Ilmu Perpustakaan Dan Informasi*, 8(1), 62. <https://doi.org/10.30742/tb.v8i1.2960>
- [9]. Miccichè, P. F. (2025). LIBRARIES AND LIBRARIANS IN "FAMILY GUY". LIBRARY REPUTATION IN U.S. ANIMATED TV SERIES AUDIENCE. *Revista EDICIC*, 5(1), 1–12. <https://doi.org/10.62758/re.301>
- [10]. Seale, M. (2008). Old Maids, Policeman, and Social Rejects: Mass Media Representations and Public Perceptions of Librarians. *Electronic Journal of Academic and Special Librarianship* 9(1). <https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/ejasljournal/107/>
- [11]. Selvi, A. F. (2019). Qualitative content analysis. In *The Routledge handbook of research methods in applied linguistics* (pp. 440-452). Routledge.
- [12]. Sharma, A., & Naskar, S. (2026). Portrayal of Indian libraries and librarians within the documentary films. *International Journal of Humanities and Social Science Research*, 12(2), 155–159. <https://www.socialsciencejournal.in/assets/archives/2026/vol12issue2/12164.pdf>
- [13]. Utomo, N. C., & Lydia, C. (2023). Representasi pustakawan dalam *The Librarian Season 1*. *Berkala Ilmu Perpustakaan Dan Informasi*, 19(1), 17–32. <https://doi.org/10.22146/bip.v19i1.2389>
- [14]. Zhao, X. & Li, Z. (2025). The antecedents of reading behavior in university libraries: a meta-analysis. *Frontiers in Education* 10. <https://doi.org/10.3389/educ.2025.1644168>

ABOUT AUTHOR

Ashish Sharma (<https://orcid.org/0009-0008-4435-0092>) works as an Assistant Librarian at Techno India University, West Bengal. He has completed his BLISc and MLISc from Rabindra Bharati University, Kolkata. He is pursuing a PhD in the Library & Information Science stream from Rabindra Bharati University, under the supervision of Dr Snigdha Naskar. He has qualified for UGC NET and WBSET in Library and Information Science. He has more than 6 years of experience in the field of the Library.

Dr Snigdha Naskar (<https://orcid.org/0009-0007-1960-4591>) is an Assistant Professor of the Department of Library and Information Science at Rabindra Bharati University. Previously, she worked at the esteemed Asiatic Society, Kolkata, and also served in the same position at Vidyasagar University. She has qualified for UGC NET with JRF. She has more than 14 years of teaching experience. She has written many articles in various esteemed Journals, National and International seminars and conferences, etc. She was invited as a Speaker/Resource Person by various universities and institutions and chaired many sessions.