

SOCIAL JUSTICE IN LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE

New Directions and New Frontiers in
the Islamic Republic of Iran

Edited by Bharat Mehra, Leili Seifi
and Vanessa Irvin

ADVANCES IN
LIBRARIANSHIP

VOLUME 58

**SOCIAL JUSTICE IN LIBRARY AND
INFORMATION SCIENCE**

ADVANCES IN LIBRARIANSHIP

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IN LIBRARY AND
INFORMATION SCIENCE:
NEW DIRECTIONS AND
NEW FRONTIERS IN THE
ISLAMIC REPUBLIC
OF IRAN**

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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

*This book is dedicated to the numerous lives of innocent Iranian women
and children lost due to the geopolitical ravages of war during the
past and events of the current day.*

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CONTENTS

<i>List of Figures and Tables</i>	<i>xi</i>
<i>Series Editor's Introduction</i>	<i>xiii</i>
<i>About the Editors</i>	<i>xvii</i>
<i>About the Contributors</i>	<i>xix</i>
Introduction	
<i>Bharat Mehra, Leili Seifi and Vanessa Irvin</i>	<i>1</i>
SECTION ONE	
Framing the Context [Key Takeaways]	
<i>Bharat Mehra, Leili Seifi and Vanessa Irvin</i>	<i>13</i>
Chapter 1 Comparing the Services of Libraries in Iran and the World in Realizing Social Justice: A Scoping Review	
<i>Mohammad Reza Ghane and Farzaneh Ghanadinezhad</i>	<i>19</i>
Chapter 2 Social Justice in Iran's Libraries: Legal, Ideological, and Technical Challenges	
<i>Dariussh Alimohammadi</i>	<i>41</i>
Chapter 3 Developing a Framework of Social Justice to Evaluate Public Libraries in Iran	
<i>Azam Sanatjoo</i>	<i>55</i>
SECTION TWO	
Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics [Key Takeaways]	
<i>Bharat Mehra, Leili Seifi and Vanessa Irvin</i>	<i>91</i>
Chapter 4 A Conceptual Framework for Paradigm Shift in Academic Libraries in Iran: Changing the Role of Libraries as Accelerators in Science, Technology, and Innovation	
<i>Leila Nemati-Anaraki and Shadi Asadzandi</i>	<i>95</i>

Chapter 5 The Impact of International Sanctions on the Scientific and Research Activities of Iranian Faculty Members <i>Golnessa Galyani-Moghaddam</i>	109
--	-----

Chapter 6 Thematic Messaging of Political Solidarity Related to the Israel– Hamas War in Gaza on the Website of the Iran Public Libraries Foundation <i>Bharat Mehra and Anonymous Author</i>	129
---	-----

SECTION THREE

National Library and Archives of Iran [Key Takeaways] <i>Bharat Mehra, Leili Seifi and Vanessa Irvin</i>	145
--	-----

Chapter 7 Is Digital Readiness in the 21st Century a Necessity to Establish Social Justice in Knowledge Societies? A Case Study of the National Library and Archives of Iran <i>Narges Neshat and Farideh Osareh</i>	149
--	-----

Chapter 8 Social Justice Illustrations in Archives Processes and Services: A Case Study of the National Archives of Iran <i>Saeed Rezaei Sharifabadi and Sara Soltani</i>	185
---	-----

SECTION FOUR

Marginalization and Underserved Populations [Key Takeaways] <i>Bharat Mehra, Leili Seifi and Vanessa Irvin</i>	201
--	-----

Chapter 9 Amplifying Silenced Voices: Potential Methodologies for Enhancing Minority Representation in Libraries and Archives of Iran <i>Neda Zeraatkar and Azadeh Vatanpour</i>	205
--	-----

Chapter 10 <i>Where Did You Sleep Last Night</i>: Feminism for Information Justice <i>Elham Shabani</i>	225
---	-----

Chapter 11 The Institute for the Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults (Kanoon): Historical and Analytical View of the Establishment of Iranian Children’s Libraries <i>Zouhayr Hayati</i>	243
--	-----

SECTION FIVE

Personalized Perspectives [Key Takeaways] <i>Bharat Mehra, Leili Seifi and Vanessa Irvin</i>	261
--	-----

Chapter 12 Planning and Organization of an International Conference on the Design and Development of Public Library Services in Iran: From a Woman's Critical Autoethnographic Leadership Perspective <i>Leili Seifi</i>	265
Chapter 13 Social Librarianship and Social Movements in Iran: An Activist's Perspective <i>Mansoureh Shojaee</i>	287
SECTION SIX	
Works-in-Progress: Future Directions [Key Takeaways] <i>Bharat Mehra, Leili Seifi and Vanessa Irvin</i>	295
Chapter 14 Preliminary Glimpses of Social Justice in Iran's Public Libraries: Existing Reality and Possibilities <i>Alireza Isfandyari-Moghaddam and Farahnaz Naderbeigi</i>	299
Chapter 15 The Need for an Extensive Review of the Users of the National Library and Archives of Iran to Operationalize Social Justice: A Brief Glimpse <i>Amir Reza Asnafi</i>	315
Chapter 16 Promoting Public Library Services to Overcome the Digital Divide and Inequality: An Exploratory Opinion Case of Elderly People in Iran <i>Rahmatollah Fattahi and Siamak Mahboub</i>	321
Chapter 17 An Exploratory Study of the Perspectives About Iranian Doctoral Students' Education in Library and Information Science Within and Outside the Country: Issues of Justice or Injustice? <i>Mortaza Kokabi</i>	337
<i>Index</i>	347

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LIST OF FIGURES AND TABLES

Figures

Fig. 1.1.	Search Steps and Final Selection of Analyzed Works Based on the PRISMA Diagram Framework.	26
Fig. 1.2.	Types of Libraries Providing Social Justice Services in Iran.	30
Fig. 1.3.	Types of Libraries Providing Social Justice Services At the International Level.	30
Fig. 3.1.	Spatial Justice in the Public Library.	63
Fig. 4.1.	Conceptual Model of Libraries as Accelerators.	103
Fig. 7.1.	The Main Dimensions of Measuring Digital Readiness in the NLAI.	165
Fig. 7.2.	Steps to Align with Global Standards.	173
Fig. 8.1.	Subcategories Relationship Matrix in the Policy of the National Archives of Iran.	196

Tables

Table 1.1.	Search Strategy in Databases.	24
Table 1.2.	Services of Global Libraries to Operationalize Social Justice.	27
Table 1.3.	Services of Iranian Libraries to Operationalize Social Justice.	29
Table 1.4.	Solutions and Suggestions for Information Services in Iranian Libraries.	33
Table 3.1.	General Components and Instances of Social Justice in Public Libraries (First Dimension of Social Justice).	60
Table 3.2.	Components and Instances of the Implementation of Social Justice in Public Libraries for Children (the Second Dimension of Social Justice).	68
Table 3.3.	The Status of Compliance with the Dimensions of Social Justice for Children in Iran's Public Libraries According to Research Results.	69
Table 3.4.	Components and Instances of Observing Social Justice in Public Libraries for the Elderly (the Second Dimension of Social Justice).	71
Table 3.5.	Components and Instances of Social Justice in Public Libraries for the Disabled (the Second Dimension of Social Justice).	73
Table 3.6.	The Status of Compliance with Social Justice Dimensions for Disabled people in Iran's Public Libraries According to Research Results.	76

Table 3.7.	The Status of Compliance with Social Justice Dimensions for Ethnic, Linguistic, and Cultural Peoples in Iran's Public Libraries According to Research Results.	80
Table 4.1.	Library Activities to Learn and Promote Social Justice.	98
Table 7.1.	Reliability Results of the Questionnaire Using Cronbach's Alpha in SPSS Software.	165
Table 7.2.	Test Results of the NLAI's Digital Readiness in Terms of Human Resources.	166
Table 7.3.	Test Results of the NLAI's Digital Readiness in Terms of Information and Communication Infrastructure.	166
Table 7.4.	The Test Results of the NLAI's Digital Readiness in Terms of Applications and Network Services.	167
Table 7.5.	The Test Results of the NLAI's Digital Readiness in Terms of the Enablers of the Network Environment.	168
Table 7.6.	The Test Results of the NLAI's Digital Readiness.	168
Table 7.7.	Ranking Results Between the Dimensions of Digital Readiness in the NLAI.	168
Table 8.1.	Frequency and Percentage of the Presence of Subcategories in Each Category in the Reviewed Documents.	190
Table 8.2.	Subcategories and Concepts Related to the Category of Equality.	191
Table 8.3.	Subcategories and Concepts Related to the Equity Category.	191
Table 8.4.	Subcategories and Concepts Related to the Category of Participation.	194
Table 8.5.	Subcategories and Concepts Related to the Category of Rights.	194
Table 14.1.	Factors Affecting the Role of Iranian Public Libraries in the Development of Social Justice Based on Research Findings of Aziz Khani et al. (2022).	306
Table 16.1.	Changing Life Expectancy in Iran from 1976 to 2016.	326
Table 16.2.	Ratio of Public Libraries' Users in Iran and Their Population by Age.	327
Table 16.3.	A Guide to Readers Seeking a Roadmap to Use in Their Libraries.	331
Table 17.1.	The Mean Number of Doctoral Admissions for Government and Non-government Universities (IAU and PNU).	343
Table 17.2.	Student-Teacher Ratio in Government and Non-government Universities.	344

SERIES EDITOR'S INTRODUCTION

I am delighted to take this opportunity and introduce myself as the Series Editor of *Advances in Librarianship* since January 2021 in this role. Over the past few years, I have tried to extend the series' impact via integrating a critical perspective that spotlights social justice and inclusive praxis from the shadows to an emerging canon at the core of who we are and what we value in library and information science (LIS) research, scholarship, education, and practice. This strategic vision has required destabilizing of entrenched hegemonies within our privileged ranks, and in our external communities at large. The aim has been to inspire and mobilize LIS stakeholders in a more assertive capacity as active agents that directly alleviate intersecting political, economic, and social imbalances developed over the course of human history. Such efforts have now emerged as part of a larger intergenerational, community-wide international movement. They are publicly transmitted through a dynamic cultural memory and praxis of activism, advocacy, and resistance to a neoliberal global network information society that perpetuates an imperialist and colonial world order with its redrawn boundaries of power abuse, disparities, and exploitation.

Recent political attacks in the United States targeting diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) initiatives and egalitarian institutions in a civil society (e.g., libraries, colleges and universities, agencies funding DEI research, K-12 schools, etc.) stem from insecurities that threats of social justice advocacy pose to existing power differentials and status quo conditions. They are operationalized via the manipulative brainwashing of the public through flows of dis/misinformation in predominant news channels and the ransacking of democratic processes sanctioned from the highest office of the land. The use of oppressive and systemic infrastructures as terrorizing tools is meant to erase any semblance of fairness, justice, empowerment, and democracy with devastating local, regional, national, and global implications. Hence, an urgency of continued "speaking up and speaking out" in support of social justice acts of defiance by LIS professionals and others cannot be overstated. We must remain committed to examine innovative counternarratives, especially in the face of contemporary political and economic forces of aggression that are facilitated through the ubiquitous neoliberal infrastructures of capitalism (and governing authorities) the world over.

The appetite for power is insatiable. It is voracious and wants more and more unless its growth is curtailed. The dysfunction of the times, evidenced in the political oppression and loss of humanity, has worsened since the second resurrection of Donald J. Trump as the 47th president of the United States in January 2025. As we cross the quarter-century mark, plunged in these insurmountable challenges, LIS professionals need to persist in the doing-and-documenting of social justice advocacy to make some kind of impactful difference.

We must explore creative approaches and stay open to paradigmatic shifts required to serve as a foundation of inspiration upon which, together in our multiple identities and diversities, we can actively contribute to the building of a meaningful civil society around the globe. How else is it possible to offer a brighter future of universal hope and global progress for our children to inherit, instead of this politically degraded and dismal cultural inheritance of doom and decay based on widened gaps between the haves and have nots?

Yet, the harsh political realities of today provide potential opportunities for the emergence of an action-oriented space of resistance and information grounds of resilience and rebirth. New stimulating models reimagining (or extending) cultural memory institutions (e.g., libraries, museums, archives, schools, etc.) and the field of information can stimulate real change for moving us forward. We also need to better tell our stories of information activism and community mobilization in the face of overwhelming challenges to human existence, from dogmatic forces of neoliberal corporatization, political ransacking, media irresponsibility, climate change, environmental degradation, and pandemic dis/misinformation, to name a few. What do contemporary threats of human extinction and cultural decline mean for LIS professionals, be it scholars, researchers, educators, practitioners, students, and others embedded in a variety of information settings? First, it requires actions in the “doing” of resistance via information to decenter dysfunctional powerbrokers and their oppressions and entitled privileges. However, disseminating a forward-thinking agenda and narrative beyond our internally focused bastardized institutional bastions is equally important, as we adapt and adopt an active stance of resistance to political and economic marginalization and promote fairness, justice, equity, change agency, empowerment, community building, and community development.

Advances in Librarianship holds a special place in the hands, hearts, and minds of readers as a key platform to support creative ideas and practices that change and better articulate the vital contributions of libraries and the impact of information on diverse multicultural communities in a global network and pluralistic information society. Looking ahead, my aim for the series is to engage our diverse professional communities in critical discourse that enables real transformations to occur. It is important to propel progress in shifting entrenched positionalities in LIS, while making visible content related to the margins. Decentering canons and practices toward equity of representation, inclusivity, and progressive change will naturally occur. Intersecting social, cultural, political, and economic upheavals in recent times demand an urgent response from the LIS professions in this regard. This could not be more important than the current moment of the NOW.

I am truly honored and privileged to build on the legacy of Paul T. Jaeger, who served as Series Editor of *Advances in Librarianship* since 2013. His contributions built on the deployment of LIS in addressing DEI concerns more substantially beyond past lip service, also shaping the focus of the book series. In the light of contemporary toxicities of the day, I plan to continue operationalizing new directions for single or multi-authored book-length explorations and edited collections by shifting focus on understudied spaces, invisible populations from the margins, and knowledge domains underrepresented in highly impactful venues of LIS and

beyond. Examples might involve a reflective journey that established, or newly emerging LIS professionals seek to document as they critically reflect, assess, evaluate, and propose actions to change entrenched practices in different library and information-related settings. It might also involve decolonizing systemic LIS inequities that are established through biased Euro/Anglo-centricities and values with inclusion of new content from geographical diversities around the world.

Social Justice in Library and Information Science: New Directions and New Frontiers in the Islamic Republic of Iran represents some of these positive directions and more from a tragically devastated geographical region owing to the past and current political conflicts and trauma at the cost of innocent human lives, irreparable pain and destruction. The amazing collection provides a much-needed glimpse of the remarkable social justice and advocacy efforts of diverse information professionals in the intertwined sectors of galleries, libraries, archives, and museums embedded within a variety of community-based settings. The incredible information-related initiatives of progressive change and social activism present a uniquely Iranian perspective and voice of people from an often politically maligned and solely misrepresented part of the world. They represent works that illustrate a remarkable spirit of consistent commitment, resistance, perseverance, hope, resilience, and human dignity. As the chapters illustrate, these authors and other LIS professionals from Iran deserve greater inclusion, acclamation, and support from international LIS representatives, especially in the face of ongoing political adversity and subjugation. The chapters illuminate innovative and cutting-edge narratives of the actualities and potentialities of libraries and other information agencies that are emerging as institutions of the people closely aligned to the communities they serve, even under politically marginalizing conditions and circumstances. The book could not be timelier and more urgent. It serves as a reminder to keep challenging ourselves in our privileged LIS spheres of global positionality and power, of politically conditioned stereotypes and politically motivated oppressions that have emerged from an ongoing, dysfunctional colonial/imperialist, and neoliberal world orders in contemporary dynamics. The collection is a cultural homage to the role of human agency toward empowering communities and meaningful understanding via knowledge and social empathy.

In my brief narrative, I am also reaching out to our multiple audiences for their support to spread the call for proposals to new volumes in the *Advancement in Librarianship* series. Let us find our “collective voice” in the LIS professions as we identify proactive responses to resist the political and economic hegemony. Let us embrace new roles to make us (and others) all uncomfortable as we continue to “push the buttons” of progressive change, thereby, becoming stronger in our quest to further social justice and develop our humanity, human dignity, respect, and potential to the fullest.

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Bharat Mehra is Professor and EBSCO Endowed Chair in Social Justice in the School of Library and Information Studies at the University of Alabama. His research focuses on diversity and social justice in library and information science and community informatics or the use of information and communication technologies to empower minority and underserved populations to make meaningful changes in their everyday lives. Over 25 years, he has applied action research (i.e., collaborative engaged scholarship via information-related actions to achieve social justice outcomes) to further community engagement while partnering with racial/ethnic groups, international diaspora, sexual minorities, rural communities, low-income families, small businesses, and others, to represent their experiences and perspectives in the design of community-based information systems and services. He has developed a national and international reputation as a scholar with >175 peer-reviewed authored/co-authored publications on equity, diversity, inclusion, accessibility, and international (EDIA+I) social justice content (including >65 in refereed journals). He is the Series Editor of Emerald Publishing's *Advances in Librarianship*.

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INTRODUCTION

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Contemporary political diplomacy and politically motivated initiatives are definitely not seemingly working in resolving the complex multilayered political conflicts between the Islamic Republic of Iran (henceforth identified as Iran) and the nations of the Global North. It has been more than 45 years since the Iranian Revolution, which led to the overthrow of the Pahlavi dynasty in 1979. Yet, the relationships between the two warring sides (and their respective allies) have only fractured deeper since. The global crisis continues to envelop the entire Middle East in burning flames, again and again, while posing major threats of world destruction and death, maybe leading to mass annihilation once and for all, as we pass the quarter mark of the 21st century. It is difficult without taking sides in what has been absolutely clear within Iran's conservative government and the tyrannical international sanctions that have only worsened the economic plight of the common people caught in the never-ending political games of conflict and war (Aloosh et al., 2019). Besides the "finger-pointing" and political Machiavellianism every time there is violence sparked in the region leading to an ongoing saga of turmoil and destruction, is there any hope of social justice, in spirit and/or action, finding room for fairness, equity, and empowerment of the displaced publics in war-ravaged Iran? Is there a possibility of global diplomacy that might rekindle any belief in humanity or a faith toward progressive steps forward to promote global harmony and world peace in the region and the world? What of the library and information science (LIS) professions in Iran as they deal with the trauma experienced seemingly forever in their embeddedness within this perpetual carnage and destruction of their communities and loved ones? What are they doing as a mode of survival and support, and what might their potential role look like to further social justice and social equity and make a difference in their part of the world a better place for all, including themselves and their devastated public constituencies and poverty-stricken stakeholders?

Social Justice in Library and Information Science:

New Directions and New Frontiers in the Islamic Republic of Iran

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This book opens up the space for providing a glimpse of some possible answers to these difficult questions and issues. The collection also addresses an urgent need for more credible, accurate, authoritative, authentic, and current experiences about LIS research, practices, policies, and services in Iran. The edited contributions focus on how social justice and social equity are emerging as a powerful tool in shaping contemporary LIS developments even in Iran contrary to supposedly biased news coverage. The work is urgent and contemporary especially in the context of the ravaging wars and the public uprisings against police violence toward women (and others) that we have recently witnessed in the conservative nation. The experiences in this collection capture the complex nuances of intersecting realities in local context, unrepresented voices, and empowering efforts in LIS to overcome their marginalizing conditions and circumstances (Mehra, 2022a). Manuscripts include the participatory (and engaging) dimensions of LIS (including academic libraries, public libraries, special libraries, archives, LIS education, and more) that document empirical evidence and current scholarship on how progressive institutions and fearless change agents in LIS are trying to promote social justice outcomes and impacts via information-related work. As international conflict and associated political diplomacy continued during the development and production of this book, the authors provide only a glimpse in representing the passing moment in response to the ongoing trauma.

PROVENANCE OF THE BOOK PROJECT (AND POSITIONALITY OF THE EDITORS)

The origins of this book can be traced to Leili Seifi (second editor), who had contacted Bharat Mehra (first editor) as he stepped into the role of Series Editor of the *Advances in Librarianship*, a well-reputed venue published by Emerald Publishing, in January 2021. Building on the social justice legacy of Paul T. Jaeger, who had served as previous Series Editor since 2013, a strong element of Mehra's manifesto in his new role has involved efforts to expand the international content and coverage in LIS as authoritative sources. For over the past 20 years, Mehra has emerged as a strong vocal critical scholar challenging the elitist Anglo/Eurocentricity in LIS, and its reliance on solely white-privileged canons, theories, practices, and methodologies that were replicated all around the world (Mehra, 2008; Mehra & Gray, 2020). Seifi, a passionate advocate for social justice, was the scientific secretary of the first International Conference on Design and Development of Public Library Services: Patterns, Experiences, and Ideas (Seifi, 2022). Recognizing the critical need to bring diverse perspectives to the forefront of LIS in Iran, Seifi invited Mehra to join the conference's scientific committee at the time. He enthusiastically accepted the kind invitation and also delivered a keynote speech entitled "Social Justice Laws of Librarianship: New Directions of Impact in Iran" during the conference (Mehra, 2022b). In addition, during the conference Mehra and Seifi (2022) took the opportunity to deliver a short presentation entitled "Case Studies of Social Justice in Library and Information Science:

New Directions and New Frontiers in the Islamic Republic of Iran” where they introduced the idea of a possible book proposal focusing on social justice issues in Iran and elicited feedback from the audience. They did not expect such a warm and fervor response, and the encouraging audience feedback propelled them to continue the discussions and explore the possibilities of moving forward.

As initial planning discussions started taking place between Mehra and Seifi, they realized that a possible book project would illustrate strongly an opportunity to operationalize Mehra’s vision for *Advances in Librarianship* in supporting international scholars to spearhead decolonizing efforts in LIS journal publishing, with focus on: understudied spaces, invisible populations from the margins, knowledge domains under-researched, and reflective critical assessments of actions to change entrenched behaviors and systemic imbalanced inequities in different LIS communities of practice (Mehra, 2024).

It was a coming together of like minds, and the synergies were strongly inspiring for Seifi’s vision extended beyond academic discourse, and she too was deeply committed to fostering international dialogue and raising awareness of the significant role LIS plays in addressing societal challenges, particularly in the context of her beloved home country of Iran. In a context marked by international sanctions and other limitations, the concretization of the book project was greatly directed by Seifi’s strong determination to present an authentic and dynamic image of Iranian LIS scholarship at the international level. Her dedication to social justice underscores her efforts to highlight the resilience and creativity of the LIS community in navigating complex socio-political landscapes contrary to biased news coverage and political agendas.

There were several other milestones to note. First, as Mehra and Leili started to engage with possible contributors it was Seifi’s professional networks and positive professional reputation that began to attract a significant cluster of LIS academics, educators, and practitioners in Iran who initially showed interest, and then, started to contribute various aspects of their writing in response to the disciplined and structured roadmap of expectations that Mehra and Seifi had laid out to organize the process of manuscript development by the authors. Second, a key step in ensuring that the emerging work met (if not exceeded) international standards of scholarship was Mehra and Seifi’s invitation to Vanessa Irvin as third editor to join their team and assist in the manuscript growth and editing process. Irvin graciously accepted since this book project closely aligned with her highly impactful efforts to support international and minority scholars in her illustrious editorial responsibility as the Editor of *The International Journal of Information, Diversity, & Inclusion* (IJID&I) (IJID&I, n.d.), since 2019. Third, we are extremely grateful to Kirsty Woods, Senior Books Commissioning Editor (Education) at Emerald Publishing, for her faith and dedication to facilitate legal counsel assistance to navigate international laws while commissioning this project. It is instrumental to continue finding such positive directions of support that challenge blanket laws leading to fair and equitable benefits for all concerned. For example, progressive publishers and vendors should ensure provision of the same benefits to all authors irrespective of their geographical locations that are targeted by seemingly unfair international laws and sanctions. We also greatly

appreciate the editorial assistance and distribution efforts of all concerned, including the third-party staff at Emerald Publishing; without them this inspiring work would not have been possible. The editors are also greatly indebted to our team of reviewers who provided valuable assistance as needed to get outside input in providing selective manuscript critiques.

IMPORTANCE OF THE COLLECTION

Social justice and inclusion advocacy has evolved as a strong force of teaching, learning, and mobilizing progressive changes in the 21st century (Adams et al., 2018). LIS, including the profession of librarianship (i.e., academic, public, and special libraries as well as archives/museums) and LIS education are embracing social justice ideals of fairness, justice, equity/equality, change agency, empowerment, and community development via information-related work with and for underserved populations considered on the margins of society (e.g., Brook et al., 2015; Mehra et al., 2010). However, even in the contemporary age of internationalism and globalization, Anglo/Eurocentricity in LIS pervades, with slow progress in representing positive initiatives that might provide a fuller perspective of the richness from around the world, especially from non-western nations.

Iran is home to one of the world's oldest civilizations having a rich cultural history that traces its roots to prehistoric times. Also called Persia, the nation continues to exert a significant political influence on countries in the Middle East region. Owing to problematic geopolitical dynamics and ongoing political tensions with the western world (particularly the United States), Iran remains an enigma in scholarly communication, public discourse, news media, and popular culture. It is often overlooked, misrepresented, and stereotyped over many years, and these gaps are especially conspicuous in the LIS professions. Consequently, there is a dearth of knowledge (and mis/disinformation) on LIS content in Iran and its growth and development in the 21st century (Pashootanizade & Mansouri, 2008). This collection addresses an urgent need for more credible, accurate, authoritative, authentic, and current information about LIS research, practices, policies, and services in Iran. The compilation brings together diverse voices and experiences of LIS scholars, researchers, educators, practitioners, librarians, and others from Iran immersed in case study environments of social justice work. A common thread connecting their scholarship is a focus on efforts that promote fairness, justice, equality/equity, change agency, empowerment, and community development via information-related offerings and services.

We highlight below a few glimpses of key milestones through the recent historical and cultural narrative developing around Iran. These help us recognize the relevance of this book and its collection of chapters that focus on social justice aspects in the LIS professions. It is important for readers to place in context a broad sweep of historical and cultural facts about the nation to better understand the LIS contributions in this edited collection.

According to the United Nations, the current population of Iran is estimated at 85,651,435 people equivalent to 1.08% of the total world population

(Worldometer, 2022). Some scholars indicate that social justice is one of the essential ideals in contemporary Iranian society, yet we continue to encounter several challenges in adopting its principles and values in everyday life (Hoodfar & Sadr, 2010). The Islamic Republic Revolution in 1979 placed significant political emphasis on social justice in response to past conditions of perceived injustices and historical inequalities. Since then, many religious leaders, politicians, and theologians have made declarations of Islamic justice and equality in Iran's existing society (Ghaffari & Shariati, 2019). However, social justice advocates, educators, academics, minority political voices, and others have drawn attention to current controversial issues that the nation is facing for some time now (Rahmatollahi & Kaka, 2016). These include unemployment, poverty, homelessness, women's inequities, inequality in education, public oppression, etc. (Maranlou, 2014). Social justice advocates question how such conditions reflect any semblance of social justice and its attributes of fairness, equity/equality, and community empowerment, among others. For example, according to Ghaffari and Shariati (2019), the situation of governance in Iran, despite the ideals of the revolutionary leaders, has not led to a significant tangible increase in social justice impacts for the country. Furthermore, it also seems that due to the limitations in the supervisory and political institutions of governance, the current trends can become worse in the future unless people's voices are heard (Rahmatollahi & Kaka, 2016). The effects of international sanctions in response to the COVID-19 pandemic worsened the poor infrastructure and bureaucratic delays coupled with inertia that had disastrous effects, including the lack of advanced equipment for the care of critically ill patients in intensive care units that needed urgent attention and professional management (Rassouli et al., 2020).

Moreover, the Iran–Iraq war in 1980 caused much damage at the intersecting levels of economic, political, physical, cultural, emotional upheavals, and more (Butler, 2019). The subsequent economic sanctions imposed by the United States and other western nations severely isolated the country further and closed the doors of potential opportunities in access to any international support, banking and commerce, medical and health supplies, research and education, among other essentials (Kokabisaghi et al., 2019). The sanctions had a detrimental impact on the cultural and psychological health of the nation and its suffering public, who were further left at the mercy of the conservative decision-makers (Gorji, 2014). Planning any international research collaborations and growth in most fields of study (including science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM), social sciences, arts, and the humanities) became an impossibility (Bulter, 2019).

There are some references to social justice that have been integrated in the first, third, and fourth chapters of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran (The Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran, 1989). For example, the government is obliged to use all its resources for creating a favorable environment for the growth of moral virtues based on faith and piety (Chapter 1, Article 3, No. 1). It also addresses the governmental role to fight against all manifestations of corruption (Chapter 4, Article 49) and raise the level of public awareness in all fields with the correct utilization and support of/from the press, mass media, and other means (Chapter 1, Article 3, No. 2). The purpose of the government is described to provide free education

and physical training for everyone at all levels, including facilitation of general higher education (Chapter 1, Article 3, No. 1). The underlying framework is for the people of Iran to have equal rights, regardless of their ethnicity and tribe, color, race, language, and the like, that will lead to a society with no privilege for anyone (Chapter 3, Article 19). These indicators are meant to provide all citizens with equal rights and opportunities to avail themselves. The government's intention to support these rights is positive; therefore, its obligation should be to achieve urgently desired results toward the fulfillment of these ideals. However, in reality, there are gaps in operationalizing the indicators to show that the results are being accomplished.

Even as the authors were developing this proposal from May to December 2022, civil protests ignited by the death of a young woman (Mahsa Amini) in police custody spread around the country revealing a cultural chasm between Iran's educated youth and the conservative establishment (Tabnak, 2022). This reveals how women and girls continue to be treated as second-class citizens in Iran, with domestic violence, marriage every year of thousands of underage girl children between 10 and 14 years, and entrenched discrimination in law and practice (UN Human Rights in Iran, 2022). It illustrates an urgent need for voices that support freedom of expression and equality of women. There have been some feeble gestures at various international forums of progress and policy development concerning warning signs about the poor conditions experienced in the everyday lives of citizens in Iran. These include encompassing the rights to a fair and just life, proper health, education, social security, and proper conditions of work and employment. For example, the [International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights \(1966\)](#) strongly advocated for labor rights and the right to health, the right to education, and the right to an adequate standard of living. As an end result, contemporary emphasis on the simple needs of human beings was acknowledged as one of the most fundamental principles in international documents of human rights and civil liberties around the world.

In the context of this brief historical narrative, the role of LIS professionals and practitioners is important to study the rights of citizens to information in order to explore how it can play a role to further equity and equality. There are more than 6,400 librarians working in more than 3,682 public libraries and 2,000 librarians working in 226 academic libraries under the Ministry of Science and Research ([Iran Public Libraries Foundation, 2025](#); [Irandoc, 2024](#)). Yet, the experiences and perspectives of professionals in libraries, archives, and other information service providers (e.g., in community information centers, LIS education, etc.) form a minuscule part of the body of knowledge and scholarship about LIS at the international level.

In addition, access to relevant and authoritative materials and information for all people is an issue of social justice in Iran. For example, before a scholar can develop credible research, before a teacher can educate others about meaningful content, before technology professionals can use information to make a difference in their field, they all need to have access to reliable, accurate, current, and authoritative information. This collection focuses on spotlighting social justice concerns in LIS, with particular reference to academic libraries, public libraries, special libraries, archives/museums, and LIS education in Iran. In particular, this book explores LIS initiatives that embrace social justice ideals of fairness, justice,

equity/equality, change agency, empowerment, and community development via information-related work with and for underserved populations considered on the margins of society.

The issue of social justice in LIS has been one of interest in several studies across the world, so this collection has international relevance (e.g., [Jaeger et al., 2016](#); [Jones, 2020](#); [Mathiesen, 2015](#); [Mehra, 2021, 2022](#); [Oliphant, 2015](#); [Pateman & Vincent, 2010](#)). However, Iranian LIS professionals and practitioners have not considered their work and contributions in the past from a social justice lens of analysis. Moreover, the few illustrative examples we can find of LIS scholarship in Iran that integrates social justice as a guiding framework are conspicuous in their absence from international authoritative sources and publications in English.

Moreover, this collection will help address solely negative, politically motivated, top-down-oriented approaches (perpetuated through media stereotypes and public misperceptions) that have painted a biased and limited picture of LIS in Iran. Inclusion of case studies that encompass experiences, observations, voices, and viewpoints of professionals related to an emerging development of justice as a guiding principle in their workplace will serve as a counter reference to these gaps. Chapters explore social justice as it is beginning to make a difference in informing contemporary institutions' conceptualization, capacity, and resource sharing, legitimization, and policy formulation in modern Iran.

HIGHLIGHTS

This collection focuses on the concept and context of social justice applications with particular reference to Iranian LIS. The experiences and reflections of the chapter contributors provide readers with illustrative examples and strong arguments for the inclusion of social justice in libraries, archives, and LIS education in Iran. They reflect an array of practical and theoretical intersections in varied case studies that discuss challenges, opportunities, and struggles of integrating social justice in LIS work across the country.

The collection provides a focus on the intentional design and development of social justice integrated within the processes of information creation, organization, representation, management, dissemination, education, and use in Iran. The collection can potentially provide strong leadership in the country moving forward to overcome some of its contemporary challenges. Evidence-based research in specific environments of LIS documents how professionals in those settings are providing information-related offerings that meet the needs of underserved populations, illustrating operationalization of social justice ideals and attributes.

The book showcases theoretical, practice-based, policy formulation, service representation, and other dimensions of LIS work in the descriptive, analytical, and action-oriented content of the case studies. Focus is on LIS, including the profession of librarianship (inclusive of academic, public, and special libraries as well as archives/museums). Chapters include the participatory (and engaging) aspects of LIS and librarianship documenting live facts of impact to promote social justice outcomes and impacts.

Integration of social justice in LIS is interdisciplinary in nature. The chapters integrate threads of analysis from varied disciplines in the social sciences and humanities, such as sociology, psychology, anthropology, political science, history, and cultural studies (area studies of the Middle East since its focus is on Iran). The book will be of interest not only to LIS professionals (educators, practitioners, students, etc.) but also to scholars and others from these interdisciplinary settings. The book includes chapters that apply commonly used approaches in the field of social sciences, both quantitative and qualitative (and mixed) methods and methodologies.

IMPACT

This collection focuses on social justice in LIS in Iran (a Muslim country). It challenges biased notions of the western world by drawing from several concepts of social justice in LIS from Islamic perspectives. The authors are informed by an assessment of the comparative nature of social justice in LIS in Iran. Many discuss the gaps and similarities between western and Islamic-related notions of social justice and LIS as it shapes an underlying conceptual framework for their research. This enabled the concepts to be compared, thereby challenging, incorporating, and reinforcing each other. As the conceptual understanding of the authors was sharpened, links between the implementation of justice and the setting of contexts in which justice needs to be realized became more apparent. These correlations could further lead to a contextualized analysis of LIS to justice in Iran.

UNIQUE SALIENT FEATURES

The religion of Islam has underlying principles of social justice that shape everyday life experiences. LIS in Iran can go further in integrating the Islamic principles related to social justice more strongly in all aspects of their work and practice. Additionally, LIS scholars all around the world can learn about how social justice elements from Islam do shape the practice of LIS-related work. A good reference for human rights organizations should include progressive efforts from all around the world. Iran has been presented solely in a deficit light in past efforts. This collection helps address some misconceptions generated by the media that have stereotyped the imagery and perceptions of the country in the western world.

This collection also serves as a good resource for comparison of social justice in LIS in Iran and around the world.

STRUCTURE OF ORGANIZATION

Our structure of organization of the book emerged from the merger of two strategies, in terms of what was initially conceptualized during the proposal, and responding to the reality of what topics were covered in the manuscripts that