

Some Examples of American and European Library Networks

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Collaborative Efforts in American Libraries

This article presents a brief introduction of collaborative efforts in America to acquire and preserve South Asian research materials over the past fifty years. The results of these efforts can be clearly seen in the attached table showing publications received from each country and in each language in South Asia by libraries in the United States. Cooperative Acquisitions Programs were established and implemented from the early 1960s to the mid-1990s under the Public Law 480 (PL 480) Program funded by government-financed sales of agricultural surpluses to developing countries. The Library of Congress, which coordinated the Acquisitions Programs, set up regional offices in New Delhi and Karachi (later on moved to Islamabad) to collect materials from every part of South Asia east of and including Afghanistan and deliver them to the approximately thirty university and research libraries participating in the programme along with biblio-

graphical data prepared by regional office librarians specializing in each language. With regard to materials from India, twenty-six participating libraries received publications in various languages, but only the Library of Congress and the University of Chicago Library acquired materials in every language. These materials were published in the Accessions List, which was one of our best information sources. The countries and languages covered by each participating library are presented in the table.

Similar programmes have been implemented in Southeast Asia by the Jakarta Office, in the Middle East by the Cairo Office, in Brazil by the Rio de Janeiro Office and in East Africa by the Nairobi Office. Japan's National Diet Library has been participating in and receiving materials under the Co-operative Acquisitions Program for Southeast Asia (CAPSEA) since 2000.

Participating Libraries and their Language Coverage

Participants	Countries/region and Languages																													
	Bangladesh			Mongolia			Nepal				Pakistan						Sri Lanka				Tibet									
	Bengali	English	Others	English	Mongolian	Others	English	Hindi	Nepali	Newari	Sanskrit	Arabic	Balochi	Dit	English	Gujarati	Punjabi	Persian	Pusho	Sindhi	Urdu	English	Sinhala	Tamil	Others	Bhutan	China	India	Mongolia	Nepal
LC	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Berkeley	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	-	-	X	-	X	X	X	-	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Los Angeles	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	X	-	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Chicago	X	X	X	-	-	-	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Columbia	X	X	X	-	-	-	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	-	X	-	-	X	X	X	X	X	X	-	-	-	X	X	X	X
Cornell	-	X	X	-	-	-	X	X	X	-	X	-	-	-	X	-	-	-	-	-	X	X	X	X	X	-	-	-	-	-
Duke	-	X	X	-	-	-	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	-	X	-	-	-	-	-
Harvard	-	X	X	-	-	-	X	-	-	-	X	X	-	-	X	-	-	X	-	-	X	X	-	-	X	-	X	-	X	X
Hawaii	X	X	X	-	-	-	X	-	X	-	X	-	-	-	X	-	-	-	-	-	X	X	X	-	X	X	X	X	X	X
Illinois	-	X	X	-	-	-	X	-	-	-	X	-	-	X	-	-	X	-	-	X	X	-	-	X	-	-	-	-	-	-
IASWR*	-	-	-	X	X	X	-	-	-	-	X	-	-	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	X	X	X	X	X
Iowa	-	X	X	-	-	-	X	X	-	-	X	-	-	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Michigan	-	X	X	-	-	-	X	-	-	-	X	X	-	X	-	X	X	-	-	X	X	-	-	X	-	X	-	X	X	X
Minnesota	-	X	X	-	-	-	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Natl Agric Lib	X	X	-	-	-	-	X	-	X	-	-	-	-	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	X	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ntl Lib Medicine	-	X	-	-	-	-	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
New York Public	-	-	-	X	X	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	-	X	-	-	-	-	X	-	X	-	X	X	X	X	X
Ohio State	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pennsylvania	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	-	-	X	X	X	X	-	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Princeton	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	-	-	-	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Syracuse	-	X	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Texas	X	X	X	-	-	-	X	X	-	-	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	X	-	-	X	-	-	-	-	-	-
Toronto	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	-	X	-	-	X	-	X	X	-	X	X	-	X	X	X	X	-	X	-	-	-
Virginia	-	X	X	X	X	X	X	-	-	-	X	-	-	X	-	-	X	-	-	X	X	-	-	X	-	X	X	X	X	X
Washington	-	X	-	-	-	-	X	-	-	-	-	X	-	X	-	-	X	-	-	X	X	-	-	X	-	X	X	X	X	-
W. Washington	-	-	-	X	X	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wisconsin	-	-	-	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	-	X	-	-	X	-	-	X	-	-	X	-	-	-	X	X	X	X
Yale Law	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Indiana Univ.	-	-	-	X	X	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	X	X	X	X
Maryland	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	-	-	-	-

X Receiving materials
- Not receiving materials

*Institute for Advanced Studies of World Religions
Center for Research Libraries (Chicago) receives serial publications only

A table for India is omitted for want of space.

source: *Accessions List South Asia*, Vol. 15, Jan.-Mar. issue, p. 3, 1995

In the mid-1990s when PL 480 funds allocated for the South Asia Cooperative Acquisitions Program (SACAP) were exhausted, the system was revised to cooperative acquisition through annual fees and the formerly indiscriminate collection methods became more selective, resulting in a decline in the number of materials collected. Although the era in which American libraries walked off with everything is over, participating American libraries still possess more extensive collections of the latter half of the twentieth century than the national libraries of any other country.

A comparison of materials in any one South Asian language reveals that, at least with regard to those published in the country of origin during the last fifty years, participating American library collections are superior in both quantity and quality to the best collections in Japan. Even the quantity of materials in collections of that period belonging to national or other representative libraries in any South Asian nation cannot compare. The day will inevitably come when students and scholars of late twentieth-century South Asia will be forced to conduct their research in the United States simply because it is the only country where materials are still preserved. British scholars conducting research at the Oriental and India Office Collections in the British Library, which has the greatest concentration of political and economic materials of the nineteenth and the first half of the twentieth centuries, are outnumbered by scholars from South Asia, North America, Japan and other regions, and a similar situation is expected to occur in the near future in the Library of Congress in Washington or the University of Chicago with regard to materials of the late twentieth century.

Libraries and research institutions participating in this programme subsequently formed a consortium, continuing the cooperative acquisitions system coordinated by the Library of Congress. The consortium also maintains a network for microfilming historical source materials. In 1962, it launched the South Asian Microfilm Project (SAMP) in cooperation with the Center for Research Libraries (<http://www.crl.uchicago.edu>), and remarkable achievements have been made in recording archeological materials, settlement reports, banned books and other materials from India.

The Center for Research Libraries (CRL) was established specifically for university and research libraries and provides services only to member institutions. It collects and preserves a broad spectrum of materials including government publications from every state of the United States, foreign newspapers, and European dissertations. Located near the University of Chicago, the CRL is housed in a four-storied building that has windows only on the ground floor where the offices are located. All other floors are windowless and designed to shut out natural light and provide complete air-conditioning in order to prevent deterioration of the materials. Japan has reached the stage where it requires the establishment of a similar system to ensure the preservation of valuable materials and their collaborative use.

Establishment of Regional Library Facilities

The South Asia Cooperative Acquisitions Program (SACAP) policy in the late 1990s shifted away from exploitative collection methods towards the establishment of regional library facilities for each language and onsite preservation. The



Website of Library of Congress, USA (<http://lcweb.loc.gov/>)

United States provides the funds while regional organizations have become the central actors. The Roja Muthiah Research Library (Chennai, <http://www.lib.uchicago.edu/e/su/southasia/RMRL.html>) and the Urdu Research Centre (Hyderabad) are examples of this trend.

More recently, the Center for South Asian Libraries (CSAL) was founded by the Columbia University, the University of Chicago and the Center for Research Libraries (CRL) in January 2000 with the objectives of acquiring, processing and preserving historical source materials in the South Asian region.

After the 9.11 terrorist attack, the United States began committing significant sums to research on South Asia, with a reported twenty million dollar increase in annual funds allocated for this purpose. In 2002, the Council of South Asia Library Centers was established and became a CSAL member. The Roja Muthiah Research Library, Sundarayya Vignana Kendram and the Urdu Research Centre also became members while the Asiatic Society (Dhaka) is currently being considered for membership. These are anticipated to become nodal institutions for various language materials and regional research. The cataloguing of materials has the highest priority.

The Committee on Research Materials on Southeast Asia (CORMOSEA, <http://www.library.wisc.edu/guides/SEAsia/cormosea/>) is a network of libraries in the United States with connections to Southeast Asia.

Examples of Networks in European Countries

There are many different networks for libraries concerned with materials and research on Asia and Africa in England, of which the Society of College, National and University Libraries (SCONUL, <http://www.sconul.ac.uk/>) is a typical example. The Standing Conference on Library Materials on Africa (SCOLMA, <http://www.soas.ac.uk/scolma/>) is also very active, holding annual conventions for information exchange and presentation of research as well as hosting seminars and coordinating the collection of materials by country and subject.

The International Institute for Asian Studies in Holland publishes a newsletter and provides convenient information on library activities (<http://www.iias.nl/>).

(translated by Cathy Hirano)

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