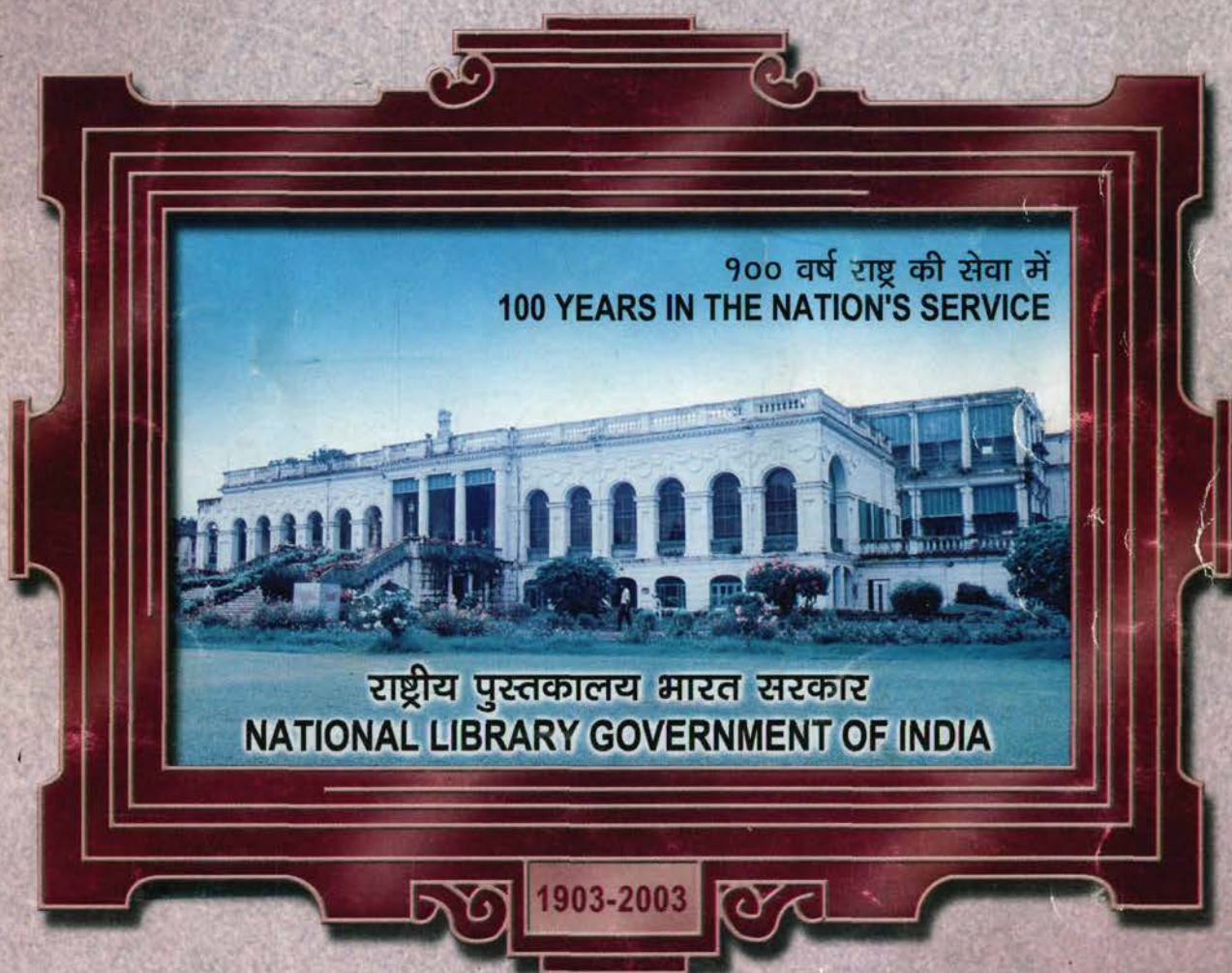




सत्यमेव जयते

THE NEWSLETTER



THE NATIONAL LIBRARY
KOLKATA
2003

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| 1 st Cover page | Logo of the Centenary Celebration of the National Library, Belvedere, Kolkata |
| 3 rd Cover page | The Imperial Library in 1923 shifted to a portion of the Foreign and Military Secretariat Building at 5 Esplanade East, Kolkata where the National Library now has its Newspaper Reading Room |
| 4 th Cover page | ‘Metcalf to Belvedere’ – the photo depicting the journey of the National Library |

NATIONAL LIBRARY, KOLKATA NEWSLETTER

Vol. XX

No. 1- 2

Jan – June 2003

PERIOD UNDER REVIEW

The current issue attempts to highlight the programme of the Centenary year of the Imperial Library which was opened to the public on January 30th, 1903. That very Library became the National Library of India in 1948 with the passing of the Imperial Library (Change of Name) Act, 1948.

In his inaugural speech while opening the Imperial Library His Excellency Lord Curzon said, "Putting together various experiences, it seemed to me an obvious duty to work for some sort of amalgamation, and thereby to give to Calcutta, what the chief city of a great province with a population of a million of people, itself also the capital of the British Empire in India, ought most certainly possess, namely, a Library worthy of the name".

The issue has added a new dimension of describing in brief the heritage libraries in India. One of such libraries is the Barisha Town Library in Kolkata which was founded in 1904 and is also celebrating its centenary year.

Official reports have great significance in the information world. They are authentic source of current information, essentially required for conducting research and developmental programmes. Their diversity and variety have put their caretakers in some kind of difficulty. The issue has also attempted to put forth some of the difficulties experienced in the management and servicing of official reports.

The Editorial Board of the Newsletter looks forward to receiving contribution pertaining to library-oriented information, training courses offered and professional experience based academic papers worth publishing in its forthcoming issues.

OFFICIAL REPORTS

Problems and remedies

1. Introduction :

The official reports have been recognized as a very important and necessary source of current information all over the world. Owing to vast differences in the political ideologies and socio-economic infrastructure in different countries, the nature and scope of the official reports have been observed to vary widely. The paper aims at analyzing the difficulties in handling official records and their acquisition with reference to India.

2. Importance of reports in the world of information source :

As a primary and current category of government source of information the government reports have secured a prominent place in the world of knowledge. These days in almost all the countries, the governments are prolific publishers of reliable and authoritative information on a wide range of subjects. As the Ministries or their organs are the issuing agencies of the official reports; the government is directly responsible for the thought contents of these documents. Preparation of reports, statistics, exploration of facts from surveys, investigations etc. are necessary for smooth functioning of a government.

In a democratic country like India, the official publications as well as the publishing activity of the government have shining possibilities. Though, it is not always easy to obtain a clear impression of the publishing activities of the government, but, in fact, in every phase of human activity the official reports have been considered one of the most extensive and valuable sources of retrospective as well as current trend of information.

A good number of official reports covering a wide range of subjects are published every year in India. The scientists and researchers have realized immense importance of them. But the problem lies in the fact how to bridge the gap between the reports and their users. Needless to mention that the enforcement of the Delivery of Book (Public libraries) Act, 1954 has proved to be the first step to overcome this difficulty. Under the provisions of the said Act it has become a legal binding on the part of every publisher to deposit a copy of every such publication to the National Library, Kolkata and other designated recipient public libraries, which is put into circulation in the country. The scholars thus expect that their desired publications will be available in some of these libraries.

3. Forms of Official reports :

The official report spans a spectrum ranging from the departmental administrative report to statistical report, survey report, periodic progressive report of the government or its department or subordinate office or agency to voluminous conference proceedings and extensive review equivalent to monographs. The official reports are broadly categorized as:

a. Administrative reports

These constitute periodic report of activities performed by the particular office, department or the Ministry whichever usually issued annually. These reports record events or developments during the year and invariably include the development plans for the coming year. The annual report of a university often contains information about university's administration including constitution of the Board of Management, various committees and officials during the period under review. The annual report of an academic institution contains information regarding the project undertaken, progress made and/or mission completed. They also contain information about training course conducted, seminar and conferences organized, library development, finance, publications etc.

b. Statistical reports

Many government agencies collect statistical data in various fields of operation. These are tabulated, graphed and analyzed to bring out the loss and profit or study growth and downfall etc. These are also presented in various forms like pamphlets, books, serial publications and periodicals. The most important statistical publications come from the Registrar General of India, Ministry of Commerce, Department of Food and Agriculture, Central Statistical Organization and so on. Statistical reports, like Census Reports, Statistical Abstracts and Annual Survey of Industries etc. are very useful publication for they contain primary sources of reference.

c. Commission and Committee Reports

The Union and the State Governments and their subordinate departments frequently appoint commissions and committees, to enquire into various problems and make recommendations. Their findings are recorded and published as reports. The theme and contents of such publications are valuable sources of information as the committee and commissions have normally special powers to obtain any information required for the purpose.

d. Law reports, digests etc.

The content of Law Reports and Digests etc. originates from the proceedings and

decisions of the courts. These reports are published with variety of coverage—selected cases from Indian courts, limited to a state, of Supreme Court of India, limited to a subject. These reports contain important cases determined by the courts of India with notes and sometimes with the summary of the arguments. Digests are the brief summaries of courts' decisions, which are published subject-wise or comprehensively published and arranged under the subjects. These materials are of immense value to persons and agencies engaged in the interpretation of law at various levels. Law reports and digests are published both by the government and private agencies. Example of such law reports are All India Reporter, Indian Law Reporter, Allahabad Law Journal, Bombay Law Reporter, Income Tax Reporter, Supreme Court Reporter, Encyclopedia of Court Decision, Digest of Labour Cases etc.

e. **Research / Technical Reports**

The ultimate aim of research is to create something new or to push frontiers of the existing knowledge. Such results are obtained by experiments, critical and analytical studies, surveys, observations, philosophical and logical thinking. The findings of original research, the raw materials of information could be sought in institutional reports, surveys, publications of learned societies, and to some extent in the publications of commercial and trade organizations and associations where they have research wings.

The purpose of research conducted in a university and academic institutions of higher learning is to seek and explore knowledge. Some special institutes conduct research either on their own or on the sponsorship of external agencies and analyze specific problem. Trade Associations undertake research projects on various problems common to their members and present the results and recommendations solely with the aim of furthering interest of members. In most cases the result of researches are published. Some tend to keep the result unpublished and confidential for the time being and later make them public by the approval of the sponsoring authority. Besides, normal issuance of reports, 'Preprint report', 'Proposal type report', 'Process Report' 'State of the art report', 'Reviews', 'Conference Proceedings' etc are also published in report format.

4. Access to official reports :

The administrative set up of a government like that of India is complicated and therefore, at times it becomes difficult to ascertain who is the actual publisher or the issuing authority.

The most difficult aspect in identification of agency for issuance of the reports

(in ascertaining the statement of responsibility) is the frequent change of names of Ministries or its departments and the subordinate offices, and various agencies that work under a particular Ministry.

It has been observed that the majority of readers aren't always aware of the government's administrative set up and/or fail to keep track of the changes that occur in name or hierarchy in the course of time. The libraries which keep government reports, are thus required to come forward to help such readers by either acquiring the accession list of publications of the government agencies and departments or maintain history sheets of such changes etc. keep them updated to be able to guide the readers adequately.

In the recent past the government reports are published in very inferior quality paper. They are neither attractive nor can be protected for long in Indian tropical conditions unless otherwise captured in other media. After their use by readers, say 10 times, the stitches break and pages get segregated.

As a measure of preserving these invaluable records it is essential that some extra copies of the reports must be delivered so that at least one copy of them could be kept out of circulation and preserved.

This has been observed that a large number of reports are published every year in the country, but a very small fraction of them reach the National Library. The Cabinet Secretariat, Government of India had requested all the ministries and their departments to deposit regularly the printed or mimeographed working papers, survey reports and other publications, which are not classified in nature, yet the response was not encouraging.

In order to place the official reports in a prominent position of the information world, the government agencies need to give proper attention to timely publication of reports. The delay in bringing out reports, reduce their importance as a tool of current source of information.

Some of the reports submitted by the Commissions and Committees appointed by the Government, are considered to be kept secret for some period of time. But on expiry of the secrecy period, they should be sent to the National Library which is not done as observed.

In a country like India, having overwhelming population, several languages and several states, the problem of acquisition of government reports is enormous. The National Library receives only a fraction of such reports. Until 1960 the Library was receiving over 1800 government publications in 14 Indian languages. During 80s and 90s the number increased to over 2500 publications of which nearly 40% was reports. Currently the number of government publications has crossed over 3000 as received in the Library out of which approximately 45% comprised reports.

5. Bibliographical control of official reports and information dissemination :

In India large organizations have devised their own system of bibliographical control. For example, the publications brought out by Bhabha Atomic Research Centre [BARC] are in the form of reports. The Centre brings out list of scientific and technical reports time to time by detailing the report number, title and author, called the Bibliography of Current Reports.

The National Library which is responsible for collecting all kinds of publications including report of the government of India, shall be able to fulfill the obligation of acquiring and conserving official reports only when there will be active cooperation between the Library and the Government agencies in the matter of supplying the reports immediately after issuance of them.

On modernization of libraries and information centres, various computerized services, websites, network of libraries are trying to record such information to satisfy needs of the researchers across the country.

The Department of Scientific and Industrial Research [DSIR], Ministry of Science and Technology, New Delhi claims to have created a database of Indian Official Documents. The Central Secretariat Library, New Delhi too is reportedly in the process of developing a database of the Indian Official Documents. The National Library is launching a massive project of converting its 2.5 million bibliographical records into MARC 21 format, which includes over 4,90,000 Indian official documents as well. Once the project is over, the Library, which has records of both the pre-independence and post independence period, will surely be a magnificent source of information.. These databases if put together into a network, would be helpful and would satisfy a great deal of demand of the scholars.

6. Conclusion :

Official reports are intricate and often bewildering maze in which it is difficult to locate the recorded information. The difficulty of bibliographical access is due to the diversity of languages, formats and the media in which the information may have been recorded. The massive growth of published and unpublished reports is further complicating the acquisition problem.

What we need today is adoption of effective measures for timely publication of reports, listing of reports by the issuing agencies and finally depositing reports without delay in the National Library. When the technology is available, efforts have to be put to create more networking and resource sharing. The National Library is self sufficient in respect of stock of reports, its flow and management.

As the government of India is the principal publisher of official reports of the nation and the National Library is the largest repository of official reports, the responsibility lies on both to make the acquisition and management effective. The National Library is proud to be considered and consulted as a place of the last resort for any information on India including the official reports.



Decorated stairs of the National Library at Belvedere

ACTIVITIES OF THE NATIONAL LIBRARY

The Imperial Library which was opened on January 30, 1903 by His Excellency, the then Viceroy, Lord Curzon, became the National Library of India in 1948 with the passing of the Imperial Library (Change of Name) Act, 1948. However, the National Library was formally opened to public on 1st February 1953 after the Library was shifted to the Belvedere campus in the vice regal palace, which was remodeled for five years to suit the requirements of the Library.

The National Library organized an exhibition 'Metcalf to Belvedere' on 1st February 2003 to mark the beginning of its centenary celebration. The following calendar of events will be organized during the remaining part of the Centenary Year :

Sr. No.	Name of event	Place	Time
1.	Release of Logo	Kolkata	June 2003
2.	Exhibition on prominent historian, writer of India Late Dr Nihar Ranjan Ray	Kolkata	Sept '03
3.	Pictorial Exhibition on the growth and development of the National Library during the past 100 years and Release of special issues of the National Library Newsletter	Kolkata	Nov '03
4.	Panel discussion & Meet the Author and Pictorial Exhibition	Bangalore	Nov '03
5.	Seminar & Meet the Author + Exhibition	Mumbai	Dec '03
6.	Inauguration of Bhasha Bhawan, the new Library building followed by cultural programme by a reputed troupe and illumination of the premises & Release of centenary publication	Kolkata	Jan '04
7.	Seminar & Meet the Author with Pictorial Exhibition	New Delhi	Jan '04
8.	National conference on "National Library : Challenges and Prospect"	Kolkata	Feb '04
9.	Debate on a contemporary topic by students of colleges & universities in Kolkata	Kolkata	Feb '04
10.	Seminar & Meet the Author & Pictorial Exhibition	Shillong	Mar '04
11.	Installation of a Statue of Tagore	Kolkata	Mar '04
12.	Unveiling of the portrait of Tagore	Kolkata	Mar '04
13.	Unveiling of mural sketches of celebrities of different languages	Kolkata	Mar '04
14.	International conference on the National Library services	Kolkata	Mar '04
15.	Cultural evening by employees of the National Library of India	Kolkata	Mar '04

16.	Presentation of Mementos to officials of the National Library, Central Ref. Library & other officials and distinguished scholars	Kolkata	Mar '04
17.	Release of centenary publication	Kolkata	Mar '04
18.	Release of centenary postal stamp	Kolkata	Mar '04

* *Date and time are subject to alteration*

Exhibitions :

The National Library organized an exhibition on 'Metcalf to Belvedere' to mark the beginning of the centenary celebrations. Among various exhibits were the pictures of the Library in Metcalfe Hall, the Foreign and Military Secretariat building at 5 Esplanade East, Jabakusum House and the present house of the National Library at the vice regal palace. The exhibition also included pictures of different buildings of the National Library in the Belvedere campus, along with beautiful pictures of the Library, its decorated divisions, pictures of special occasions, photographs of the library authorities with various Indian and foreign dignitaries.

Dr. R. Nagaswamy, Ex-Vice Chancellor of Kanonivaram University, inaugurated the said exhibition at 3 p.m. on Saturday, the 1st February 2003. A brochure entitled *Metcalf to Belvedere* was also released on the occasion.

On the occasion of 166th birth anniversary of Sahitya Samrat Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay, the National Library organized an exhibition of the works on and by Bankim Chandra on June 26th 2003.

Prof. Satya Sadhan Chakraborty, Hon'ble Minister for Higher Education, Govt. of West Bengal inaugurated the exhibition.

A meeting was also held on the said date at 3 p.m. in the exhibition hall of the Library to discuss various aspects of the life and works of Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay.

In-service training and education :

The in-house training on UNIMARC, VIRTUA, Windows 98 and MS Office for library staff and officers was conducted during the period under report. Over 102 professional staff received 3 days training in UNIMARC, 110 professional staff received 3 days training in VIRTUA and 146 ministerial and technical staff received 3 to 4 weeks training in MS Office. While M/s VTLS imparted the training in UNIMARC and VIRTUA, M/s STG imparted the training in MS Office.

The Chemical Laboratory Division imparted orientation training on chemical conservation of reading materials to a group of 32 students of the Department of Library & Information Science from Burdwan University. They were shown operation of the indigenously built fumigation chamber where in one operation over one thousand books

are disinfected. The staff of the said Division also helped in carrying on other operations of chemical conservation of the library materials

The Chemical Laboratory Division also conducted weeklong (June 16 – 20' 2003) hands on in-house training for the junior professional staff members of the National Library on conservation of library materials by applying modern techniques.

Seminar and conferences :

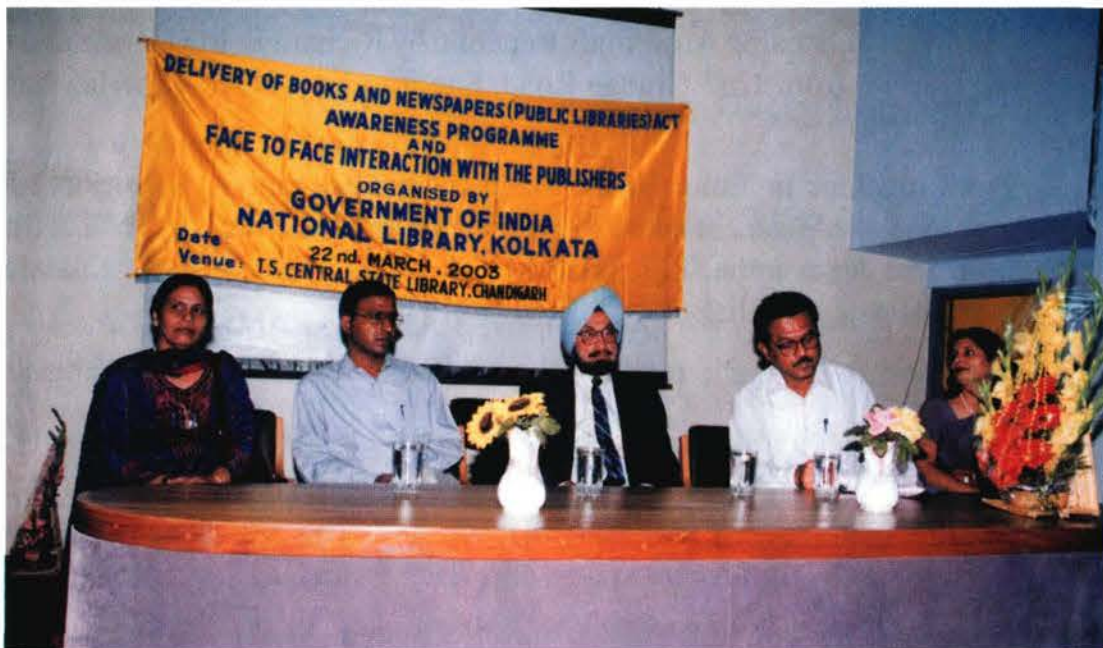
As part of the continuing programme, the National Library held seminars on Delivery of Books (Public Libraries) Act, 1954 in its attempt to give wide publicity of the said D. B. Act, make the publishers aware of their responsibilities and improve collection of publications in the National Library. The workshops were organized to convey various aspects of the **Delivery of Books (Public Libraries) Act** and remind the publishers to deliver books as published by them to the Library, this being the primary duty of every publisher.

The first workshop in 2003 was organized on Friday the 10th January at Nayana auditorium, Kannada Bhavana, Bangalore in collaboration with the Department of Public Libraries, Govt. of Karnataka, Bangalore and the Karnataka Publishers Association, Bangalore. Sri Baburao Chavan, Hon'ble Minister for Adult Education, Libraries and Printing, Govt. of Karnataka, Bangalore inaugurated the workshop. Prof. Hampa Nagarajaiah an eminent Kannada author was the guest in chief and Prof. C R Karisidappa, President, Indian Library Association presided over the inaugural function.



Inauguration of the workshop on D B Act at Bangalore

Besides speeches by Prof. Karisidappa, S.V. Srinivasa Rao, President of the Karnataka Publishers Association and Dr T D Kemparaju, Head, Dept. of Library & Information Science, Bangalore University on the subject, active participation was made by several publishers of the city. From the National Library, Sri G Kumarappa highlighted the importance of the Act and obligations of all the publishers to strengthen the national intellectual treasure at the National Library by timely depositing books.



Seminar on Delivery of Books (Public Libraries) Act, 1954 at Chandigarh

In collaboration with Central State Library, Chandigarh, the National Library organised a workshop and 'face to face dialogue' with publishers of Punjab and Haryana on the 22nd March 2003 at Chandigarh. Major H. S. Gill, Chairman Sahitya Academy, Chandigarh inaugurated the workshop.

Dr. Kashmiri Lal Zakir, Ex President, Urdu Academy chaired the workshop. Several speakers stressed upon the implementation part of the Act. The problems of the publishers were also discussed at length.

On the invitation of the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR), Smt. Uma Majumdar, ALIO, Computer Centre attended the meeting on 'Computerised Bibliographical Services' as an expert, on 29th January 2003 at the National Social Science Documentation Centre [NASSDOC], New Delhi.

On the invitation of the Indian Museum, Kolkata Smt. Malabika Ghosh, Assistant Library and Information Officer [Chemist] along with two of her assistants participated in the workshop on Preventive Conservation of Museum objects held between

June 23 – 28, 2003 at the Indian Museum complex at Kolkata. While Smt. Ghosh acted as the resource person, the other two assisted in giving demonstration of restoration procedure.

Collection building :

The National Library under the gift and exchange programme received the following notable publications, as also other reading materials:

1. Democracy choosing Australia's Republic by Richard E. Mc Garvie and Lesley Mc Garvie, from 1/62 Grange Road, Sandringham 3/91, Victoria, Australia. (In English)
2. Tamil muslims in Tamil Nadu: Malaysia and Singapore; Historical identity, problems of adjustment and change in the twentieth century, by Ravi A Shankar, from Shri A Jayantha, 129, Jalan Kimau Manis, Bangsar Park, Kualalampur, Malaysia. (In English)
3. Bagladesh o Bangali; reminiscence, swadhinata, chinta o atmanusandhan. (In Bengali)
4. Bangladesh: rashtra o samaj, samajik, arthanitir swarup. (In Bengali)
5. Bilasita sabdaguchha. (In Bengali) All the above mentioned three Bengali publications by Shri Anupam Sen, 46/1, Hemendra Das Road, Sutrapur, Dhaka.
6. Personal collection of 8 English books, 3 Bengali books and 12 microfilms on History from Dr. Hara Prasad Chatterjee, Salt Lake city, Kolkata-97

However the Library also purchased the following notable publications on readers' demand :

1. Maley, W. - The Afganistan wars, 2002 : £ 42.5
2. Rashid, A. - Taliban, 2002: £13.95
3. Hameed, S. - Islamic seal to India's independence, 1998 : Rs. 525
4. Kritzer, H. - Legal systems of the world in 4 vols, 2002 : £ 265.5
5. Whited, L. – The ivory tower and Harry Potter, 2002: £ 34.95
6. Beaulieu, E. – The Toni Morrison Encyclopedia, 2003: £ 89.95
7. Hayward, H. - The Engima of V.S.Naipal, 2002: £12

Research assistance :

The Library extended reference and bibliographic service to the following research scholar besides many unrecorded readers :

1. MALABIKA PAUL, University of Calcutta. *Topic*: Medical history of Hooghly District.
2. SYAMALENDU SENGUPTA, Tata Central Archives, Pune. *Topic*: Home of the Tatas.
3. STEFANO PELLO, University of Venice. *Topic*: Persian poets of Lucknow.
4. A. JOHRA, Benaras Hindu University. *Topic*: Literary criticism of Ezra Pound.
5. SANATAN GHOSH, Kalyani University. *Topic*: Land management and sustainable development of Purulia.
6. RUMPA NEOGI, Andhra University. *Topic*: Liberalization and its impact on petroleum industry.
7. ANIL KUMAR SARKAR, North Bengal University. *Topic*: History of North Bengal.
8. GITANJALI DEY, Delhi University. *Topic*: Pir cult of Bengal.
9. SOURENDRA MITRA, Viswa-Bharati University. *Topic*: State and society in early medieval Bengal.
10. SUMANA SANYAL, Kalyani University. *Topic*: Rabindra kabitar dwiteeya parjay.
11. MAUMIC BANERJEE, Jadavpur University. *Topic*: Social history of Benaras.
12. Dr KANTA GUPTA, Delhi University. *Topic*: Proprietary rights of Hindu women.
13. SAMPITA MUKHEJEE, Calcutta University. *Topic*: Aggression.
14. ANIL KUMAR MISHRA, Jawaharlal Nehru University. *Topic*: Indian labours in British colonies.
15. KAMALIKA MUKHERJEE, Centre for studies in Social History. *Topic* : Visualization of women in popular art.
16. ANASUIYA GHOSH, Jadavpur University. *Topic*: Romanticism in Bengal, 1880-1941.
17. SOHINI CHAKRABORTY, Jadavpur University. *Topic*: Human rights and child labour.

18. ABHIJIT PAUL, Open University (U.K.). *Topic*: Studies on Jibanananda.
19. MANOBI MAJUMDAR, Centre for studies in Social Sciences. *Topic* : Decentralization and education.
20. SUMIT SAXENA, C.S.J.M., Kanpur. *Topic*: Mystic consciousness in Rabindranath Tagore.
21. Dr AYUB MALLICK, Benaras Hindu University. *Topic*: Tribal development and changes of the tribals.
22. RAZIA SULTANA, Vidyasagar University. *Topic*: Migration of Bengali muslims in colonial states.
23. PRATATI BHATTACHARYA, Calcutta University. *Topic*: Leela Majumdarer shishu sahitya.
24. SWALI SEN, Jadavpur University. *Topic*: History of juvenile criminality in colonial India.
25. Dr. JAYANTA BARMAN, National Institute of Cholera & Enteric Diseases. *Topic*: Data collection on Typhoid and Cholera.
26. TAPAN JYOTI BARUA, University of Chittagong, Bangladesh. *Topic*: Millennial vision in Whitman's Leaves of Grass.
27. ABDULLAH AL MANNAN, Rajshahi University, Bangladesh. *Topic*: Translation theory.
28. DZMEIN MUKHERJEE TRIDANT, University de Paris III. *Topic*: English translation of French classical plays.

Miscellany :

1. For readers assistance the Library compiled select bibliographies on the following topics:
 - a. History of Burma
 - b. Literature on B.R. Ambedkar
 - c. Rashtrakut, Inscriptions of South India
 - d. Rashtrakut, Society and culture of South India

- e. Rashtrakut. Architecture of South India
 - f. The Indo-Anglican political novels: A study of major novelists,
Khushwant Singh, Chaman Lal Nahal & Salman Rushdie.
2. The National Library observed the Republic Day at its Belvedere campus, Alipore, Kolkata on the 26th January 2003 by hoisting the National Flag by the Director, Dr Shyamalkanti Chakravarti. On the occasion the Security guards of the Library headed by the Security Officer offered Guard of honour to the Director, National Library. Sweets were distributed among the children and those who attended the ceremony.



Operation of FREEZE DRIER in the Chemical Laboratory

3. As a programme for modernizing the conservation activities in the National Library, an indigenously built device, called **FREEZE DRIER** was procured by incurring about Rs.8,65,000/= by the Laboratory Division of the Library during the

period under report. It is a non-chemical procedure for insect eradication by freezing on dry organic materials. The process is simple and very effective. Operation of two of the three machines installed, have already been commissioned and the results are found encouraging.

Heritage libraries

BARISHA PATHAGAR, [1904-]

Situated at 37, K. K. Roychoudhury Road, Sakher Bazar, Barisha, Kolkata, Barisha Pathagar as this town library is popularly known, is one of the very old libraries of the city of Kolkata. The genesis of the Library is traced back to 22nd April 1904 when a handful of young, enthusiastic villagers of Barisha conceived the idea of developing a library for education and recreation of the residents of the area. The cooperative efforts of Sarvashree Bhusan Chandra Bandyopadhyay, Girindranath Roy Choudhury, Sidheswar Dutta, Prasad Das Roychoudhury, Satishchandra Matilal, Haricharan Roychoudhury, Binodbehari Roychoudhury, Gurucharan Roychoudhury gave shape to the great idea. Amongst ponds, paddy land and jungle, in a purely rural environment, a small library named Star Library was opened in a hut with merely 56 donated books. Without electricity, scarce furniture and insufficient funds the residents started the library and reading room service.

The Library moved from one place to the other as and when better offer of accommodation was received. Many constraints came forth, but nothing could prevent continuity of the library services by the enthusiastic and highly motivated youth of the village. There existed another library nearby called the Barisha Suburban Reading Club. Due to some internal problems, the administration of this library collapsed and thus the authority of the said Club donated about 100 books of its stock together with two bookshelves and an almirah to the Star Library. The Library changed its name several time, Barisha Free Reading Club and Library, Barisha Pathagar and Barisha Town Library. It was confirmed on January 3rd, 1961 the status of a Town Library. It has now a permanent house close to the 400-yearold historical 'atchala' (a thatched room with eight roofs and no walls) where the historic Power of Attorney and Deed of Sutanuti-Gobindopur-Calcutta was signed between the East India Company and the Landlords of Sabarna Roychoudhury (Benaki Family).

The Library that grew from humble donations of the villagers is now proud of possessing valuable manuscripts, rare & very precious books of Bengali literature, as also a large collection of textbooks. As many as 21260 volumes of publications are in the stock of the Library

The Library is open from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m. from Monday to Saturday with the exception of 2nd and 4th Saturdays, Sundays and other holidays as declared by the Government of West Bengal. Membership is granted on a token fee of Rs.5/= per month and Rs.20/= for other expenses per year. The Library loans out books to its members for two weeks against a minimal charge of Rs.5/= for borrowing two books at a time, Rs.3/= for borrowing one book and for children Rs.1/= is taken per month. However, the Library offers free reading room services where several local newspapers and periodical publications could be read, TV news could be heard and other programmes could be seen and attended. Today the membership of the Library has risen to 692 including 60 children.

The Library receives a humble grant from the Government of West Bengal for subscribing dailies and periodical publications. A Central Government organization called the Raja Ram Mohan Roy Library foundation provides assistance for obtaining new books. The salary grant for four staff members including the Librarian comes from the Government of West Bengal.

This Library is celebrating its centenary for which series of programme have been planned like discussions and talks on various topics, debates on current educational topics, essay competition, cultural evenings, evening of old songs, seminars of writers and poets, felicitations etc.

Visitors of the Library :

1. Dr. Gautam Bose, Technical Director, National Informatics Centre, Dept. of Information Technology, New Delhi.
2. Ms. Saitri Devi, Indian Council of Social Science Research, New Delhi.
3. Shri K Baiakrishna Moorthy 10-12, Maruthi Nagar, Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh.
4. Shri Purushottam Bhagwan, Diwan Mohalla, Patna City, Patna, Bihar.
5. Shri U A Rao, 54-14/1-24/1, 2nd Lane, Srinivasanagar Bank Colony-3, Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh.
6. Shri Anand Longgian, Taire Pok, Thanbal, Manipur.
7. Mr. Luis Toledo Sande, Cuban writer, Habana, Cuba.
8. Dr. B Narahari Rao, Gausistrasse-67, Germany.
9. Ms. N S Mani, Prof. & Head of Dept. of Commerce & Management Studies, St.Vincent Pallotti College, Raipur.

10. Ms. Sunita Pawar, Librarian, St. Vincent Pallotti College, Raipur.
11. Ilam Maharaja, Asstt. Librarian, M. S. University of Baroda, Baroda, Gujarat.
12. Shri V Rajendram, Connemara Public Library, Chennai.
13. Md. Qamruziaman, Maktasa-I-Darul Maarij, Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh

Administration:

The Administration of the National Library reported the following about

Appointment :

Dr. Ramanuj Bhattacharjee, Director, Raja Rammohan Roy Library Foundation took charge of the office of the Officer on Special Duty, National Library, Kolkata with effect from 19.03.2003.

Retirement :

1. Smt. Sandhya Roy Chowdhury, Superintendent retired from service from 31.01.2003.
2. Dr. Shyamalkanti Chakravarti, Director, National Library, Kolkata had relinquished his charge of the Office of the Director, National Library from 19.03.2003.



A glimpse of the National Library from the southern part of the garden

LIST OF PRINTED PUBLICATIONS OF THE NATIONAL LIBRARY, KOLKATA

1. Author catalogue of printed books in Bengali language

Vol. 1	A-F	1997	Rs. 296.00
Vol. 2	G-I	1997	Rs. 328.00
Vol. 3	M-R	1959 (old edition)	Rs. 09.55
Vol. 3	M-R	1997	Rs. 475.00
Vol. 4	S-Z	1963 (old edition)	Rs. 4.70

2. Author catalogue of printed books in English language

Vol. 1	Supplement	1962-80	Rs. 507.00
Vol. 2	Supplement pt.1	1962-80	Rs. 1604.00

3. Author catalogue of printed books in European languages, 1941-64

Vol. 1	A-B	1941	Rs. 06.12
Vol. 2	C-E	1942	Rs. 06.00
Vol. 3	F-H	1942	Rs. 06.10
Vol. 4	—	—	—
Vol. 5	M	1953	Rs. 12.12
Vol. 6	N-P	1954	Rs. 11.12
Vol. 7	Q-R	1956	Rs. 06.75
Vol. 8	S	1960	Rs. 06.25
Vol. 9	T-V	1963	Rs. 07.25
Vol.10	W-Z	1964	Rs. 11.12

4. Author catalogue of printed books in European languages, Supplement, 1951-61

Vol. 1	A	1966	Rs. 16.50
Vol. 2	B	1973	Rs. 13.50
Vol. 3	C	1975	Rs. 12.00
Vol. 4	D-E	1977	Rs. 60.00
Vol. 5	F-G	1978	Rs. 35.00
Vol. 6	H-I	1980	Rs. 55.00
Vol. 7	J-L	1982	Rs. 56.00
Vol. 8	M	1982	Rs. 67.00
Vol. 9	N-R	1985	Rs. 233.00
Vol. 10	S	1985	Rs. 165.00
Vol. 11	T-Z	1989	Rs. 297.00

5. Author catalogue of printed books in Hindi language.

Vol. 1	A-B	1991	Rs. 185.00
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6. Author catalogue of printed books in Tamil language.

Vol. 1	A-K	1990	Rs. 70.00
Vol. 2	S (supplement)		Rs. 165.00

7.	Author table for Indian names,	1961.	Rs.	9.50
8.	Asutosh collection Golden Jubilee volume,	1949-1999.		
9.	Bibliography of dictionaries and encyclopedias in Indian languages,	1964.	Rs.	4.75
10.	Bibliography of Indology.			
	Vol. 1	Indian Anthropology 1960	Rs.	5.00
	Vol. 2	Indian Botany, pt.1 A-J 1961	Rs.	8.00
	Vol. 2	Indian Botany, pt. 2 K-Z 1965	Rs.	8.25
	Vol. 3	Bengali language and Literature, part 1 1964	Rs.	6.00
11.	Bibliography of Nayaya Philosophy	1993	Rs.	346.00
12.	Bibliographical control in India,	1988	Rs.	75.00
13.	Brochure on National Library,	1992	Rs.	43.00
14.	Catalogue of periodicals, newspapers and gazettes, vol.1.	1956	Rs.	6.00
15.	Catalogue of Persian manuscripts in Buhar collection, 1982. (Xeroxed bound volume, 1988)		Rs.	45.00
16.	Catalogue of Persian manuscripts of Sir Jadunath Sircar collection, 1972. (Xeroxed bound volume, 1988)		Rs.	40.00
17.	Catalogue of printed books in the Asutosh collection :			
	Vol. 1	Fine Arts 1958	Rs.	6.00
	Vol. 2	Literature (American & European) 1963	Rs.	11.00
	Vol. 3	History, Geography, Travels & Biography. 1978	Rs.	256.50
	Vol. 4	Science and Technology 1983	Rs.	95.00
18.	Catalogue of Sanskrit, Pali and Prakrit books, Supplement 1947-1980 A-Z	1988	Rs.	778.00
19.	Conservation of library materials.	1985	Rs.	78.00
20.	Glimpses of India through western eyes.	1992	Rs.	45.00
21.	Index translationum.	1963	Rs.	12.00
22.	India's National Library by B S Kesavan.	1961	Rs.	10.00
23.	India's National Library: Systematization and modernization by Uma Majumdar.	1987	Rs.	210.00
24.	Indological studies and South Asia: Bibliography	1988	Rs.	115.00
25.	National Library and public library development: 150 th anniversary of the Calcutta Public Library.	1987	Rs.	169.00
26.	Planning modernization and preservation: Programme in the South-Asian libraries.	1990	Rs.	280.00
27.	Preservation of documents by N. N. Sarkar	2000	Rs.	810.00
28.	Rabindra grantha suchi in Bengali language, vol.1, pt.1.	1988	Rs.	110.00
29.	Tej Bahadur Sapru's correspondences: A checklist.	1961	Rs.	13.40
30.	Set of post cards with pictures selected from the National Library's collection.		Rs.	40.00
31.	Subject catalogue of printed books in European languages:			
	Vol. 1	A 1951-61 1966	Rs.	15.00
	Vol. 2	B 1951-61 1973	Rs.	13.95
32.	Subject index to the Author catalogue:			
	1 st supplement.	1929	Rs.	3.25
	2 nd supplement.	1939	Rs.	3.94
33.	S. R. Ranganathan: A tribute.	1993	Rs.	83.00



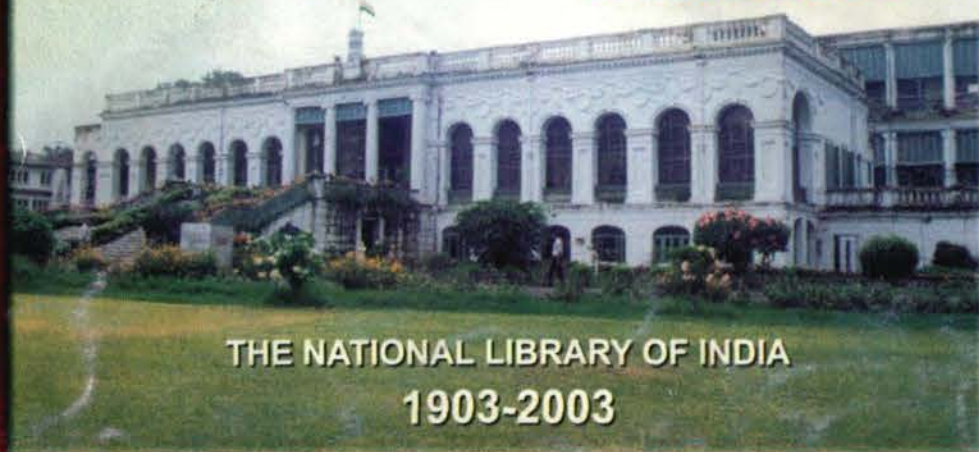
**Dr. F. P. Strong's residence
The first housing of Calcutta Public Library
1836**



**The Imperial Library at Foreign and Military Secretariat Building at 5 Esplanade East,
Kolkata in 1923, now used as Newspaper Reading Room**



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