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South Asia Archive (SAA)
(http://www.southasiaarchive.com)

The South Asia Archive is an extensive resource for students and scholars across the humanities and social sciences. The historical documents within the Archive are truly interdisciplinary, reflecting the varied range of knowledge production in colonial and early post-colonial India and the wider sub-continent.

It contains more than 4.5 million pages spanning the period of 18th and mid-20th century from documents across the Indian subcontinent, including India, Pakistan, Burma, Afghanistan and Bangladesh.

The digitization of the original documents is non-destructive, and damaged pieces are restored as part of the digitization process before they are sent to storage. This digitization process enhances their usefulness in terms of portability, and also assures the conservation of this historically important material.

- ❖ Subject specialist editors from India have selected and catalogued the documents specifically for this archive.
- ❖ The archive comprises out-of-copyright material dating back to the start of the eighteenth century and up to the mid-twentieth century.
- ❖ The content originates mainly from the Bengal area of India, consisting of unique and rare documents from primary and secondary sources.
- ❖ A significant proportion of the collection is in English, but thirty percent of the documents are written in various vernacular languages of the period/region(s).
- ❖ Serial collections are (where possible) complete, consisting of all available editions/volumes.
- ❖ In order to support a global audience, all document metadata has been translated into English where necessary.

Announcement

As requested, special session on a) 'Zotero: The Reference management Software on 17 Feb and b) Remote Access and URKUND on 18 Feb will be organized at Conference Hall, Central Library at **11.30am**. Interested Scholars and Faculty Members are most welcome (Dates and Times are tentative).
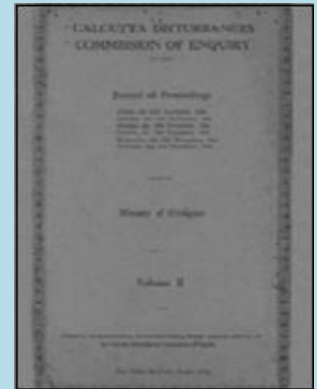
- ❖ Images, maps, and posters are digitized in color to match the originals.
- ❖ Content has been broken down into a number of top-level document types such as Maps, Reports, and Journals, to simplify locating a collection by document type.
- ❖ An underlying taxonomy has been assigned to all documents consistently and logically to ensure a superior level of searchability for end-users.
- ❖ Documents have been broken down into the smallest parts possible to support highly granular content discovery.

The Collection

The South Asia Archive is a specialist digital platform providing global electronic access to culturally and historically significant literary material produced from within - and about - the South Asian region. It is not merely a repository, but a vehicle for targeted research, and one which has been intelligently structured to ensure efficient content discovery.

- ❖ Documents have been selected and catalogued by subject specialist editors, with expert commentaries provided to guide users through serial content.
- ❖ The archive contains millions of pages of digitized primary and secondary material in a mix of English and vernacular languages dating back to the start of the eighteenth century, up to the mid-twentieth century.
- ❖ It is derived from original archive materials held by the "The South Asia Research Foundation".
- ❖ It provides online access to previously unavailable resources in South Asian studies.
- ❖ It is a versatile resource with benefits for researchers, lecturers, and students across a diverse range of subject areas.

Publication Types

Documents included in the South Asian Archive can be divided into five main categories covering all available publication types:

- ❖ **Journals:** Substantial runs of more than two hundred journals in a range of subjects published from India and South Asia, including early journals such as Asiatic Researchers (first published in 1788), Indian Review, Modern Review, and Calcutta Gazette. There is also an array of vernacular journals such as: Bharatbarsha, Prabasi, Manasi, and Sachitra.
- ❖ **Reports:** A diverse collection of reports from colonial and post-colonial India, including volumes of the 1901, 1911, 1931, and 1951 Indian Census documents, and the near complete set of Calcutta Riots of 1946 Gazetteers from a range of Indian states such as Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, and Maharastra are also available.
- ❖ **Books:** An extensive range of books consisting of series such as The Bibliotheca Indica, a collection of oriental works published by the Asiatic Society of Bengal. It includes translations of the Upanishads, commentaries on Sanskrit grammatical, philosophical, and legal treatises, and such works as the Suddhikaumudi, a Sanskrit treatise on Hindu laws of defilement and purification.
- ❖ **Legislations, Acts, regulations, law books/ cases:** A myriad collection of legislations, Acts, regulations, and case documents from the colonial period, invaluable for any work on colonial Indian history.
- ❖ **Indian film booklets, 1930–1949:** A collection of rare publicity booklets in a mixture of English, Hindi, Urdu, and Bengali, as sold outside India film theaters. Highlights from the collection include: Mukti, Street Singer, My Sister, Devdas and Sita. Each booklet includes lists of the film's cast and leading technical personnel, a plot summary, photographs of the lead actors or key moments in the film, and song lyrics.

Subject Classifications

Documents included in the South Asia Archive will be of interest to those studying in the following areas:

- ❖ Administration, Development, Industry, Economics and Law
- ❖ Art and Art History
- ❖ Civilization Studies, Religion, Philosophy and History
- ❖ Culture, Society, Cinema and Media Studies
- ❖ Education
- ❖ Indology, Ancient History, Anthropology and Archaeology
- ❖ Literature, Language and Linguistics
- ❖ Politics, Government and Public Policy
- ❖ Science, Technology, Agriculture and Environment
- ❖ Urban Planning, Medicine and Health

SOME RECENT ACTIVITIES:

➢ **Special Sessions**
  a) On 'LibSys and URKUND (The Plagiarism Checking Software)' on 24 January for the Library Professionals of VB and total twelve staff have attended the program.
  b) On 'URKUND (The Plagiarism Checking Software)' on 27 January for Research Scholars of VB and total nine staff have attended the program.
  c) On 'URKUND (The Plagiarism Checking Software)' on 28 January for the Faculty Members of VB and total eleven staff have attended the program.

➢ **Special Meetings**
  a) "Users Librarian face-to-face" has been arranged on 22 January 2020 to review on different issues of library resources, services and facilities. Total twenty-nine students/scholars and library staff has attended the meeting and most of the students stated their requirements.
  b) On the occasion of International Braille Day (04/01/2020) one meeting with the visually impaired students has been arranged on 25 January 2020 (Saturday) to review on different issues of library resources, services and facilities. Total fourteen students and library staff has attended the meeting and students have been stated their requirements for the development braille library services at VB.

➢ **Visitors:**
  • **Central Library**
    a) A Team of thirty-four students and two faculties of the Department of English, Sido Kanhu Murmu University, Dumka, has visited Central Library on 13 January 2020. The team has expressed their satisfaction and pleasure after attending demonstration session and also visiting the library.
    b) Sri M. K. Singh, IPS, DG (Home guard) Govt. of West Bengal along with four Professors of University of Delhi has visited Central Library on 13 January 2020 and they have highly appreciated the resources, services and activities of the Central Library, VB.

  • **Cheena Bhavana Library**
    a) H.E. Mr. Sun Weidong, the Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to India along with his 04 officials visited Cheena Bhavana Library on 13 January 2020 and expressed his satisfaction.
    b) A team of four officials from China visited Cheena Bhavana Library on 16 January 2020 and expressed their satisfactions.

  • **Hindi Bhavana Library:** Prof. Tatiana Oranskaia of University of Hamburg, Germany visited Hindi Bhavana Library on 17 January 2020 and expressed her satisfaction.

➢ **Exhibition and Celebration of Important Days at Reference Section, Central Library:** Organized special exhibitions of books and allied materials including quotations and photographs to celebrate;
  a) 126th Birth anniversary of Satyendra Bose on 1 January 2020.
  b) 157th Birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda on 12 January 2020.
  c) 123rd Birth anniversary Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose on 23 January 2020.
  d) 188th Birth anniversary Lewis Carroll on 27 January 2020
  e) 155th Birth anniversary Lala Lajpat Rai on 28 January 2020

➢ **Article Delivery Services:** During the month 13 no. of soft copies of the articles have been collected and delivered through mail as requested by the academics/scholars.

➢ **New Additions (Books) during the Month**
  • Central Library: Number of Books received as Purchased: 28 (Acc. No. 438780-438807)
                     Number of Books received as Gift: 03 (Acc. No. 9884-8986)
  • Cheena Bhavana Library: Number of Books received as Purchased: 10 (CB41139 – CB41148)
  • Hindi Bhavana Library: Number of Books received as Purchased: 103 (HB36527 – HB36629)

New Arrivals (Books and Periodicals)
Books(click)
Journals (click)

IMPORTANT LINKS:

Academic Earth [https://academicearth.org/]:
Academic Earth was launched on the premise that everyone deserves access to a world-class education. In 2009, we built the first collection of free online college courses from the world's top universities. The world of open education has exploded since then, so today our curated lists of online courses are hand selected by our staff to show you the very best offerings by subject area. They provide online degree courses from accounting and economics to engineering and also carry material on niche subjects like behavioural psychology. Moreover, it has had collaboration with a bunch of reputed colleges such as University of Oxford, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Stanford University and many others. We also make sure there is something for everyone: whether you want to explore a new topic or advance in your current field, we bring the amazing world of academia to you for free.

Coursera [http://courser.org/]:
Coursera was founded in 2012 by two Stanford computer science professors (Professors Daphne Koller and Andrew Ng) with a vision to provide anyone, anywhere with access to the world's best education. The moment a student opens this website, he is bound to get sucked into the number of courses available in his topic of interest. It is a user-friendly website. Students can find big universities and a sharable electronic Course Certificate. Every course on Coursera is taught by top instructors from world-class universities and companies, so you can learn something new anytime, anywhere. Hundreds of free courses give you access to on-demand video lectures, homework exercises, and community discussion forums. When you complete a course, you'll receive a sharable electronic Course Certificate," assures the website.

CONFERENCES/SEMINARS:

1.   International Conference on Reorienting Information Literacy in the Library and Information Centres organized by Department of Library and Information Science, University of Calcutta during February 11 -12, 2020. [*https://www.caluniv.ac.in/seminar/DLIS-CU-Conference-8-1-20.pdf*].

2.   Seven Days National Workshop on Integration of Koha with VuFind organized by Department of Library and Information Science, Burdwan University during 12-18 February, 2020. [https://www.buruniv.ac.in/Notices/]

3.   National Workshop on "Transforming Libraries through LibSys Automation Software" organized by Department of Library Science, Mandsaur University, Mandsaur during February 15-16, 2020. [http://www.mandsauruniversity.edu.in/]

4.   National Seminar on Information Strategy for Social Science Research in India: Tracing the Future Trajectory organized by Department of Library and Information Science Vidyasagar University, Midnapore during March 12-13, 2020 [*https://storage.ning.com/topology/rest/1.0/file/get/3833499963?profile=original*].

Send off: Sri Keshab Chandra Sinha, Assistant Librarian (Stage IV), In-charge Vinaya Bhavana Library and Additional Charge, Bangladesh Bhavana Library retired from Visva-Bharati Services on 31 January 2020 while he has joined at Visva-Bhaarti in the permanent position as Professional Assistant on 01 February 1991 at Siksha Bhavana Library. He has also worked at Rabindra Bhavana and Palli Samgathana Vibhaga Library in different capacity. He has given a warm send-off by the Visva-Bharati Library Network at the Central Library. The Visva-Bharati Library Network wishes him all the best in the post-service life.

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Mr. M. K. Sinha, IPS DG (Home Guard), WB along with Dignitaries at Central Library

H.E. Mr. Sun Weidong, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to India at Cheena-Bhavana Library

Prof. Tatiana Oranskaia of University of Hamburg, Germany at Hindi Bhavana Library

Warm Send-off to Sri Keshab Chandra Sinha on 31 January 2020

Braille students assembled after the special meeting on 25 January

Group of Students and Teachers from Sidho Kanhu Murmu University, Dumka on 13 January