



Visva-Bharati

(Where the world makes its home in a single nest)

Library Network e-Newsletter



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Library website:

<http://172.16.2.132/library/index.php>
(Intranet)

<http://14.139.211.2/library/index.php> (Internet)



<https://www.facebook.com/vbllibnet>



<http://14.139.211.2/mediawiki/index.php>

PRABHATKUMAR MUKHOPADHYAYA: LIBRARY SCIENTIST OF EMINENCE

Prabhatkumar Mukhopadhyaya (1892-1985) is known to the world as biographer of Rabindranath Tagore. But he stepped into other sphere of knowledge like history, philosophy, religion, sociology. Prabhatkumar is the architect of Visva-Bharati library system and involved in its development process from Ashram Granthagar to university library. Sourendramohan Gangyopadhyaya rightly bestows him the honour of 'first library scientist of Bengal'.

Prabhatkumar came to Santiniketan in November 1909 at the age of seventeen at the time of Bengal renaissance. He joined as a teacher of Santiniketan Brahmacharyasram with a monthly honourarium of fifteen rupees only. Tagore was path finder for him. Prabhatkumar is the creator of Rabindranath and Santiniketan.

Prabhatkumar as librarian

Prabhatkumar had to leave Santiniketan and joined as librarian of Calcutta City College mainly for financial problem. From that time, he devoted himself for the cause of development of library and library science. He gave a memorandum to Vice-chancellor of Calcutta University Sir Asutosh Mukhopadhyaya for 'Sadlar Commission' which incorporates issues like classification, cataloguing, library organization. But Tagore in a letter asked Prabhatkumar to join as English teacher and librarian. As a result, he came back to Santiniketan in 1918 and joined as teacher-librarian. In the meantime, 'Vichitra' club was established at Tagore family at Jorsanko at central Kolkata.

Notice for Faculty / Staff / Scholar

Central Library is going to organize the following programmes:

1. **4th August at 11.00am:** Demo programme on e-resources of Oxford University Press and Indian Citation Indexing from Diva Enterprises Pvt. Ltd.
2. **Celebration of 125th Birth Anniversary of Dr. S. R. Ranganathan Ayer on 12th August at 4.30pm:** Lecture Session on "Ranganathan's Five Laws of Library Science and Tagore's Educational Philosophy: An Overview"; Speaker Dr. Partha Pratim Ray.
3. **24 August, 11.30am:** Demo programme on JGate and SRMO

Prabhatkumar was entrusted with the responsibility to organize the library of more than seven thousand books in a scientific way. In a certificate Abanindranath Tagore (24 Feb 1918) wrote “He has devoted much of his valuable time over this work and has done the whole thing according to Dewey System of Decimal Classification”. But he had great interest in education-teaching learning process. It is well reflected in Tagore’s certificate dated 22 April 1918 “babu Prabhat Kumar Mukherji, who was a teacher in my school at Santiniketan for a long time, is a studious young man, deeply interested in the Science of Education, who has made a special study of the arrangement and management of library. He is employed as a Librarian of City College where his services are greatly appreciated and he has been immense help to us in classifying books in our Vichitra library. He is a young man of unblemished character for whom I have great regard”.

Prabhatkumar and Visva-Bharati library

Prabhatkumar though was involved in teaching process but basically, he was a librarian. He wrote “I had the privileged to be the Adhyaksha of Visva-Bharati library from 1918 to 1954, 36 years at a stretch. In this time, I had to organize nearly 70 thousand books”. He had through knowledge of not only the titles of the books but also the thought content incorporated in the books. One of his contemporary Birendra Bandyopadhyaya wrote “Whenever I used to go to library noticed Prabhatda is working, supervising reader’s requirement. He is providing them reference of the book directing them towards exact location of the book. He was not only a librarian but also a book lover too”. He could give reference even without going through the reference tools. Rabindranath himself used to write him for reference Collection development in scientific way, classification and introduction of open access system could be his major area of contribution as librarian at Visva-Bharati. He introduced first Accession Register in 1921. The following table represents the growth of library collection during his tenure.

Year	No. of Books	Addition of Books
1922	14272	---
1927	29590	15318
1932	35369	5779
1937	41064	5695
1942	51044	9980
1947	56928	5884
1952	69224	12296
1954	73803	4579

Sources: Unpublished research paper/Partha Pratim Ray

Prabhatkumar and Library Science

Prabhatkumar was very kin for the development of library science in India. He felt that Dewey Decimal Classification as derived by Melvin Dewey (1851-1931) is western bias. As a result, it is difficult to classify books on Indian religion, philosophy, literature, history etc. Moreover, it is costly too. Thus, for classification of Bengali books he developed “Bangla Dasamik Bargikoran” (1935) flowing Dewey where he used two digits 01 to 99. Later on, it published as “Bangla Grantha Bargikoran” in 1959. Visva-Bharati library used to follow his derived classification schemes ever today. In Visva-Bharati he also introduced a special classification for Tagoreana (all the literary output of Rabindranath) using literature form division from DDC like T1 for poetry, T2 for fiction written by Tagore.

Prabhatkumar wrote some reference tools in Bengali language. He is the pioneer author of this kind reference tools in Bengali language. Tagore himself was interested for this kind of publications. Tagore used to enquire about the progress of writing of Encyclopedia (letter dated 17 may 1938). Prabhatkumar was eager for the growth and development of Bengal Library Association. He gave one-third royalty of Bangla Grantha Bargikoran to Bengal Library Association. Besides books on classification he wrote a good number of articles on library and reader, information and theory, Visva-Bharati library, Santiniketan library and Rabindranath, library movement, catalogue etc.

Conclusion:

Tagorean study is an integral part of Bengali culture. Tagore and Santiniketan is the nerve Centre of Bengali Culture. Tagore associate Prabhatkumar is the epic centre of this culture. His fame as Tagore biographer suppresses his contribution in other domain like librarian. Recognizing his contribution, he was bestowed on D. Lit by four universities besides 'Desikottam' by Visva-Bharati. He was awarded 'Padmabhushan' in 1981. But the inspiration of his work was library-the ocean of books where he used to spend most of his time. Best way to pay homage to this great scholar on the occasion of his 125th birth anniversary would be to follow his basic philosophy of giving utmost importance to readers service.

(Partha Pratim Ray)

Some Recent Library Activities / Developments

- **Celebration of 125th Anniversary of Prabhat Kumar Mukhopadhyaya:** Visva-Bharati Library Network has organized '125th Birth Anniversary of Prabhat Kumar Mukhopadhyay' the first biographer of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore and the founder Librarian of Visva- Bharati Library on 28th July, 2017 at Conference Hall, Central Library at 10.30am. The inauguration ceremony of the event was started with the floral tribute to the Photograph of both Prabhat Kumar Mukhopadhyay and Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore. At the outset, Prof. Nirmalya Banerjee, Prof.-in-Charge, University Library, has delivered welcome address with an outline sketch of Prabhat Kumar. Prof. Swapan Kumar Datta, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Visva-Bharati inaugurated the event with very interesting speech. Prof. Suniti Kumar Pathak, Former Professor, Dept. of Pali, Prakrit and Sanskrit, Visva-Bharati was the Chief Guest. In his deliverance, he has mentioned about Prabhat Kumar's writing excellence as a noted historian from which any one may learn how to write biography. Prof. Amit Kumar Hazra, Registrar, Visva-Bharati delivered lecture as Guest of Honour and mentioned about the 'Man' Prabhat Kumar Mukhopadhyay with reference to their family relation. The First session was ended with vote of thanks by Dr N.C. Saha, Deputy Librarian.

After completion of the inaugural session, respected Vice-chancellor, respected Registrar and family member of Prabhat Kumar Mukhopadhyay inaugurated the Exhibition on Prabhat Kumar Mukhopadhyay at Reference Section, Central Library.

The second session chaired by Prof. Suniti Kumar Pathak. In this session Sri Satyabrata Ghoshal, Former University Librarian, RBU, Kolkata and Sri Prabir Debnath, Retired Employee, V.B. delivered very illuminative speech on Prabhat Kumar Mukhopadhyay. This session was ended with vote of thanks by Dr. Sanat Kumar Bhattacharya, Assistant Librarian & In-charge, Siksha-Bhavana Library. The entire programme was conducted by Dr. Koushik Ghosh, Assistant Librarian, Central Library.

- **Meeting at Patha Bhavana Library:** Prof.-in-Charge, University Library Prof. N. Banerjee and Dy. Librarian, Dr. N. C. Saha have attended the meeting of the Patha Bhavana Library Committee on 17.07.2017.
- **Special Session –** One special session was organized on Digital Initiatives (**Study Webs of Active –Learning for Young Aspiring Minds** (SWAYAM, SWAYAM Prabha), National Digital Library (NDL), e-Sodhsindhu and e-Vidwan, etc.) on 14 July 2017 at the Conference Hall, Central Library. The session was presided by the Hon'ble Upacharyay Prof. Swapan Kumar Datta and total 32 participants comprising of faculty members and research scholars were attended the programme. In the session lecture has been delivered by Dr. N. C. Saha.
- **Library Orientation Programme:** As requested by Head, Dept. of English and Other Modern European Languages (DEOMEL), Central Library has organized Library Orientation Programme for the students of the dept. on 30 July 2017 and total 32 UG students participated in the programme.
- **Article Delivery Services:** During the month 02 no of soft copies of the articles have been collected and delivered through mail as requested by the academics/scholars in and out of Visva-Bharati.

Some Recent Library Activities / Developments

➤ Staff Meeting:

The second meeting with the In-charge of all sectional libraries and all sections of central library was convened on 17 July 2017 at 4.30pm to discuss regarding observation of 125th Birth Anniversary of Sri Prabhat Kumar Mukhopadhyay, the first biographer of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore and the founder Librarian of Visva- Bharatiwas held on 28 July 2017 at 10.30am onwards.

➤ New Additions (Books) during June 2017

Central Library

Number of Books Purchased : 51 (Acc. No. 428220 - 428270)

Number of Books received as Gift : 36 (Acc. No. G9299 - G9334)

Cheena Bhavana Library

Number of books received as Gift : 57 (CG4593 - CG4649)

Hindi Bhavana Library

Number of books received as Gift : 08 (HG189 - HG196)

Promotion of Library Officers: Three (including 01 retired) library officers (Smt. Kanika Debnatha from Stage II to Stage III and Smt. Schismita Sarkar (retired) Stage – II to Stage III and Ms. Sabahat Nausheen stage I to Stage II were promoted under CAS (vide memo no. Est./E-1/CAS/2017-18, dated 07/07/2017).

Staff Publications:

Implementation of RFID Technology in Library, by Nirmalendu Pal and Ajay Kumar Sharma, In "International Journal of Digital Library Services", 7(2), April - June 2017. Pp. 70-79.

Personalia:

Dr. Partha Pratim Ray, Deputy Librarian gave a talk on “Rabindranath’s Vision of Library and Prabhat Kumar Mukhopadhyaya’ at All India Radio. It was broadcasted on 28 July 2017 to pay homage to Prabhat Kumar in Rabikatha programme.

Comments of Visitor:

(Dr. Aruna Biswas, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Education (Finance & Administration), Govt. of Bangladesh; Sent through mail to Hon’ble Upacharyay, VB on 04 July 2017):

I am pleased to extend my sincere thanks and gratitude to you and the officials working in the Visva Bharati Central Library in Santiniketan. As you know, we, the 06 members team from Ministry of Education, Bangladesh visited Santiniketan specifically the central library in the last of June 2017. We were enriched with great care and co-operation by the officials deputed in central library specially by Dr. Nimai Chand Saha, Dy. librarian who offered his upmost co-operation to our team for satisfying our objectives. We have informed and experienced about the uniqueness of central library (like Gurudev and his collection, multifaceted library, inclusiveness, ultimate place on Tagore literature etc.), 12 Section libraries, 30 seminar libraries, information services, catalogue system, Integrated automation through libSys software, access to digital and electronic resources like online journals and databases, e-books, digitised books, theses, different information services, IT enabled services, library website, Remote access facility, Inter-library loan system, Network e-Newsletter and out-reach materials, Reference section, Reprographic services, Journal section, Tagore displays, Text-book recoding facility and Career Corner, E-resources Browsing Facility, Open air reading facility, Braille Library etc.

Moreover, we have greatly benefited to gather much experience about the automated and networking system of central library which will be very useful for updating our system in International Mother Language Institute, Dhaka, Bangladesh. We enjoyed a lot seeing old and rare documents of Visva-Bharati library network. I, as the team leader like to extend my heartiest appreciation and thanks for your co-operation and hospitality to meet our objectives. We are highly satisfied with all your services offered to us. We believe this visit will strengthen the bondage between two institutions.

New Arrivals (Books and Periodicals)

[Books](#)(click)

[Journals](#) (click)

Conferences / Seminars / Workshops in Library & Information Science

1. ADINET in collaboration with Adani Institute of Infrastructure, Ahmedabad will be celebrating the 125th birth anniversary of Dr. S. R. Ranganathan as Librarians' Day by holding a Seminar on, Saturday 12, August 2017 at the Adani Institute of Infrastructure (AII) Campus. For more information visit <http://ld2017.alibnet.org/>
2. Sarojini Naidu Vanitha Pharmacy Maha Vidyalay, Tarnaka Hyderabad in association with Telangana Library Association is going to organize Two Day National Seminar on Transformation of Academic Libraries in Technology Era Sarojini Naidu Vanitha Pharmacy Maha Vidyalay, Tarnaka Hyderabad from august 12-13, 2017. For more, email: naglaxman@gmail.com
3. A National Conference on Relevance of Ranganathan Philosophy in Digital India organized by The Department of Library and Information Science, Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University, Vidya Vihar, Raibareli Road, Lucknow during 12-13 August, 2017. For more information visit www.bbau.ac.in
4. Bengal Library Association, Kolkata is going to organize a work shop on IndKOHA-2017 during 26-27 August, 2017 at Swami Vivekananda Auditorium, Heritage Institute of Technology, Kolkata For more information visit www.blacal.org/
5. Central Library, Debraj Roy College, Golaghat, Assam is going to organize an UGC Sponsored National Workshop on Preservation of Library Materials in North East India during 8-9 September, 2017. For more information [email-drcollege.library@gmail.com](mailto:drcollege.library@gmail.com)



Inaugural Ceremony of 125th Birth Anniversary of Prabhat Kumar Mukhopadhyaya



Celebration and Special Exhibition of Photos & Books of Prabhatkumar Mukhopadhyaya at Central Library



Special session: Digital Initiatives (SWAYAM, NDLE, e-Sodhsindhu and Vidwan)



PSB Library (a partial view); DEOMEL at Central Library

Page Setting: Sujit Kujur

Photos: Jishnu Mondal