

The Indian National Bibliography: Today and tomorrow

Shahina P. Ahas

Central Reference Library,
Kolkata, India

E-mail : shahinaprashob@gmail.com

Swapna Banerjee

Department of Library & Information science,
University of Calcutta,
Kolkata, India

E-mail : sbanerjee63@yahoo.co.in



Copyright © 2013 by **Swapna Banerjee** and **Shahina P. Ahas**, This work is made available under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution 3.0 Unported License:

<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/3.0/>

Abstract:

A National Bibliography reflects cultural heritage of the nation and preserves it for the future generation. It also plays a major tool for national bibliographic control. Government of India entrusted Central Reference Library (CRL), Kolkata, Govt. of India, Ministry of Culture, to publish the Indian National Bibliography (INB), an authoritative bibliographical record of current Indian publications. INB is unique when compared with other National bibliographies since 14 languages come under one umbrella. This article analyses the role of Information Communication Technology (ICT) in contributing to the INB to reach its present position. Also discusses about the problems faced in alphabetical arrangement of INB, while integrating Indian language scripts having the heterogeneous characteristics in one sequence. In the initial stage CDAC's GIST technology was used for entering the language records. Now INB records are entered using UNICODE and follow the MARC 21 standards. As per the guidelines of International Conference on National Bibliographic Services (ICNBS) 1998, CRL started to record the bibliographic details in the original script of the document and transliterated all the fields for the National Bibliography. Thus Central Reference Library is in a position to publish INB in Roman script as well as 14 language bibliographies in their language scripts simultaneously after the implementation of UNICODE compliant software. This article also discusses the poor coverage and lack of comprehensiveness of Indian National Bibliography, the measures to improve its coverage, and need for strengthening the Delivery of Books Act (D. B. Act) of India. The authors try to examine the Cataloguing in Publication (CIP) programme in India and the need for the collaboration with INB.

Key words: Indian National Bibliography, Delivery of Books Act, Standardization, Multilingualism, Cataloguing-in-publication Programme

1 Introduction :

National bibliography is considered as a cumulated record of nation's publishing output. It also plays a major role for National Bibliographic Control. It is produced accordance with the international standards by the national bibliographic agency. "A current national bibliography is a mirror that reflects the culture of a country. By looking at the current national bibliography one is able to learn about the uniqueness of a country. The emphasis on agriculture and technology, the make-up of its society through its various language publications, particular customs and ceremonies important in the life of the nation, the importance of education, literature and science, prominent literary authors of the time and political, social and religious trends within a country are all discernible. A current national bibliography should reflect the interests and unique characteristics of a country much as a mirror reflects the uniqueness of an individual". (Bell, 1998). Thus elements of a National Bibliographies are books printed and published in a country; books written in the language of that country; the country as subject -books written about the country. An ideal current national bibliography relies entirely upon the existence of legal deposit laws and their effective operation. It should include entries of books within one year of their publication.

India is a multi-religious, multi-cultural and multi lingual country where linguistic diversity is a part of the historical cultural heritage and an integral part of nation building philosophy. 29 languages are spoken by more than a million native speakers and 122 languages by more than 10,000. These are classified, belonging to four distinct linguistic families: Indo-Aryan, Dravidian, Tibeto-Burman and Austro-Asiatic, all of which have some tribal speech communities. 22 languages are listed under 8th schedule of the Indian constitution [which includes two tribal languages-Santhal and Bodo]. The scripts of South and Southeast Asia have many structural similarities: most are phonetic, most are written from left to right, most use spaces or marks between phrases, and so on. Most of these scripts are derived from the ancient Brahmi script. Urdu, Sindhi and Kashmiri are usually written in Perso-Arabic scripts. Sometimes they are written in Devanagari also. Apart from Perso-Arabic scripts, the remaining ten scripts have evolved from the ancient Brahmi script, and have a common phonetic structure, which allows a common character set among these scripts.

Indian National Bibliography (INB) reflects the cultural heritage of our country. In this knowledge based society, INB has a major role to play. The types of publications, publishing process in general, the format of national bibliographies from the printed version to CD-ROM and online versions etc has much changed the scope of the national bibliography.

2. Users :

User groups and their context of use are changed in National Bibliographies from time to time. National Bibliography is considered as the most important information resource for the general public. Librarians, research scholars, publishers, booksellers, cataloguers etc are the main users of National Bibliography. Cataloguers use National Bibliography for their cataloguing purpose. If the book is same, one can use the copy cataloguing facility from an online National Bibliography. National bibliography can be a source of data about country's publishing output for official statistics. The Indian National Bibliography has been serving scholars, librarians, publishers, book sellers and those interested in the book world as a valuable tool of reference.

3. History of INB:

The Government of India set up an interim commission in 1949 and its first conference was inaugurated in 1954. The culture sub-commission of the national commission recommended the formation of a sub committee for libraries and bibliographies of documents. "It also recommended:

- The national commission and the Indian Government should prepare comprehensive lists of outstanding works of arts in India for transmission to UNESCO.
- A national programme of translation of foreign works into Indian languages and of works from one Indian language into another should be formulated and implemented as soon as possible." (Collison, 1961)

Influenced by Paris Conference of UNESCO in 1950, Government of India took serious initiatives for the development of the bibliographic services. The Government of India enacted the Delivery of Books [Public Libraries] Act, in 1954. The Act made it obligatory for the publishers in India to deposit a copy of each book published to the National Library, Calcutta (now Kolkata) and three other public libraries. The three other public libraries are Connemara Public Library, Madras (now Chennai), Central Library, Bombay (Now Mumbai) and Delhi Public Library, New Delhi. The publishers are supposed to send their copy of publication to these libraries within thirty days from the issue of the publication at their own expenses. The copy deposited in the National Library is passed on to the Central Reference Library, Kolkata for the compilation of the Indian National Bibliography. The Act was amended in the year 1956 so as to include Periodicals and Newspapers. This Act was a step forward in the direction of bibliographic control of Indian publications. It made it possible to plan the compilation of a comprehensive National Bibliography in thirteen Indian languages, recognized by the Indian Constitution, and English.

In 1955, the then Ministry of Education appointed a committee of the Indian National Bibliography consisting of seven members headed by late B.S. Kesavan, the first Librarian, National Library of Independent India, Calcutta to make initial plans for a National Bibliography. The committee laid down general structure and the principles for governing the compilation of Indian National Bibliography. They are concerned with the coverage, script, classification, cataloguing, periodicity etc. The INB unit started functioning from August 1955 in the premises of National Library Kolkata. In 1970, CRL started to function as a separate subordinate office of the Department of Culture, Govt. of India, headed by a full-fledged Librarian.

The aim of INB is to publish an accurate and comprehensive bibliographical records of current Indian publications in major fourteen Indian languages of India [Assamese, Bengali, English, Gujarati, Hindi, Kannada, Malayalam, Marathi, Oriya, Punjabi, Sanskrit, Tamil, Telugu and Urdu] received at the National Library, Kolkata under the provisions of the Delivery of Book [public libraries] Act, 1954.

The first volume of the INB appeared as quarterly with annual cumulations from 1958 to 1963, and its periodicity was changed to monthly in 1964 and continued up to 1977. After a few years, it became irregular. Only annual volumes were published during 1978 and 1979. 1980-81 was published as cumulative volumes in two parts. Since January 1984, the

periodicity of this publication became monthly. This continued till 1993. Again from 1994, monthlies could not be published. June 2000 is the landmark in the history of Indian National Bibliography when its compilation was completely computerized. Up to today, all the monthly issues are being published regularly.

4. Arrangement:

INB consists of 3 parts – Classified, Author & Title Index and Subject Index.

In the Classified part, the entries are arranged according to the Dewey Decimal system of subject classification (22nd edition). The corresponding Colon Classification (6th Edition) is also assigned at the right hand corner below each entry. Chain Procedure is using for subject headings. If more than one entry comes under the same classification number, the entry is arranged according to the alphabetical order of the author. If there are two or more works by the same author under the specific classification number, the name of the author is not repeated and the works are arranged alphabetically by their titles under the specific DDC number. The following examples shows :

891.441-Bengali Poetry- *contd.*

Thākur, Rabīndranāth, 1861-1941

Fruit gathering / translated by
the author.- New Delhi : Niyogi
Books, 2012.- 63 p. ; 18 cm.

ISBN 978-93-81523-17-9 :

Rs. 95.00

(eng) O157,1M61

Gitanjali / translated by the
author.- New Delhi : Niyogi
Books, 2012.- 62 p. ; 18 cm.

ISBN 978-93-81523-18-6 :

Rs. 75.00

(eng) O157,1M61

Sometimes, verbal extension is used where the DDC number is not available for a specific subject and also gives emphasis on the particular subject by naming the further divisions in words. For example :

294.5211-Gods, Goddesses and
other Divinities
294.5211(1)-Durga
Jhā, O. P.
Goddess Durga.- New Delhi :
Diamond Pocket Books, 2012.-
63 p.: ill.; 18 cm.
ISBN 978-81-288-3885-9 :
Rs. 30.00
(eng) Q2

5. Index :

5.1 Author and Title Index : In Author and Title Index, the entries are arranged according to the alphabetical order. When the author of the book is known, it can be traced using Author and Title Index. If the information in the index entry is found inadequate and more information is required, it refers to the entry in the classified part with the help of the class Number assigned at the end of the Author Index Entry. If there are two or more works by the same author under the specific classification number, the name of the author is not repeated and the works are arranged alphabetically by their titles. Author and Title Index entries are made under distinctive titles, editors, compilers, translators, commentators, illustrators, series etc. Reports and transaction of societies are enter under the name of the corporate bodies. In certain cases, entries are made under the name of countries, cities and institutions which are considered to be the authors of their official publication. Periodicals, anonymous works, compiled and edited works etc are entered under the title.

Textbook of mass communication.
See Sirīha, Jitendrakumār
Thaker, Sandhya B., jt. auth. *See*
Cauhān, Rameśasirīha M.
Ṭhākur, Karūṇes
Nadiyom̄ bichaḍe nīr.(hin)
891.433
Ṭhākur, Rabīndranāth
Fire flies.(eng) 891.441
Fruit gathering.(eng) 891.441
Gitanjali.(eng) 891.441

5.2 Subject Index : To find the books in a particular subject, one can take the help of Subject Index which is separately printed after the Author and Title index and then refer to the Classified part by the means of DDC Number assigned against the name of the subject. For example, in the Subject Index under India, all the subjects related to India have been brought together.

India:Asia:Economic Planning	338.954
India:Asia:Economic Planning: Economics	338.954
India:Asia:Legends	398.220954
India:Asia:Social Role and Status of Women:Women	305.420954
India:Astronautics:Other Branches of Engineering: Engineering	629.40954

6. Standardization :

Standardization of bibliographic information is very essential in a national bibliography. Standardization helps in easy retrieval, depth of access, ensures uniformity, reliability, quality and copy cataloguing which is a recognized way of economical cataloguing. A library can make use of the work already done by another library by copying the bibliographic record and make a few changes to the record if needed. Standardization in case of INB result in

- Offering better services to the users
- Avoiding the duplication of effort
- Saving the time and manpower
- Enhancing cooperation amongst libraries
- Establishing effective networks

National Bibliographic agency is responsible to standardize the author and publisher by maintaining an authority file. Author authority should include personal author, corporate bodies, ministries, institutions and other official organizations within the country. In a Multilingual country like India, Author authority is very much essential. Generally the INB transliterate the name, according to the region and language it represents. For that purpose, concerned language divisions of INB standardize the author belonging to the concerned language; other language divisions use that data.

For eg. **Rabindranath Tagore** appears differently in various languages. It appears as **Rabindranath** Tagore in English,

Ravindranath Tagore in Malayalam, Marathi, Hindi languages etc (some Indic languages) and

Rabindranath Thakur in Bengali language

So it is standardized as

Ṭhākur, Rabīndranāth since it is a Bengali name.

7. INB: COMPUTERISATION PROJECT:

Up to May 2000, entries for INB are catalogued manually. The irregular appearance of INB has reduced its importance and a lot of thought has been put in for the revival of the project. Therefore, in 1998, authorities of the Central Reference Library submitted a proposal for the automation of the compilation of Indian National Bibliography to the Department of Culture, Government of India, and the same was approved. Department of Culture entrusted the Educational Consultancy Ltd., a Government of India undertaking to advise on the matter. The first computerized INB monthly June 2000 came out using TLMS software. The authority decided to adopt customized version of LibSys IV software for its compilation. Transliteration of Indian language scripts is done through GIST technology of C-DAC, Pune. The software was running in UNIX platform and dumb GIST terminals were used for typing the language script. So it was very much time consuming to type in language script but generation of the bibliography was very easy and having the facility to generate the Classified part, Author and title index and Subject Index automatically. Customisation of LibSys IV software took more than a year. The main problem faced at that time was that the arrangement of multilingual INB records. Finally the software became stabilized. Thus backlog works were cleared. INB became up-to-date. Now all the data from 1958 is available on machine-readable format.

All the language divisions enter data on the computer using LibSys software from manually prepared datasheet. If there is any Class number, which does not exist in the Subject Directory, the same has to be added in the subject directory. Next step is generation of INB and taking print out language wise. After proof reading and online editing of data by all language divisions, print out in all languages together has been taken again. General editing is done by rotation basis. After the proof reading and on line correction of data, the camera-ready copy of INB is generated. This is then sending to press for multiple copies.

Over the years, unprecedented growth has occurred in publication output of regional languages in India; it's of utmost importance to document all the resources published in vernacular languages. The multilingual situation in India required a general bibliography in Roman script and language bibliographies separately in concerned languages. The language bibliographies were sent to the respective state to print and publish. But it did not work for a long and most of the language bibliographies perished. CRL authority has seriously thought about the revival of language bibliography. So it was decided to upgrade the LibSys software (LS Premia). CRL has adopted the internationally accepted MACR 21 and UNICODE compliant system. UNICODE is used for entering language script.

8. Issues of Language and Script :

India is a multilingual nation with various scripts. At the beginning stage one of the major problems faced by the INB unit was that of scripts. Dr. Suniti Kumar Chatterjee, a

well-known scholar, suggested the roman script with diacritical marks and thus name of authors and titles in Indian languages are transliterated into roman script with diacritical marks wherever necessary. In the case of English books, only Indic authors are transliterated into roman script. Foreign authors remains as the same international standard. It was a far sighted decision which promoted its national and international usefulness.

In the initial stage, CDAC's GIST technology was used for entering the language records, which employs the extended ASCII codes for coding Indian language characters (ISCII). But ISCII had limitations in bibliographic data handling and management. As per the International Conference on National Bibliographic Services (ICNBS) 1998 "The national bibliography should include records for materials in all languages and/or scripts in which publications are produced within a state; and wherever possible these records should include the languages and/or scripts in which the publications originally appeared." Based on that, from 2010 onwards INB has also adopted the system of entering the records in the language of the publications and the system is automatically generating the 880 tag (roman transliteration) for every field. If required, one can edit the 880 tag and this can be saved.

Now INB in roman script as well as language bibliographies can be generated simultaneously. Thus we get two products - Indian National Bibliography and language bibliography by entering one record. This is a landmark for a multilingual country like India. For the Indian users in particular language, language bibliography serves them in better way. The following example shows one language entry (Marathi) which is prepared for Marathi Language Bibliography and fully transliterated in to Roman for Indian National Bibliography.

920-चरित्रे

923-समाजशास्त्री

923.6-समाजसेवक, लोकहितैषी

923.654-भारत

923.654(1)-व्यक्तिगत चरित्रे

923.654-फळणीकर, विजय गजानन

फळणीकर, विजय गजानन, 1961-

पराजय नव्हे विजय / शब्दांकन सविता फाळके.- 4 थी

आ.-पुणे : दिलीपराज प्रकाशन, मे 2012.- 188 पृ.:

चित्रे; 22 सें. मी.

प्रथम आ. : ऑक्टो. 2010.

अनाथ आणि निराधार मुलांना आसरा देणारे 'आपलं घर' संस्थेचे मालक.

ISBN 978-81-7294-855-9 : रु. 200.00

YZwN61,1

India, being a multilingual country, it is very essential to retain the option of romanizing bibliographic records for Indian National Bibliography.

920-Biography

923-Persons in Social Sciences

923.6-Philanthropists, Social
Reformer

923.654-India

923.654(1)-Individuals

923.654-Phalnikar, Vijay Gajanan

Phalnikar, Vijay Gajanan, 1961-

Parājay navhe vijay /

Śabdāṅkan Savitā Phāḷke.- 4

thī ā.-Puṇe : Dilīprāj Prakāśan,

Me 2012.- 188 pṛ.: Citre; 22

serṁ. Mī.

Pratham ā. : Ākṣo. 2010.

Anāth āṇi nirādhār mulānnā

āsarā deṇāre 'āpalam ghar'

saṁsthece mālak.

ISBN 978-81-7294-855-9 :

Ru. 200.00

(mar)

YZwN61,1

INB is unique when compared with other National bibliographies, since 14 languages come under one umbrella. A lot of problems were at the time of computerization. The main problem was that the arrangement of multilingual INB records, since integrating Indian language scripts having the heterogeneous characteristics in one sequence is not an easy task. Author and title has to be arranged according to the alphabetical order irrespective of the diacritical marks. For example, the binary value of 'a' and a elongation [ā] is different. But while arranging these two alphabets, it should be arranged in one place. Also in all the Indian languages there are three variations of 's' श, ष, स corresponding roman is s stroke [ś], s below dot [ṣ] and s. While arranging these in alphabetical order, irrespective of diacritical marks it has to be arranged in the place of 's'. The example follows :

Sāhu, Harprasād, Sampādak.

See Medinīpurer Nirbācit

Kabitā

Sapanerṁ kā peḍ. *See*

Kṛṣṇakumār

Sarvadharmā - samabhāb ek

biśleṣaṇ / Saṁpā. Rekhā

Dvivedī Tathā Rājīb Dube. (hin)

891.434008

Śāstrajñā rāṣṭrapatī ḍā. Abdul

Kalām. *See* Pāṇḍhare, Nīlā

Śikṣā ke sāmājik sarokār. *See*

Pāṇḍey, Kedāranāth

Sumedh Vaḍāvālā, Saṁpā. *See*

Thoravī

9. Cataloguing-in- Publication Project : Problems and Solutions

Cataloguing-in-publication (CIP) in India is a free cataloguing service offered to Indian Publishers by the Ministry of Culture, Government of India for the books which are in the process of being printed. Each CIP entry will be added to the National CIP database which will be freely accessible online by users, publishers, librarians and all those interested in Indian publications.

On 8th November 2009, the advisory Board of the National Library of India discussed the importance of Cataloguing-in-publication programme at its meeting. After this meeting, the Ministry of Culture constituted a committee to prepare a report for the implementation of CIP in India. The chairman submitted the report to the Ministry of Culture on 30th April 2010. The then Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Culture facilitated the processing of the report and its approval.

The CIP agency selected to prepare CIP records in different parts of India will be required to use the following standards like MARC 21, AACR II, Dewey Decimal Classification (DDC), LCSH and special internationally known Subject Thesauri and UNICODE. It is decided that, in the first phase, CIP records in the computerized form will be created in the 12 languages (Assamese, Bengali, Gujarati, Hindi, Kannada, Malayalam, Marathi, Oriya, Punjabi, Sanskrit, Tamil, Telugu) besides English.

The CIP programme was first started by the Library of Congress and was followed by the British Library. There are twenty-five active CIP programmes at present in the world. But CIP programme in India is in initial stage only. There is no decision at governmental level regarding the co-operation between CIP programmes and INB. Most of the countries, the National Bibliographic Agency is responsible for creating the CIP data and that data is also included in the National Bibliography. If INB also include the CIP data, definitely it will also become more comprehensive and current. But in India, the Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation (RRRLF), an autonomous body under ministry of Culture, Government of India is the main agency responsible for CIP.

10. Problems and Solutions :

A national bibliography should contain an authoritative and comprehensive records of all publication published in a country and publish those records with shortest possible delay with the accepted international standards. Characteristics of a national bibliography are that it provides a current, timely, comprehensive and authoritative list of all titles published in a country. In the case of Indian National Bibliography, it is totally depending upon the books received from National Library under the Delivery of Book Act and at present there is no control over the Delivery of Books Act. Some of the publishers are not at all aware of the Act and some send their books very late to National Library and it takes minimum three months to reach in the Central Reference Library. This affects the currency of INB. The legal deposit legislation needs to be strengthened to make the publishers aware of their obligations. There is very less effort for the amendment of the act at the government level. Many developed nations amended their legal depositary Act so as to include digital materials in their National Bibliographies as per the recommendations of the ICNBS, 1998. So Delivery of Books Act needs to be changed in its totality. National Bibliography should provide information as quickly as possible to the users who need it for collection development, cataloguing purposes and information search. Being a National Bibliographic Agency, CRL has to take necessary

steps for the cooperative arrangements with publishers, booksellers for the improvement of timely publication of the INB.

Criticism is there regarding the INB, in its lack of on-line accessibility. Efforts are going to upload the data. National Informatics Centre has been entrusted for INB online. As an experimental basis, some of the data is available on the net. A country with one language and single script has many advantages in uploading the record in the net than a country with several languages and multiple scripts. Therefore these problems crop up often.

11. Conclusion:

Some of the observations from this study are:

1. Delivery of Books Act should be amended immediately.
2. There is no specific provision in that Act for the deposit of E- publications by the publishers. So proper steps should be taken in advance for the receipt of E-publications.
3. The Delivery of Books Act is not imposing heavy penalty on the defaulting publishers. So the penalty should be severe.
4. The defaulting publishers should be blacklisted.
5. Provision for the publicity of the Delivery of Books Act should be made among people through different media.
6. Like other countries CIP data should be included in the Indian National Bibliography
7. Necessary steps are to be taken for making INB available online.

Future of INB is very promising. But since it has to depend on the flow of book from the National Library its status is sometimes very much shaky. There is need for INB since India is a multilingual country and comprehensive databases of the book published in various languages are to be prepared. In some countries, the national bibliography no longer is issued in paper form at all, but is published as a DVD. Many countries have online versions of their national bibliographies. All of these new formats are giving a new significance to the national bibliography as a cultural heritage of the literary output of the country. It is concluded that the current format used in INB is at par with the international standard and it is very much apt for publishing the language bibliographies and roman bibliography at a time. 22 languages are included in the 8th schedule of the Indian constitution and all languages are having the same status in INB. Thus INB reflects the culture of Indian community- multilingualism.

References :

1. Ananda Ram, H. N. and Venkatachari, P. N. (1960) “ The Indian National Bibliography” 19th All India Libray conference, Calcutta Pp. 13- 19.
2. Bell, B. L. (1998). An annotated guide to current national bibliographies. 2nd rev. ed. München: K. G. Saur.
3. Cataloguing-in-Publication Unit “Cataloguing-in-Publication” Kolkata : RRRLF
4. Collison, Robert Lewis (1961). “Activities in various countries and territories” In Bibliographical Services throughout the world 1950-59. Paris : Unesco.

5. The final recommendations of the International Conference on National Bibliographic Services (ICNBS), IFLA : Copenhagen, 1998.
6. Kesavan, B. S. (1957). "National Bibliographical services in India" Paris : UNESCO
7. Kochukoshy, K. K., " The Indian National Bibliography since its inception in 1958." National Bibliographical Control : problems and perspectives. Calcutta : National Library. Pp. 92-101.
8. Shahina P Ahas, Swapna Banerjee (2011) "Multilingual and inter-operability: a case study of Indian National Bibliography." International Conference on Digital Library Management (ICDLM), held at Kolkata, 11-13 January 2011. Pp. 191-198.
9. Shahina P Ahas, Swapna Banerjee (2008) " Indian National Bibliography in the digital age." In ILA International Conference on Knowledge for All, held at Mumbai, 12-15 November 2008. Pp. 519-527.
10. Scholberg, Henry (1978). " The Indian National Bibliography (INB): its origin, history and accomplishments." ILA Bulletin. Vol. XIV (1-4) Pp. 64-69.