

Evolution of Systematic Bibliographies in India

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Abstract

In India, prior to the nineteenth century, there was no attempt to provide a sort of bibliographical control over published literature apart from some stray evidences of bibliographical works, as publication of printed books became a regular feature in the country only in the first part of the nineteenth century itself. The first bibliography of the country entitled Bibliographical index to the historians of Mohammedan India by Henry Miers Elliot was published in 1849. Though few good bibliographies were appeared in India during nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, it was the publication of Indian national bibliography (INB) in 1958, which heralded the appearance of bibliographies in the country as a regular phenomenon. With regards to style and contents, most of the bibliographies in India have followed a classified arrangement under broad subject headings, entries under which are arranged alphabetically by surnames of the authors. Though there is sizeable number of bibliographies following some other patterns. Index was first appeared in 1861 in Fitz Edward Hall's A contribution towards an index for the bibliography of Indian philosophical system.

I Introduction

Systematic bibliography has been defined as a “list of written, printed or otherwise, produced record of human civilization which include books, serials, pictures, films, maps, records, manuscripts and other media of communication” (Shores 1954)

Progress and development in every sphere of knowledge lead to the preparation of bibliographies. Evidences suggest that the emergence of bibliography has a close relation to the intellectual progress of a society. The present paper is a modest attempt towards exploring the history of systematic bibliographies in India. It also endeavours to study the bibliographies with regard to their presentation, format, style and different features. The paper draws heavily from the author's doctoral research on systematic bibliographies in India which is an analytical and comprehensive account of all separately published bibliographies in India in all languages and all subjects from the beginning to 1993 (Rath 2004). It is arranged in the following manner: The first part discusses briefly about evolution of bibliographies internationally. It is followed by history of bibliographical activities in India, both in pre-independence and post-independence period, with brief hints on related developments in Great Britain. In the third part, attempt has been made to study the citation pattern of

bibliographies that have been published in India; and the last part traces the evolution of index as an inevitable part of a systematic bibliography in the country.

II Background Studies

In India, few attempts have been made to study bibliographical activities in the country. K. Nagarjuna Rao's *Bibliography of Indian culture and its preparation* (Rao 1945), Avtaar Singh's *Bibliographical works in India: A study and a descriptive bibliography of bibliographies published in English language on India between 1900 to 1967* (Singh 1968), Jagdish Saran Sharma's *India's contributions in the field of bibliography* (Sharma 1974), and S.D. Vyas' *Bibliographical control of social science literature in post-independence period* (Vyas 1992) are some of the noteworthy monographs on the subject besides several articles. However, none of these has examined the nature and types of bibliographies published in India with regard to content, format and arrangement.

III Bibliographies in Historical Perspective

International

Though bibliographies in printed form appeared only by the close of the 15th century, their origin, in manuscript form, is much older in time. The earliest of such lists is the *De libris propriis* of the Greek physician Claudius Galen, second century A.D. Historian Venerable Bede in the 8th Century A. D. also added a list of his own works to his *Historia ecclesiastica gentis Anglorum: Notitia de seipso et de libris suis* (Malcles 1973). Bibliographies of same type were also prepared by St. Jerome in his *De scriptoribus ecclesiasticis* in the 8th century A. D., and Massiliensis Gennadius' work consisting of transcriptions of the titles of the writings of the authors of the Church, printed in 1470 in Augsburg and 1529 in Basle (Malcles 1973).

Renaissance brought about an intellectual reawakening of revolutionary dimension throughout Europe in the 14th century. It was marked by fervent intellectual activities concerning every field of human life and thought. Though the art of printing by movable metal types dates back to 1403 in Korea (Durant 1957), it was Gutenberg who introduced the art of modern printing in Europe in 1456 which revolutionised the process of book production and thereby made the fruits of Renaissance available to the common man at large. "Printing did not produce the Renaissance, but paved the way for the Enlightenment, for the American and French revolutions, for democracy" (Besterman 1936). Although many thousands of works were produced during the first hundred years of invention of printing in Europe, the book trade itself, did not seem, to have felt any need for bibliographies at the time. It had such broad sides as the printer Johann Mentelin's advertisement of the *Summa de casibus conscientiae* of Astesanus de Ast, 1469, and such lists of particular printers as Swenheym and Pannartz's *Registrum librorum impressorum Rome*, 1470 (Besterman 1936).

The first modern bibliography was prepared by Johann Trithem (1462-1516), a priest of the Benedictine Monastery of Spanheim, in Prussia. He had begun the work in 1487 and by the spring of 1492, he was able to send the complete manuscript to the Bishop of Worms. Its revision by him came out in 1494 under the title *Liber de scriptoribus ecclesiasticis* (Besterman 1936) from Basle. Later on, it was printed in

Paris in 1512, and at Cologne in 1531 and in 1546 (Malcles 1973). It enlists, in all, about 7,000 books and provides an alphabetical author index (Besterman 1936). In 1522 appeared *Inventarium librorum in utroque jure hactenus impressorum* of Giovanni Nevizzano which is a classified bibliography of over a thousand works on jurisprudence or law (Malcles 1973). We can get several other examples of subject bibliographies which appeared mainly from different parts of Europe during the 16th and 17th centuries. It was Conrad Gesner (1516-65), a sixteenth century natural historian, physician and philologist, considered as the “greatest figure in the natural science of his age” [8, p.868], who compiled, for the first time, a universal bibliography, covering all subjects. In his *Bibliotheca universalis sive catalogus omnium scriptorum locupletissimus in tribus linguis, Latina, Graeca et Hebraica* are listed all Latin, Greek, and Hebrew books known to him. It was followed in 1548 by *Pandectarum sive partitionum universalium libri XXI* which is a classified arrangement of the items in the *Bibliotheca universalis*, under 21 subject headings* (Malcles 1973). A supplement to the *Bibliotheca universalis* containing about 3000 entries was published in 1555 under the title *Appendix Bibliothecae*. It was also compiled by Conrad Gesner. The *Bibliotheca universalis* and its supplement contained together 15,000 books by about 3000¹ authors (Malcles 1973).

Production of bibliographies now became a regular activity in Europe and bibliography assumed the status of a record of intellectual activities.

Two abridgements of the *Bibliotheca universalis* were published during Gesner's lifetime, one by Conrad Lycosthenes, in Basle in 1551, entitled *Elenchus scriptorum omnium qui ab exordio mundi usque ad nostra tempora in diversis linguis artibus et facultatibus claruerunt*. The other by Josias Simler, in Zurich in 1555, the *Epitome Bibliothecae Conradi Gesneri* (Malcles 1973). Several other bibliographies also appeared using Gesner as model, such as *Specimen supplementum ad Bibliothecam Gesnero-Simlero* (1703-31) by G. H. Welshius, and Robert Constantin's *Nomenclator insignium scriptorum quorum libri extant vel manuscripti vel impressi bibliothecis Galliae et Angliae, indesque totius Bibliothecae atque Pandectarum C. Gesneri* (Malcles 1973).

The first national bibliography started appearing in 1548 which was devoted to the writers of a nation (Malcles 1973). Those works, usually under the title *Bibliotheca* continued to be published up to the end of the 18th century. Mention may also be made to John Bale's *Illustrium majoris Britanniae scriptorum hoc est Angliae, Cambriae ac Scotiae summarium* (1548) in which English writers were arranged in chronological order with an index of Christian names at the front. Besides, several other such works such as John Pits' *The lives of the kings, bishops, apostolical men and writers of England* the fourth part of which was published in 1619 under the title *Relationum historicarum de rebus Anglicis tomus primus*; Antonio Grancesco Doni's *Libreria* (1550); Cornelis van Loos' *Illustrium Germaniae scriptorum catalogus* (1582); Francois de la Croix Dumaine's *Bibliothèque Françoise* (1584); Antoine DuVerdir's *Bibliothèque Françoise* (1585) etc. are the notable examples of bibliographies of works of authors of a particular nation (Malcles 1973). But the *Catalogue of English printed books* published by Andrew Maunsell in 1595 can be considered as a true national bibliography since it attempted to enlist all the English

¹ Out of the 21 divisions announced, the 20th never appeared

printed books of the time. It appeared in three volumes, the last of which was incomplete. His work introduced several features such as rendering of authors' by surnames, providing details of place, publisher, etc., which later on, were followed by most of the bibliographers for practical purposes (Malcles 1973).

India

Pre-independence Period

India has a hoary cultural heritage. However, much of the scholarship in India was acquired and communicated by "oral means and facts lie buried under a mass of flowers of rhetoric, tricks of style and round-about expressions" (Chopra 1976) and "myths become one of the means of passing of information" (Thapar 1978). Thus, very few cases of bibliographical activity can be traced in ancient India. Perhaps, keeping in view of this tradition, as late as in the early part of the 20th century, Edward Thomson commented: "Indians are not historians; and they rarely show any critical ability. Even their most useful books, books full of research and information, exasperate with their repetitions and diffuseness, and lose effect by their uncritical enthusiasms. Such solid highways to scholarly esteem and approval as indexes and bibliographies are almost unknown to them" (Thomson 1925).

Of course, the above statement does not mean that bibliographical tradition was completely unknown to ancient Indian writers. There are evidences of bibliographical activities in ancient India which were different in form and content from that of the modern bibliographies. In Madhavacharya's *Sarvadarshana sangraha* (Acharya 1996) we can find a number of references. In the Sanskrit work *Bhamati*, which was written in the 9th century by Vachaspati Misra as a commentary on the *Brahmasutra bhasya* of Sankara, there are enumeration of some of commenter's own works (Rao 1945). There are also references of own writings in *Naishadhiyacarita* by Sri Harsa (12th century) and *Granthamalika stotras* of Madhavacharya (Rao 1945). Some other ancient Sanskrit works which contained bibliographical materials are: (i) *Tantracudamani* by Raja Cudamani Dikhita Rangacharya (1913); (ii) *Kavyadarpana*, a work on Poetics (Sastri 1918) and (iii) *Krishnavijayadima* by Venkatavarada (Ranganathan 1940). In addition, there are bibliographies on Indian classics in *Muktikopanisad*, *Brahadharmapuranam*, edited by Haraprasad Sastri and *Venkateswara tantra* (Rao 1945).

Bibliographical traditions in some modern Indian languages were also prevalent during the mediaeval period. M. Sitarama Swamy has described existence of bibliographical accounts in Telugu in the prologue, usually containing the 'Sukavi Stuthi' and 'Avatarika' (Swamy 1973). Pitambar Padhi has also provided similar examples in the Oriya poems of 16th and 17th centuries (Padhi 1994).

As systematic bibliographies in the modern sense of the term are a gift of Englishmen to India, it won't be out of context to briefly discuss the developments in England so far as bibliographies are concerned. As already mentioned, the *Catalogue of English Printed Books* of Andrew Maunsell can rightly be considered as the first true national bibliography. The birth of the *Philosophical Transactions* of the Royal Society, London, in 1665 was one of the most important events in the history and development of bibliography. The *Transactions* and its French counterpart *Journal des Scavans*

included bibliographical information in the form of reviews and list of new books (Roy 1994). The history of modern systematic bibliography begins with J. C. Brunet's *Manuel de Libraire* in 1810. Robert Watt was the British counterpart of Brunet. Watt spent his entire adult life in compiling one great bibliography entitled *Bibliotheca Britannica: A General Index to British and Foreign Literature* (Roy 1994). In India, printing was introduced in September, 1556, by accident (Kesavan 1985). It was the establishment of the Serampore Mission Press by Rev. William Carey, which brought about a revolution in the field of printing and publishing in India by the volume and variety of its productions in many languages. It was just a grand beginning. It ushered into existence a number of other printing units and thereby created a situation which called for governmental measures for bibliographical control.

Prior to the implementation of governmental measures towards bibliographical control of Indian publications, some bibliographies were published in India at the individual effort. The earliest bibliography in India was published in the year 1849. This publication entitled *Bibliographical index to the historians of Muhammedan India* was compiled by Henry Miers Elliot as volume I of a projected 4 volume work covering "General histories" (Rath 2004). It describes in detail 67 works concerning the history of India during the Muhammedan period. Though the first of such works, it is not a perfect bibliography as the arrangement is not systematic and there is no uniformity in the description of works. However, it provides location of the manuscripts. We have references of a bibliography of Bengali works, which was prepared by James Long. This bibliography entitled *Granthabali: Arthat long saheb kartrika sangrihita banga bhasar pustak sakaler nam* was published in 1852. Reference to this bibliography is found for the first time in Jatindra Mohan Bhattacharyya's *Bangla mudrit granthadir talika*, Vol. 1 (1990) which also contains a reproduction of the *Granthabali*. The *Granthabali* provides a list of 1046 Bengali books without any other bibliographical details except the title and abbreviated form of the subject. The most notable bibliography of the early period, *A descriptive catalogue of Bengali works: Containing a classified list of fourteen hundred Bengali books and pamphlets which have issued from the press during the last sixty years with occasional notices of the subjects, the prices and where printed* compiled by James Long was published in 1855. It provides bibliographical details and descriptions of about 1400 Bengali books. However, the last serial number reads as 488. It is the first ever bibliography published in India which contains the necessary elements that are found in a modern bibliography. This work also, for the first time, groups the entries under respective subject headings under three main parts, viz., "Educational", "Literary and Miscellaneous", and "Theological". Rev. Long prepared another list in 1855 entitled *A return of the names and writings of 515 persons connected with Bengali literature either as authors or translators of printed works chiefly during the last fifty years and a catalogue of Bengali newspapers and periodicals which have issued from the press from the year 1818-1855* which was primarily a report submitted to the Government. It does not provide complete bibliographical details of the materials covered. Another notable bibliography of the period is *A contribution towards an index for the bibliography of Indian philosophical system* compiled by Fitz Edward Hall was published in 1861. This bibliography, which enlists 748 works under six Indian philosophical systems, provides, for the first time, a title index under the heading "names of works described or prescribed to" (Rath, 2004). The index is linked to the text by means of page number. Yet another bibliography entitled *Catalogue of Sanskrit and Bengali publications* compiled by J. Robinson and J.

Wenger was published in 1865 which also included Urdu and English publications besides Sanskrit and Bengali. It contains 1463 publications arranged alphabetically under the respective languages. Another noteworthy work to appear before the enactment of the Press and Registration of Books Act was the *Classified catalogue of Tamil printed books* compiled by John Murdoch and published in 1865. Besides providing complete details about 1755 Tamil publications arranged under 10 broad subject divisions and their subdivisions, this publication also has certain novel features of merit. It provides a comparative study of Tamil and Bengali publications and also suggested the areas concerning South Indian languages which require bibliographical control. Its plan was based upon the Report of the International Statistical Congress. Most of these earlier attempts towards preparation of bibliographies have direct or indirect linking to the Christian Missionaries of India in keeping with the trend in international level during the 17th century (Schneider, 1934).

The efforts towards bibliographical control of published literature started in India in 1823 with the enactment of Regulation of the Press Ordinance (popularly known as the Adam's Act). However, this Act was intended to regulate publication of newspapers, magazines, registers and pamphlets only (Natarajan, 1962). Similarly, another attempt in the form of Metcalfe Act of 1835 attempted to control publication activities in India. The Board of Directors of East India Company had also tried to regulate the publishing activities by issuing instruction that copies of every important and interesting work published in India should be dispatched to England to be deposited in the library of the India House. Such an effort, however, had a slow impact. The Royal Society of in London also urged the then Secretary of State for India to repeat the instruction of the late Board of Directors of East India Company and desired that catalogues of all the works published in India should be sent to England. A system of voluntary registrations of publications was evolved but failed (Registrar General of India). The year 1867 can be considered as an epoch making year in the history of the bibliographical control of India as it witnessed the first ever governmental measures towards control of publications with the enactment of the Press and Registration of Books Act (Act XXV of 1867). The apparent reason may be the Sepoy revolt of 1857 which shook the very foundation of the British Empire in India and which saw a major shift in Indian administration putting the country directly under the control of the British Emperor. Though the 1867 Act was enacted mainly for the purpose of administrative convenience, it also intended to provide access to the Indian authors and their publications as is indicated in its introduction when the Act was in Bill stage (Ohdedar 1975).

“The literature of a country is no doubt a index of the opinion and condition of the people, and such an index is essential to good government that rulers of a country should possess.

In the interest, too, of history and of the scholars of Europe, it is undoubtedly wise to provide a complete collection of the publications of the press of this country should be made as well as in this country as in England. It cannot, too, but be of benefit to authors and publishers that catalogues of their works, and to limited extent, copies of the works themselves, should be accessible for the public at certain well-known places”.

The Act was epoch-making in the sense that it, for the first time, incorporated delivery of books as mandatory for all printers and publishers. Clause 9 of the Act, which takes care of the same, is reproduced here:

“Printed or lithographed copies of the whole of every book which shall be printed or lithographed in India after this Act shall come into force, together with all maps, prints or other engravings belonging thereto, finished and coloured in the same manner as the best copies of the same, shall, notwithstanding the any agreement (if the book is published) between the printer and publisher thereof, be delivered by the printer at such place and to such officer as the local government, shall be notification in the official gazette, from time to time direct, and free of expense to the Government, as follows, that is to say:

- a. in any case, within one calendar month after the day on which such book shall first be delivered out of the press, one such copy, and
- b. if within one calendar year from such day the Local Government shall require the printer to deliver other such copies not exceeding two in number, then within one calendar month after the day on which any such requisition shall be made by the Local Government on the printer, another such copy, or two other copies, as the Local Government may direct”. (Natarajan, 1962).

The enforcement of the Act enabled the Government of India as well as the provincial governments to bring out periodical catalogues of publications either in the form of separate publications or as appendices to the provincial gazettes. Though these lists provide complete bibliographical details about the items covered, they do not provide any cumulations or indexes.

The later part of the nineteenth century saw the formation of a number of societies devoted to the study of a particular author, and during the 1890's several author bibliographies appeared in England. The last decade of the nineteenth century was a period of heightened bibliographical awareness, no small part of which was due to the members of the Library Association. In 1890, the Edinburgh Bibliographical Society was founded; in 1892 the Bibliographical Society followed; and in 1904, the Bibliographical Society of America had started (Williamson 1967). However, all these development seems to have no direct impact on the bibliographical scenario of India which can be evidenced by the following.

The *Classified catalogue of Sanskrit, Prakrit, Hindi, Marathi, Gujarati and English books* published in 1901, which is one of the earliest trade bibliographies of India, also happens to be the first multi-lingual bibliography of the country covering a number of languages (Rath 2004). Several other bibliographies published in the pre-independence period which requires attention are given below:

1. *Catalogue of civil publications relating to agriculture, forestry, civic, commerce, finance, legislation, public health, railways, science, trade etc. corrected upto ...*, published under the auspices of Government of India. This publication which started in 1926 continues to be published even in the post-independence period. It provides a complete picture of the Government publications of India.
2. *Indiana: Bulletin of bibliography: Based on periodicals in India, Burma and Ceylon* compiled by Satish Chandra Guha - This publication, which was being

issued as a bi-monthly in 1938 for the first time, enlists all the periodical articles covering India, Burma (Myanmar) and Ceylon (Sri Lanka).

3. *Marathi grantha suchi (1800-1937)* compiled by Sankar Ganesh Date (1943) - One of the most comprehensive retrospective bibliographies in any vernacular language published in India. It is also one of the earliest bibliographies classified following an international standard.
4. *Vedic Bibliography : (An Up-to-date, Comprehensive and Analytically Arranged Register of All Important Works Done Since 1930 in The Field of the Veda and Allied Antiquities)* compiled by R. N. Dandekar (1946) - Published as a sequel to Louis Renou's *Bibliographie Vedique* (1930). This bibliography, an outstanding work, has undergone several revisions (the latest being in 1985). This bibliography enlisted all the major works on Vedas appeared between 1930 and 1945. Also, it has covered several works appeared before 1930 which have been skipped in Louis Reneou's bibliography. The analytical nature of this bibliography rendered it as a product of a scholarly nature and immediately drew attention of scholars from India and abroad.²

Post-independence Period

After the attainment of independence in 1947, the Government of India felt the need for exercising bibliographical control over the publications emanating from different states, in different languages and on different subjects. This became a necessity as the Press and Registration of Books Act (1867) does not cover the whole of India (Ohdedar 1975). Without making any amendments to the 1867 Act, the Government of India enacted another Act in 1954 which is known as the Delivery of Books Act (Act 27 of 1954) which was later amended in 1956 to include newspapers (Act 99 of 1956). As per the provisions of this Act, all the publishers of India (excluding the State of Jammu & Kashmir) have to submit, free of cost, a copy of all of their publications to the National Library, Calcutta, and two other designated libraries situated at Bombay and Madras respectively, within 30 days of the date of publication. In the list of the libraries, the Delhi Public Library was also included later on. Under this Act, the Government of India started receiving copies of publications appeared in India. This prompted the formation of a Committee called 'Indian National Bibliography Committee' in 1955. The Committee comprised of B. S. Kesavan (Chairman), D. N. Marshall, Y. M. Mulay, N. M. Ketkar, B. Sengupta, C. R. Chatterjee, and A. K. Ohdedar (Kesavan 1961). The Government also established the Central Reference Library in 1956 solely for the purpose of compilation of a national bibliography. As a result of this, the *Indian national bibliography* (INB) started publication in 1958. It includes books and periodicals, maps, charts, or plans which are separately published in the following languages: Assamese, Bengali, English, Gujarati, Hindi, Kannada, Malayalam, Marathi, Oriya, Punjabi, Sanskrit, Tamil, Telugu and Urdu. For the purpose of arrangement, INB follows Dewey Decimal Classification Scheme. However, each entry has been assigned its appropriate class number as per the Colon Classification Scheme also. The logic behind the two class numbers owed to the fact that many experts in the country did not like the idea of the India National Bibliography Committee's recommendation of arrangement of the INB as per DDC. The discussions to the effect held in the 11th annual conference of the

² A list of reviews can be found in volume 1 of Gidwani, N. N. and Navalani, K. *Guide to Reference Materials on India*. Jaipur: Saraswati Publicationns 1976.

Indian Library Association held at Calcutta during 9-11th April 1956, is reproduced below to understand the sentiment and the reasons for INB Committee to adhere to DDC for arrangement in spite of having an indigenous perfect classification scheme (Colon Classification) which is often considered as theoretically more sound and logical.

While discussing about the scheme classification adopted in the INB, Mr. Phadnis from Ahmedabad raised the question why the Colon Classification should not be followed for arrangement of entries in the INB. While replying to this question, Mr. B.S. Kesavan, Chairman, Indian National Bibliography Committee, informed the Conference delegates in the following words:

“As to the scheme of classification the Committee had no manner of prejudice against the Colon Scheme. The great difficulty would be to assemble a staff who had proficiency both in the language and in the particular system. Also adoption of that scheme would mean a recruitment of all the staff from one particular centre of training, granting that the Centre had linguistic personnel available. Even a nation-wide advertisement in all the Indian-language newspapers resulted in a very few applications from which the staff for the I. N. B. had to be selected. All the maestros of the Colon scheme were already in comfortable positions far superior to the staff of I. N. B. These practical considerations, and not any theoretical prejudice against the scheme, obliged the Committee to recommend a decimal scheme of classification for the purpose”. (Proceedings ...1956-61) This session of the All India Library Conference also passed one of the resolutions “recommending to the Government of India that every effort be made to give both the Decimal and Colon numbers in the Indian National Bibliography”. This resolution was moved by Mr. Hingwe and seconded by the floor of the house (Proceedings...1956-61)

The publication of INB has brought about rapid acceleration in the rate of publication of bibliographies in India.

Shortly after the publication of INB appeared another landmark publication in the bibliographical history of India entitled *The national bibliography of Indian literature, 1901-1953*. It was published in 4 volumes between 1962 and 1974 under the editorship of B. S. Kesavan and others. This publication, which was an ambitious project of the Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi, tries to cover all the literary works in major Indian languages enlisted in the eighth schedule of the Indian constitution, including English. Its fifth volume, covering literature on some comparatively minor languages which appeared between 1901 and 1980, was published in 1990 under the editorship of K.C. Datta. This publication may be treated as one of the most ambitious bibliographical projects taken out in the country involving scholars and bibliographers from all the regional languages and English. Besides the above, several other subject and language bibliographies have also been published in India with comprehensive coverage and remarkable presentation. A few examples are:

1. *Mahatma Gandhi: A Descriptive Bibliography* by Jagdish Saran Sharma. 1955 (Revised. 1968)
2. *Tamil Nul Vivara Attavanai* published under auspices of the Directorate of Public Libraries, Government of Tamil Nadu. 1961-.

3. *Accession List: India* published under the auspices of the U. S. Library of Congress Book Procurement Centre, New Delhi, since 1962.
4. *Hindi Sahitya Sarini: Being a universal classified and scientifically arranged record of Hindi books published upto the end of 1964* compiled and edited by Pitambar Narain and S. Bhaskaran Nair, and published in two volumes under the auspices of the Vishvesh-varanand Institute, Hoshiarpur, in 1971 and 1974.
5. *Kannada Grantha Suchi* published under the auspices of the University of Mysore, 1971.
6. *Malayala Granthasuchi* edited by K. M. Govi and published under the auspices of the Kerala Sahitya Academy, Thrissur, 1973-.
7. *Annotated Bibliography On The Economic History Of India (1500 A. D. to 1947 A. D.)* published under the joint auspices of the Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics, Pune and the Indian Council of Social Science Research, New Delhi, in 4 volumes during 1977-1978.
8. *Indian National Agricultural Bibliography* published under the auspices of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi in 1987.

In addition to the above, numerous other bibliographies on relatively specific subjects have also maintained appreciable quality and comprehensiveness. A study by the author identified as many as 1245 separately published bibliographies appeared in India between the years 1849 and 1993 (Rath 2004), excluding mimeographs, printed library catalogues, and bibliographies forming part of some other host document.

One of the most important features of the recently published bibliographies in India is the introduction of modern technology in their preparation. Before 1980, there were few bibliographies such as the *Accession List: India; Bibliography on Irrigation, Drainage, River Training and Flood Control; Index to the Times of India, Bombay* which were using computers and microform readers for their preparation. However, now-a-days, almost all bibliographies are being published with the help of computers which help overall error-free production and systematisation of entries.

IV Development of Citation Pattern

A close study of the bibliographies published in India reveals that Indian bibliographies achieved perfection in citation pattern and order only after the publication of catalogues by the Government of India after 1867. An account of the development of citation pattern is presented below:

The *Bibliographical Index To The Historians of Muhammedan India* (1849) does not follow any uniform pattern either in the arrangement of entries or in the length of the annotations. However, it provides the original title in Persian with English transliterations. Title is followed by an annotation providing bibliographical details and descriptions of the material with information about the catalogues where the same is recorded. A sample entry is given below.

Example 1

TARIKH - I – IBBRAHIMI

A work under this title is described by Major Charles Stewart, as an abridged history of India from the earliest times to the conquest of that country by Sultan Baber. It is mentioned as a quarto volume in the Collection of Tipu Sultan. The author's name is given as Ibrahim bin Harne, and the work was dedicated to Sultan Baber. A. D. 1528. (See Stewart's *Descriptive Catalogue, & C.* p. 13)

Under this name the more famous history of Ferishta is frequently quoted by native historians, in consequence of its having been compiled under the patronage of Ibrahim Adil Shah of Bijapur, but I have never met the work quoted by Stewart, nor heard of its existence in any library of India.

[p. 128]

The above entry indicates the source as well as details about it in the description, unlike modern bibliographies which provide the same in the heading. It also implies the scholarship of the compiler.

On the other hand, *A Descriptive Catalogue of Bengali Works....*(1855) compiled by James Long is more systematic. It divided materials into three main parts: Education; Literary and miscellaneous; and Theological. Each of these parts is further subdivided into specific subjects or types of works, such as 'Arithmetic', 'Readers', 'Serampore and early printed texts' and 'Musalman Bengali literature', etc. Each of these subjects started with a history and description of the publications on the subjects including names of some early printed items on the subject. It is followed by the alphabetical listing of other works on the subject. The English titles are usually rendered with capitalisation of the first one or two words. The Bengali titles, on the other hand, are rendered in running letters. A sample entry from Long's catalogue is given below:

Example 2

PART – II LITERARY & MISCELLANEOUS TALES

327. (E.T.) ARABIAN-NIGHTS, tr. by N. M. Baisak, 1st ed., 1850. 2nd ed., s.p., 1854, pp. 576. Tales 52 in number written in simple style, giving much innocent amusement in the perusal, besides making the Hindus better acquainted with Moslem manners, and modes of thought.

328. ARABIAN NIGHTS, by Rev. W. O. Smith, Part 1, 1850, pp. 65 Pt.1 Re. From Lane's edition.

329. Betal Panchabinsati, 1st ed., 1818, s.p., 5th ed., 1855 S. P. S. as Tales relating to Vikramaditya, King of Ujjain : composed 1800 years ago. Very popular — this is an expurgated edition translated from Hindi by Ishwar C. Vidyasagar. The ordinary editions are very abundant and range in price from 3 as to 8 as. [p. 44]

The above specimen amply indicates the knowledge and thoroughness of James Long regarding Bengali literature. However, the catalogue provides details of only 488 works out of which information about some works is incomplete.

John Murdoch's *Classified Catalogue of Tamil Printed Books* published in 1865 can rightly be treated as the most systematically arranged bibliography in the lines of an international format (it has adopted the plan of the International Statistical Congress). It is arranged first, under ten major divisions such as Religion, Jurisprudence, Philosophy, Science, Arts, Literature, Philology, Geography and history, Periodicals and newspapers, and Books for Europeans studying Tamil. Most of these are further subdivided into specific subjects, and under the latter, entries are arranged in a chronological sequence. Like Long's catalogue, Murdoch's catalogue also provides short history and general treatment of the publications on a particular subject before providing the listings. However, unlike Long's catalogue, it uses Tamil scripts in a few places. A sample entry from Murdoch's catalogue is given below:

Example 3

CLASS 'A' – RELIGION
DIVISION - I - PROTESTANT THEOLOGY
SECTION II - BOOKS FOR PUBLIC AND PRIVATE
WORSHIP LITURGIES

Tranquebar Ritual - Fenger states that the translation of the Danish Ritual was made in 1707, the same year in which Ziegenbalg built the Church at Tranquebar* [*History of Tranquebar Mission, p. 36]. The earliest edition the compiler met with, "Rituale Tranquaubaricum", 12 no. 141 pp., was printed at Tranquebar in 1781.

[p.6]

A small prayer Book, 8 vo. 24 pp. was printed at Tranquebar in 1864.
Price, 6 pie.

[p.6]

The periodical catalogues, printed by the Government after enactment of the Press and Registration of Books Act provided very detailed description of the entries making publications of any language in India accessible to the people having knowledge of English language. A sample entry given below testifies the thoroughness of an entry:

Example 4

Prabodh Chandra Sen — [title in the original script] — (Chandaguru Rabindranath; Rabindranath, the master of prosody). Discusses the genius of Rabindranath Tagore, in the art of versification, and the way in which he influenced Bengali prosody as also his art in its aesthetic and literary aspects. Together with an introduction). Pages 9 + 224. Published by Pulin Behari Sen, Visvabharati, 6-3 Dwarkanath Tagore Lane, Calcutta, 1352 sal or 1945 46 A. D. (25th June 1945). Double Crown 16 mo. 1st edition, Rupees 2-8 annas. Tridibesh Basu, B. A., K.

P. Basu Printing Works, 11, Mohendra Goswami Lane, Calcutta. 1,100 copies.

[Sample entry taken from *Systematic Bibliography and Documentation* by Ohdedar, A.K. Calcutta: World Press, 1975.]

Another pattern of arrangement, i.e. arrangement of books by forms under a particular language was introduced in John Murdoch's *Catalogue of Christian Vernacular Literature of India : With hints on the management of Indian tract societies*, published in 1870.

The Dewey Decimal Classification Scheme, which later became the most popular scheme for the bibliographers, was apparently first adopted in Sankar Ganes Date's *Marathi Granthasuchi* published in 1943. Most of the other bibliographies followed subject-wise arrangement under broad subject headings, the arrangement of entries under which is often alphabetical.

With the appearance of *Indian National Bibliography* in 1958, the transliteration of the non-English entries seems to have achieved standardisation as most of bibliographies, which have adopted transliteration, followed the style used by INB. Regarding arrangement of entries, INB has adopted the Dewey Decimal Classification with little modification. It has also adopted the *ALA Rules for Cataloguing*, 1949 for entry format which later on changed to AACR2 and provided ISBN following the recommendations of the J. C. Downing (Downing, 1984). A specimen entry from INB is given below:

Example 5

GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS

016.6 Technology

016.2 Engineering

016.6278[1] - Reservoirs

India: *Central Board of Irrigation and Power Library and Information Bureau*

Annotated bibliography on silting of reservoirs. New Delhi, 1965. vi, 68p. 24 cm.

Cover title

(E)

900 HISTORY

954 -India

954.13 - Orissa

Mahapatra, Cakradhar

Utkala itiharsa eka ajnata adhyaya. Cuttack, Friends Publishers, 1969. xxx, 434p.

(O) Y 4471.I

The above entries indicate that INB provides complete bibliographical details. However, entries do not contain English translation of the titles. Few entries in INB provide brief annotations, of one or two sentences.

Besides the Dewey Decimal Classification, the other schemes which are mostly used by the Indian bibliographies are the Colon Classification, the Oxford Decimal Classification (especially for bibliographies on Forestry) and the Library of Congress

subject headings. However, the latter, which is mainly used in the bibliographies published by the Indian Documentation Service, New Delhi, is being used as an apparatus for deriving subject headings. Besides the subject headings, the bibliographies also arrange authors and subjects in a single alphabetical sequence. A specimen entry of such a bibliography is given below:

Example 6

BUDGET

Towards socialist goal. *Commerce* **126 (3243)** 30 Je '72 20-32.

CATTOPADHYAY, Sisir

*Bangladesh : The birth of a nation. Bk Exchange. 1972, xiv, 191 p. 22.5 cm
Rs. 15.00

CHAKRABARTI, Atulananda

Heroic fight for Bangladesh and cold calculations of big powers. *Organiser*,
24(37) 21 Ap'71. 17-19.

[*Bangladesh: A Select Bibliography* by Satyaprakash. Gurgaon : IDS. 1972. p. 31].

A tabular form of presentation has often been followed in most of the bibliographies of manuscripts published in India. The Ministry of Education, Government of India, has laid down a certain format for the preparation of catalogues of manuscripts. A typical entry following this format is given below:

Example 7

Sl.No. & subject	Library Accession no.	Title of work	Name of author	Name of commentator
1	2	3	4	5
3. Smriti 264 Itihasa o puran	5193	Yajñvalkyasmṛiti with `R.jumitaksara	Yajñvalkyah	Vijññares'v harah S/O Padmanabha Bhatta
4.ii Ramayana 753E	4502	Adhyatma-Ramayana with Sethutika	Veda-Vyasah	Rama Varma S/O Himmati Verma

6	7	8	9	10	11
Script	Size in cm., Folio, Lines per page Letter per line	Extent	Condition	Additional particulars	
P	D; Sk.	36 x 15.5 143 (57+186) 14; 56	C	Old V. S.' 1811- 12	
P	D; Sk.	27 x 11.8 176; 9.6; 54.95	C	Old 18 th	Tripatha

[*A catalogue of Sanskrit and prakrit manuscripts in the Rajasthan Oriental Research Institute (Jodhpur Collection)* edited by Muni Jinavijaya, Pt. II (A). 1964. The Rajasthan Oriental Research Institute, Jodhpur. pp. 86-89]

The above entries indicate the extent of information prescribed by the guidelines for rendering manuscripts. Some catalogues of manuscripts also provide colophons in the entries.

Yet another type of arrangement is followed in some bibliographies published in India. That is the arrangement by means of a serial number according to a given system, be it the standards, the ISBN in case of bibliography of ISBN assigned books,

or the container number in case of archival materials kept in different containers. A sample entry is given below:

Example 8

81-7018-468-1

Tea gardens in West Bengal. Tushar Kanti Ghosh, Delhi, B. R. Pub. Corpn.,
1988. p. 262
Rs. 125.00
(E)

81-7018-469-X

Freedom movement - 1857-1947. S. R. Sharma, Delhi, B. R. Pub. Corpn.
1988. 227p.
Rs. 125.00
(E)

[*National Catalogue of ISBN titles*; 1988-89. p. 23].

Thus, to sum up, the bibliographies in India follow the following patterns of arrangement:

- i) Alphabetical by author or title.
- ii) Divided first by broad subject fields and under a subject alphabetical by author or title, with arrangement among subjects often being alphabetical.
- iii) Classified following a system evolved for the purpose. In such cases, entries are usually arranged alphabetically by the surname of authors under specific subjects.
- iv) Classified on the basis of an internationally recognised classification scheme like D. D. C., C. C. etc. Here also, arrangement of entries is alphabetical by the surnames of authors under specific subjects.
- v) Dictionary pattern putting subjects and authors in a single alphabetical sequence.
- vi) Chronological under broad subject headings.
- vii) By a serial number assigned for a given purpose, such as the standard number, ISBN, etc.
- viii) Chronological by year of publications (followed in case of a few bibliographies).
- ix) Conforming to no system.

In some bibliographies, especially a few from the 19th or early 20th century, we can find collective treatment of 2 or more works in a single entry. A specimen entry of such type is given below:

Example 9

Desopanisad bhasyam

The sanskrit commentaries on the first ten *Upanisads* (Nos. 1 to 10) written in Grantha characters. Not printed. The original paper Ms. is deposited in the Mysore Government Oriental Library. The original Palm leaf Ms. of the author is in the Adyar Library.

[*Bibliography of Sankhya-yoga-samuccaya Works* by Otto Schrader. 1906. Oriental Publishing, Madras. p. 4].

V Index

Index, which forms an important and essential component of a good bibliography, was introduced for the first time in *A Contribution Towards an Index for the Bibliography of Indian Philosophical System* (1861) compiled by Fitz Edward Hall. It provides a title index at the end of the bibliography under the name “name of works described or prescribed to”. Among the bibliographies which could be physically verified, N. M. Billimoria’s *Bibliography of Publications on Sind and Baluchistan* published in 1929 and 1930 (revised and enlarged edition) is the first bibliography which provided author and subject index [2, p. 483].

VI Conclusion

The above paragraphs clearly indicate that preparation of bibliographies on different subjects and in different languages started in India only in the second half of the nineteenth century and bibliography is essentially a gift of Englishmen to India. We can witness more and more involvement of Indians in production of bibliographies only after independence. The place of scholars in preparation of bibliographies has gradually been taken over by library professionals and there is clearly a shift from ‘analytical orientation’ of bibliographies to ‘systematisation’ of contents in the bibliographies. Even in this age of computers, bibliographies still occupy an important source of literature search especially in social sciences and humanities.

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