

**Catalogue of the
19th Century Indian Publications
(Pilot Project)**

**REPORT SUBMITTED AT THE COMPLETION
OF THE PILOT PROJECT (Aug - Dec 1993)**

**A Joint Collaboration of Sahitya Akademi,
U.S. Library of Congress & University of Chicago Library.
New Delhi December 1993**

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Chapter 1

Introduction

1.1 The idea for a machine readable Catalogue of 19th Century Indian Publications was first broached in September 1989 by Mr. James Nye, Bibliographer for Southern Asia of The University of Chicago, who happened to call on the undersigned (Project Director) at the Sahitya Akademi library, in connection with the microfilming project (MIPP) based on Sahitya Akademi's pioneering National Bibliography of Indian Literature (NBIL). The undersigned the then Librarian of Sahitya Akademi happened to be associated with NBIL Project from its inception. It was in view of the suspension of South Asia and Burma Retrospective Bibliography (SABRAB) project of the British Library that Mr. Nye suggested that Sahitya Akademi could in collaboration with University of Chicago and US Library of Congress undertake the project of creating a machine readable database for the 19th Century Publications with the help of available Quarterly gazette reports for the period 1867-1900 as the first part of the project to start with. Having worked on monumental project of NBIL, the undersigned could visualise the importance of such an ambitious undertaking. The Secretary of the

Akademi Prof. Indranath Choudhuri readily agreed to put across any such a proposal to the appropriate authorities.

Initial
Proposal of
Mr. James
Nye.

After this meeting, Mr. Nye, went back and made a draft proposal* dated 19th February 1990 which was duly received at the Sahitya Akademi. The proposal suggested that "The Sahitya Akademi in conjunction with Library of Congress and the University of Chicago Library will create a short title catalogue of the 19th century publication. In all the catalogue will contain an estimated 2,09,500*..."It further stressed that, "It is appropriate that the Sahitya Akademi undertake this work, given the organisations prior commitment to producing such seminal bibliographies as B.S. Kesavan's "National Bibliography of Indian Literature". The proposal was immediately sent to Mr. B.S. Kesavan, the former National Librarian and Chief Editor of NBIL, for his comments.

Mr. Kesavan in his letter to Prof. Choudhuri and to Prof. Birendra Kumar Bhattacharyya the then President of Sahitya Akademi, opined "this project being of utmost national importance should be

* Proposal's copy enclosed at appendix 3

* As per Mr. Graham Shaw the figure is 2,02,526

undertaken by the Sahitya Akademi". He also pointed out that the project envisages an elaborate infrastructure to implement, because of the difficulties involved in scanning through the Gazette supplements of the 19th century India.

**Draft of a
Pilot Project
by the
working group**

Meanwhile, officials of US Library of Congress, Sahitya Akademi, and Mr. James Nye had a number of meetings which finally appointed a working group comprising of Mr. James Nye , Mr. Graham Shaw Deputy Director, Oriental and India office Collection of the British Library and Mr. K.C. Dutt the librarian, Sahitya Akademi to draft a proposal for a Pilot Project*. The working group submitted the draft proposal for a Pilot Project to test the feasibility of the main project. The draft pilot proposal was submitted on 15th February 1991. The objectives of the Pilot Project are enumerated as follows:

**Objectives
of the
Pilot
Project**

12 The Pilot study of the Cat. of the Nineteenth Century Indian Publications will encompass the following objectives:

1. determine if the methodology of entry from the Quarterly reports is practicable or not, To make recommendations on possible alterations to the methodology;

* Proposal for a Pilot Project enclosed at appendix. 4

2. assess performance potential of data-entry contractors;
3. refine the definition of funding requirements for a larger project to enter all data for 1867-1900 from the Quarterly reports as the phase of a nineteenth century catalogue;
4. enter 2,000 records for books; and
5. explore possible formats for dissemination of the compiled data in South Asia and elsewhere world wide.

1867 being the date for the implementation of the Press and Book Registration Act of 1867 by the British Government, it was decided that the Century i.e. 1801 to 1900 be divided into two convenient parts e.g. 1801 to 1866 and the second part from 1867/1868 to 1900. Although the Quarterly Lists run beyond 1900, this cutoff date neatly tied the chronological end of this project to the period covered by National Bibliography of Indian Literature (NBIL), which takes up from 1901 and runs upto 1953. A substantial number of books published since 1867 were recorded in the Quarterly Gazette reports, with almost full bibliographical details, which fortunately are still available in a few libraries, departments and with the British Library. It was, therefore, decided to take up the period 1867 to 1900 for the Pilot Project to create a database for a total of 2000 random sample records from

**Random
sample
of 2000
entries
for Pilot
Project**

different regions, listed in the Quarterly reports. It is estimated that there could be about 2 lakhs such monographic publications listed in the Quarterly reports for the period 1867-1900.

Chapter 2

Rationale and Historical necessity

2.1 The motivation and rationale behind this project of a Cat. of the 19th Century of Indian Publications is similar to that of the Eighteenth Century short title Catalogue (ESTC) of the British Library. The important function of a historical bibliography is "the nourishment of historical disciplines".

Nourishment of Historical

disciplines

To quote from the preamble of ESTC: "An Eighteenth-Century STC would be of immense value to scholars in many disciplines of the humanities, social sciences, and natural sciences, for it would provide a ready guide to and much bibliographical information concerning titles in all of these fields. Every scholar and student in every aspect of the eighteenth century studies, whether in language and literature, history, economics, and other aspects of the social sciences, would benefit from its existence. Librarians and rare-book cataloguers would benefit immeasurably:

libraries would profit from having their 1701-1800 contents added to a national data base, and rare-book cataloguers would gain invaluable assistance for their work... The task of research into all aspects of the Eighteenth Century, and indeed in historical research generally, would be simplified by the existence of such a research tool."

Uses for
Machine-
readable
Data base

2.2

Uses for the machine-readable file of the India's published record are numerous. Principal benefits will be:

Cultural History. The Catalogue will be of immense help in the identification of and access to new research material using the search capabilities of appropriate software to unlock this unique and immense mass of data. Prof. Ravinder Kumar has referred to the late nineteenth century as a vital period in the "construction of Indian consciousness". This may be most clearly manifest in the published literature of the period, especially those publications in the regional languages of Indian subcontinent. The Nineteenth Century bibliographic database will be a valuable tool for access to the literature reflecting the cultural heritage of this sub-continent.

History of Publishing. Studies of the publishing culture in Indian sub-continent will profit enormously from the database. The amassed information will, for example, assist scholars studying the spread of

publishing into countryside and into smaller regional languages investigating the output of specific publishers, and assessing changes in pricing over time and geographic region. It will help in significant measure the application of the 'history of the book' approach to the study of the cultural influence of the printed book in 19th Century India, vis-à-vis the development of language and literature, literacy and education, social reforms, communal politics, freedom movement etc.

- 2.4 Preservation of Cultural heritage. The database will enable systematic and intelligent selection and decisions for a national preservation programme. It will be possible to identify the published works of an author, editions of a text, or the works of a particular publisher and to allow this a more comprehensive view to inform the choices made in preserving an important part of India's cultural heritage.

**Coordination
with other
Regional
efforts**

"This project will be related to other regional efforts in India i.e. to describe the output of printing presses in India. For instance the Bangiya Sahitya Parishad has been preparing a bibliography of Bengali publications from the nineteenth century. Information on publishing will be shared with the Parishad and other similar efforts."

2.5

Optimal
Usefulness
of Machine-
read able
data base

It is important, though, for optimal usefulness that the information be prepared in machine-form rather than merely as a typeset bibliography. However, the database could also be used to generate printed Catalogues and indexes, such as by region or by date or by size of print-run, which would quantitatively be beyond the capabilities normally associated with bibliographies compiled manually. Besides, it will be a significant step towards a total bibliographic control in India specially of the published literature of 19th century, which is most significant period in the history of modern India.

2.6

SABREB
The work of
Mr Graham

Documentation of these early Indian imprints will extend the work begun by Mr. Graham W. Shaw. Shaw's The South Asia and Burma Retrospective Bibliography (SABREB). is a significant addition to the bibliographic knowledge of printing and publishing in India from the first printing in 1556 through 1800. In his bibliography, he describes phases two and three of SABREB as coverage of the years 1801-1866 and 1867-1900 respectively. Preparation of SABREB at the British Library has been suspended for both fiscal and personnel reasons.

On this point Mr. B.S. Kesavan in his letter to the Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, observed, "this means

**Mr Kesavan's
remarks**

that extremely valuable heritage of our culture through the printed books during the 17th, the 18th and the 19th centuries are liable to perish and future scholarship will be deprived of very valuable material". It is unfortunate that the books published during the 18th and the 19th century are nowhere systematically listed and to trace their location for any scholar, in this sub-continent is an uphill task. The publications are in total decaying condition and there has not been any national attempt either on the part of National Library or any other Government agency to find a way out to preserve this valuable heritage. The effort of Mr. Graham Shaw of British Library in his SABREB is seminally commendable because it has at least listed the books published from the beginning of printing in India to the year 1800. But the main activity in this sub-continent started during the 19th century specially after the 1857 revolt against the East India Company and subsequent consolidation of British government. Except for some stray efforts in certain languages and some old catalogues of the British museums, there has not been any systematic documentation of this substantial part of our cultural heritage. Most of the publications are today lost to the scholars in all

**Printing
activity
in India
after 1857**

the fields of knowledge and to the general masses. We are continually growing ignorant of the important books, monographs and periodicals published during those significant periods of our modern history. It was the British Government who had for their own administrative and political reasons made various attempts to en list the books published during that century. The main efforts like A. Grant's Native publication in Bombay Presidency up to December 1884 is an important example of the same. In his introduction to this Catalogue, Grant expressed his total dissatisfaction on the following counts:

1. Non Co-operation of the Printers
2. Non-availability of a large number of monographs and their records
3. Non-disclosure of names etc. by the Printers.

**Book
Registration
Act of
1867**

As a result of Grant's recommendation and that of several others like H. Rawlinson, Col. Mackenzie, Edward Ryan, Edward Colebrooke etc. the British Government introduced the Book Registration Act in 1867 under which the Publishers and Printers were obliged to submit copies of their publication to the district administration. Thus the quarterly gazette notification started being issued en listing the books published since 1867. The step undertaken for a different motive is now proving to be a boon. Between

**Publication
of Quarterly
Gazettes**

1867 and 1900, an estimated number of 2 lakh monographs were listed in these quarterly lists. These lists are virtually a mine of information regarding our social and cultural heritage, an index to our progress in the field of education and development of Modern Indian literature and language. It is important to know that these lists cover the publications in almost all the fields of knowledge. The launching of this project is a historic compulsion and it is hoped that the opportunity opened up by this Pilot Project, will not be ignored or delayed for lack of initiative or want of resources.

Chapter 3

Pilot Project

3.1 In view of the national importance of the Project. Sahitya Akademi Executive Board approved the proposal as early as on 16 August 1990. U.S. Library of Congress also agreed to fund the Pilot Project from U.S. Rupee Fund. It was not, however, until 18 March 1993 that Government of India approval was officially granted. Consequently a memorandum of agreement was signed between Sahitya Akademi and U.S. Library of Congress on 29 June 1993.

**Agreement
signed by
U.S. Library
of Congress
and Sahitya
Akademi**

As per agreement reached between Sahitya Akademi and U.S. Library of Congress, Pilot Project was taken up initially for a period of 4 months under the overall

charge of a Project Director, with one Assistant. However during the actual working of the Pilot project the term had to be extended by a month.

For the Pilot Project a budget allocation of Rs.84,000/- was made, to be funded by the U.S. Library of Congress from U.S. India Fund for Cultural, Educational and Scientific Cooperation (USIF). Sahitya Akademi agreed to contribute by providing office space, computer and secretarial facilities and meeting the communication and other miscellaneous expenses.

The Mr. K.C. Dutt who has long association with the National Bibliography Project of Sahitya Akademi was appointed as Project Director. The Sahitya Akademi also agreed to make the services of Mr. Dutt available to the Project. A steering Committee was formed comprising of Prof. U.R. Anantha Murthy, President, Sahitya Akademi; Ms. Lygia Ballantine, Field Director, U.S. Library of Congress, New Delhi; Mr. James Nye, Bibliographer for Southern Asia, Chicago University; Mr. Graham Shaw, Deputy Director, Oriental and India office Collection, Prof. Sisir Kumar Das, Professor, Delhi University; Prof. Indra Nath Choudhuri, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi and Sri K.C. Dutt, the Project Director. The Project Director took over the charge of the Project from August 1993. Even long before actually taking over, the Project Director has

been in constant touch and correspondence with Mr. James Nye. The modalities of the Project have been formulated with great care. As per suggestion of Mr . Graham Shaw of British Library, the Newspapers and periodicals were kept out of the purview of the Pilot Project because it was felt that should be taken up separately.

3.2 Formatting and Software for the Database

Formatting for the

Data-Base

After long and exhaustive correspondence and consultations between the Project Director and Mr. Nye following norms were adopted for the Pilot Project:

1. It was decided not to go in for any popular software i.e. CDS/ISIS etc. but to create the Data-base on a flat file as per U.S. MARC format with coded and uncoded fields. This Database on a flat file could be converted into any suitable software at a later stage after reviewing the outcome of Pilot Project and assessing the requirements of the data base for the main project.
2. In view of the Social and historical importance of the records, it was agreed in principle to input the maximum data contained

in the Quarterly reports, to be edited at a later stage.

3. The question of formalising a standard entry format, editing norms of entries and final decision about the software for the main project would be taken up at the reviewing stage by the collaborating agencies.

Format specimen

Database structure as per U.S. MARC Format:

1. 020# #cPrice
2. 100#00#aAuthor Name (OR Collaborator as main author), #c Honorific ,#eCollaborators,# qPseudonym.
2. 110#00#aCorporate Author.
3. 245#00#aTitle :#bRemainder of Title.
4. 250#00#aEdition statement.
5. 260#00#aPlace of Publication :44bname of Publisher,#cYear of Publication.
6. 300# #aNo. of Pages.
7. 490#0 #aName of the Series,#vSeries No./Volume No.
8. 500# #aIn Language. 7.500# #aNote2 . 7.500# #aNotes.
9. 653#0 #a5subject.
10. 700# #a2nd Author Name (or Collaborator},#cHonorific, #ecollaborators, #qPseudonym.
11. Size
12. Place of Printing
13. Printer
14. Month Date, Year /or/ Mon. Date, Year
15. Number in Quarterly report
16. Number of copies
17. Name of copyright holder with Address
18. Copyright registration no
19. Citation in Quarterly Report
20. Script

3.3 **Search and Appointment of Contractor:**

Appointment of Contractor

It was really an uphill task to locate and appoint a suitable contractor for inputting the records. A number of parties were contacted but

to our dismay most of them were found to be incapable of handling the complicated records of the Quarterly reports. Finally at the recommendation of INSDOC and other professional friends, M/s IVY Systems Limited, a Delhi based firm was entrusted with the job. It may be recorded that in India the know-how and expertise for creating bibliographic database etc. is in its infancy and there are very few competent professionals available for the job. Besides INSDOC which handles scientific literature, perhaps no other establishment can take up this type of job on contract basis. It was because of the presence of Mr. T.N. Rajan a retired INDOC professional in the team of M/s IVY Systems, that the undersigned felt assured to entrust the work to this party.

Initially the contractors were also found to be very enthusiastic and we were hopeful that they will be able to furnish the database as per our requirement and in time. After much bargain the party agreed to a total fee of Rs.30000/= for creating the database for the 2000 sample records. The Project Director had to increase the budget allocation from the original estimate of Rs. 20,000 to Rs. 30,000 inclusive of charges for Programming, which amount to a rate of Rs.15/- per record. The programming as per MARC format took considerable time and it was finalised in consultation

with Mr. Nye in Chicago and officials at the U.S. Library of Congress office in New Delhi.

The actual inputting of data from the records when started posed a number of difficulties to the data operator. The multiple variations in the columns of the original records; multiplicity of language and unusual romanised rendering of Indian names and words; innumerable variations in spellings; varied types of unsystematic diacritical marks, style and description and printing mistakes and at times illegible prints of the original records, made the process of punching and corrections very slow. The proof-reading by the contractor took enormous time, and ultimately contractors sought the help of the Project office for correction of proofs, which had to be acceded to, to achieve the target of completing the database for 2000 records in time.

As the original records were not devised in any systematic manner, entry of records posed collective and distinct problems. On these problems a lot of correspondence was exchanged between the Project Director and Mr. James Nye. An analysis of the problems faced, requiring each items of bibliographical columns and information that need be sorted out conclusively at the reviewing and editing stage, before the main project is taken up, are detailed in the next chapter.

Chapter 4

Structural Analysis of records in the Quarterly reports

4.1 During the working of the Pilot Project the Project Director had an opportunity to examine in detail the structural part of the sample records. The analysis of the records are twofold (1) as per columns envisaged by the compilers of the Qrt. Reports and (2) the problems pertaining to the rendering of each descriptive part of the records.

4.2 Column Headings:

It may be noted that the columns devised are varied in different Presidencies and provinces. In some Records elaborate detailed columns are devised while in some others the descriptive columns are combined together or in some, columns are not devised and information is badly lacking. Also over the years the columns changed considerably even in the same province or presidency. There are variations, which need be thoroughly examined and brought to a unified format. Few examples of Variations reflected in column headings of different regions are give below:

Column Headings:-

COLUMN FORMATS VARY WITH RESPECT TO PROVINCES

BOMBAY	NWP & OUDH	BENGAL	BUNDELKHAND
1. NO.	1. SERIAL NO.	1. NO.	1. NO.
2. TITLE	2. REGISTER NO.	2. TITLE	2. TITLE
3. LANGUAGE	3. TITLE	3. LANGUAGE	3. LANGUAGE
4. AUTHOR&/OR COLLABORATOR	4. AUTHOR(S) &/OR COLLABORATOR(S)	4. AUTHOR	4. YEAR OF PUBLICATION

5. SUBJECT	5. NAME & PLACE OF PRINTER & PUBLISHER	5. SUBJECT	5. PLACE OF PUBLICATION
6. PLACE OF PUBLICATION	6. YEAR OF PUB. PUBLICATION	6. PLACE OF PRINTER & PUBLICATION	6. REMARKS
7. PRINTER/PUB.	7. SIZE	7. PRINTER/ PUBLISHER	
8. YEAR OF PUBLICATION	8. EDITION & NO. OF COPIES	8. YEAR OF PUBLICATION	
9. NO. OF PAGES	9. PRINTED/ LITHOGRAPHED	9. NO. OF PAGES	
10. SIZE	10. PRICE	10. SIZE	
11. EDITION	11. NAME & ADDRESS OF PROPRIETOR	11. EDITION	
12, NO. OF COPIES	12. REMARKS	12. NO. OF COPIES	
13. PRINTED/ LITHOGRAPHED		13. PRINTED/ LITHOGRAPHED	
14. PRICE		14. PRICE	
15. NAME & ADDRESS OF PROPRIETOR		15. NAME & ADDRESS OF PROPRIETOR	
16. REGISTERED/ 17. REMARKS		16. REMARKS	

4.3 Serial Number and Registration Number

(a) In some reports both Serial numbers and Registration numbers are recorded (b) in certain other reports only Serial numbers are given and (c) in some other both Serial numbers or Registration numbers are not recorded.

Examples: N.W.P. & OUDH	:Serial number & Registration number
Punjab, Bengal	:Serial number only
Mysore	:No serial or registration number mentioned for the records.

For Mysore records we had to provide serial number in parenthesis.

4.4. Title of the publication:

- (a) In most of Quarterly reports Titles are romanised with a few diacritical marks used arbitrarily.
- (b) In good number of records along with romanised Title, the translation of the Titles in English are also given.
- (c) In yet another category Titles in Original script along with romanised Titles are recorded (Mysore records)
- (d) In a few cases, of Mysore records the titles are given in original script without proper English rendering.
- (e) In certain cases Titles also include the name of the authors, compilers or editors. The Titles in the original script are required to be transliterated and romanised. In the Pilot project we came across only a small number of such cases (Mysore). For the main project we must visualise this eventuality and make suitable provision for the handling of such multilingual records in original script and its romanisation.

- Examples;**
- 1. Bengal, Punjab: romanised title with translation of the title, in English.
 - 2. Punjab: Only romanised title without any translation of the title.

3. Mysore: titles in original language script with or without romanisation of title.

In case of Mysore records, where romanisation of the titles are not given, we have romanised the same and entered the title in the data base.

The provision of entry in the original script was not included for the Pilot Project.

4.5 Language

In most of the records, the language and the script are the same. But in a number of cases the language could be in a number of different scripts, which are recorded.

Example: Sanskrit: in Bengali script, Tamil script, Gujarati script.

Punjabi: in Gurmukhi script, Urdu script or Nagari script,

Tamil: in Telugu script, etc.

There are any number of such combinations. We have already devised a field to record the script of the publication in the database, when it is different from the source language script.

4.6 Author, Translator, Editor, Compiler. Commentator.

Revisor etc.

Author column in the sample records has been most problematic:

Personal authors are of three categories

(1) European names (2) Indian names (3) Indian Name in European style with initial abbreviated. In the Pilot Project database we have entered European names with Surname first, the Indian names with Forename first. Indian names with forename in the abbreviated form in Western style, are entered in European style by the Surname, first. In a number of records Author Column is left blank or at times mentioned as "Not know", "Not recorded" etc. In case of Bombay. Qrt. 31st March 1885, 303-306 the Author Column carries the words "A reprint".

In a number of cases besides the usual 'Corporate authors' e.g. organisations or institutions, the name of "Press" or "Printer" appear as corporate author.

In a number of cases in the Author Column, names of Editor, Compiler, Translator etc are mentioned and the real Author's name is mentioned in the Remark's column and at times along with the title.

Honorifics, Degrees also at times posed some problem because in some cases short descriptive bio-data accompanies the Author's name in the author

column. In view of the historical value of this information for the identification of the Author, it is recorded in full along with usual honorifics, degrees etc. in the present database.

Some apparent honorifics i.e. Lala, Babu, Shaikh, Maulana, Maulvi, Pandit, Sri, Swami posed problems regarding the entry point of the author. In a number of cases such terms are treated as a part of the name and entered in the direct order, unless otherwise decided at the checking and proof-reading stage. It may be noted that in case of certain names, "honorifics" become in course of time, a part of the real name, making it difficult to ascertain its value or position or separate it. Abbreviated 'P', or 'M' prefixed with the Author's names which could be for 'Pundit' or 'Maulvi' or Maulana' in case of north Indian names, also posed some problems.

4.7 Subject

Under 'Subject' Column there are following variations

1. Pinpointed subject: e.g. Religion, Fiction, Geography, Science etc.
2. Descriptive notes: Instead of pin-pointed subjects, descriptive notes are given which need be transferred to note field. In such cases subject fields should be determined by the editorial staff discerningly.

3. The subject column is left blank.
4. In a large number of entries the subject column is recorded as "Miscellaneous", or "Designed for Educational purposes". In the absence of actual publication it will be difficult to determine the pin pointed subject field for such records.

In the present database we have retained the way it is given in the original records. However in a few cases such notes are transferred to Note section (500) on experimental basis.

4.8 Imprint group

This includes four items of information:

1. Place of Printing with address
2. Place of Publishing with address
3. Printer's Name and address
- 4 . Publisher's Name and address

In case of Bengal records of all the above four items of in formation are given in two columns. The information are at times detailed with full address for each item. In certain cases the "place" in all the four items could be different.

In some cases place of, or, address of printer and the publisher are different and given in full.

In certain other records only Place of Publication and Printer or Publishers name is given with or without

address. At times it is difficult to identify if it is only a Printer or a Publisher.

For the database we have entered them as per original record in full.

4.9 Year of Publication

1. In most records date with month and year is given as per Christian era
2. In some cases only the Year is recorded
3. In a few cases, date column is left blank or with remark "not mentioned". In such cases it would be proper to give the year of publication as per the year of the citation of the record with the symbol 'C' for Circa,
4. In some records date, month and years are given as per Indian Calendar e.g. Samvat, Bengali era etc.

4.10 Size

The measurement or size of the publications are given as follows: 2to, 4to, 8vo, 12mo, 16mo, 18mo, 32mo, Demy, Demy 8vo, Super Royal, F.O. oblong, Royal, leaves, sheet, FRENCH, GLOBE, BROADSIDE, etc. Some of these outdated measurements need to be explained. In the pilot database we have entered this item as per original record

4.11 Pages

The Column for 'pages' generally stands in the fold of pages of the Qrt. reports. Therefore the Xerox printouts at times are dark and illegible, which poses problems. The Xerox printouts of the original records need be taken carefully.

4.12 Edition

The following terms are used in the sample records:

1. 1st...nth ed.
2. Reprint (R)
3. Republication
4. Original 1st ed.
5. Translated 1st ed.

4.13 Printed or Lithographed

The Publications are either "Printed" or "Lithographed". In the database we have not recorded the term "Printed". Only "Lithographed" publications are recorded with the "note" field (500) with the designation "Lithographed". In case of a couple of records the mode of production is mentioned as "Typed".

4.14 Proprietor or Copyright holder

1. In some cases full name and addresses are given of the copyright holder.
2. In large number of cases "copyright holders" name is left blank.

4.15 Copyright Registered

In some records this information is mentioned in the Remarks column and in some with the proprietor and Copyright holders column.

In case of Bombay Sept. 1885 an extra Column for "Registered" and "Not Registered" is given. In certain other records the phrase "Copyright not reserved" is mentioned.

4.16 Remarks and Notes

1. In certain cases there are short explanatory notes.
2. In a large number of records Remarks columns are left blank.
3. In quite a few records very long annotations relating the full story or content of book are given. Such long annotations may create some problems at the punching stage. However such notes may be helpful for the historians and scholars, so they should be fully documented. In the present database we have incorporated complete notes.

4.17 Citation of the Records

The recording of citations also differ from one region to another. In the database the Citation as recorded is entered.

4.18 Insufficient Information

In the sample records taken up for the Pilot Project, only in case of record of Bundel Khand Agency, the bibliographical information is badly lacking. Vital informations e.g. Author, Subject, Imprint, Pages, notes etc. are not recorded. However we have incorporated whatever descriptives are available, mainly the Title, Language, Year and Place of Publication etc.

4.19 Romanisation and Rendering with Diacritical marks

Except for a very few records, as in case of Mysore, where only the 'title' of the books, are given in original language script, the main bulk of records is in English with romanised rendering with or without the use of diacritical signs for Author, title etc. The other bibliographical information including Notes or Remark are in. English

For the romanisation or transliteration no methodical system has been followed in the rendering of records. The pattern of romanisation varies from province to province; from one set of records to another set of records. The change in the romanisation pattern is perceptible over the time from earlier records to the records of later period. These changes specially in case of place names, proper names make an interesting reading, which could lead to a study of the

pattern of romanisation in Indian languages. A few interesting examples from the records are as follows:

Oordoo	:	Urdoos	:	Urdu
Sanscrit	:	Sanskrit	:	
Bangalee	:	Bangali	:	Bengali
Umritsar	:	Amritsar	:	
Lahaur	:	Lahore	:	

The word "Muhammad" has any number of alphabetical combinations. Such examples abound in number in the records.

The diacritical marks are also used indiscriminately

The marks or signs generally used are as follows:

Á Æ Â á ā â é í ķ ļ ņ ś š

The diacritical signs are not uniformly used in all records. Quite often even in the same record the diacritical marks are not used uniformly and correctly. Perhaps we should not have expected accurate use and rendering with diacritical signs, more than a century back in this pioneering effort of cataloguing in India. It was indeed a laudable effort on the part of the planners of these Quarterly reports that they could envisage to such perfection, the detailed bibliographic columns and scientific romanisation with the use of diacritical marks.

We have in our database used ASCII code for the diacritical marks. Wherever such signs are not available in the ASCII code we have adopted the technique used by M.I.P. project of the Library of Congress. The contract has also in a number of entries failed to enter the diacritical marks correctly. For the main project we need to work out the mechanism and methodology for proper romanisation and use of diacritical marks.

In spite of all these variations and weaknesses in the records we must appreciate the ingenuity of the compilers of these Quarterly reports, who in such remote past, about a century back, when neither systematic standards for bibliographic recording had been established nor the present day librarianship had taken shape, could visualise such detailed formulation of physical description of the publications and at times with detailed annotation, reflecting their insight in their endeavour. Even the present day bibliographies and Catalogues do not provide such detailed information. With the recorded description of these Quarterly reports today, we are in a position to evaluate the quality of the publications in its historical perspective.

Chapter 5

Qualitative Analysis of the Records from Quarterly Gazette Reports covered in the Pilot Project.

In all we have used 2,000 sample records from the gazette reports of Bengal, Bombay, Madras Presidencies, Mysore, N.W.F.P. & Oudh, Punjab, and Bundelkhand Agencies for the Pilot Project.

Publications in Indian

The descriptive part of the records vary from

Languages:

province to province. However the information recorded is of precious to the scholars in different fields and those engaged in publishing industry. The records generally cover the languages of the provinces or regions covered by the centres of printing industry. Although a fairly good number of publications were published in English and polyglot languages, the main bulk of publications is in the regional languages. During the period Sanskrit publications were an all India phenomena. Sanskrit books were published from almost all the centres of publishing in the country. An interesting feature was the publication of a good number of books even in Arabic and Persian languages during the period. In fact the later half of the 19th century was the pick-up point or nursery for the regional languages, which nurtured the modern Indian languages into present stature.

**First
Edition of
Literary
Stalwarts.**

The sample records have amply covered a large number of important literary stalwarts and authors of the later half of the 19th century and there are a number of bibliographic First editions of their publications, some of which are of historical importance to the researchers, mainly in the field of Languages & Literature, Social Sciences and Humanities.

Although scientific subjects are not well-represented there are a number of books on Ayurvedic medicine, natural sciences and other scientific subjects.

One of the significant feature of the publication trend as reflected in the Pilot Project is the emergence of a printing industry in the Capital centres of different regions. The publications include large bulk of text-books and religious pamphlets published during this period. Yet some of the significant publications other than the text books, are also covered in the database prepared under the Pilot Project.

**Subjectwise
Analysis:**

The subjectwise analysis as per sample entries clearly indicate following main categories of publications.

1. School text-books and Books designed for Educational purposes
2. Religious books and pamphlets to propagate different religions

3. Literature (including Poetry, Fiction, Drama)
4. Classical literature in Sanskrit, Arabic, Persian, & Urdu
5. Medicine (mainly Ayurvedic system)
6. Scientific subjects
7. Legal & Administrative pamphlets & books
8. General knowledge handbooks
9. Translations from Classical literature and Western Classics.

After the Educational Text books, books on Religion and religious propaganda is the next substantial section. The next dominant category represent a good number of books covering the fields of Literature including poetry, drama, fiction, and others. There are books on subjects like Medicine specially Ayurveda and also on hygiene. Books on Philosophy covers books on morality and ethics. The significant beginning during the period was the appearance of the translations of some Sanskrit classics into English by eminent scholars including English scholars e.g. Kalidasa's Sakuntala by William Jones. Besides, a large number of translations from English appeared in a number of Indian languages, covering classics and a good number of detective fiction from English literature which seem to have been popular during the period as indicated by the print run. Quite a good number of Administrative handouts of

the British Govt and Laws and Acts were also rendered into native languages. During the period a large number of Sanskrit classics were also translated and published into regional languages with original texts. Classics from Arabic and Persian were translated into Urdu. Subjects like Geography, Mathematics and other Scientific topics were also covered by a large number of school text books, published during the period, in the regional Indian languages.

One of the feature noticed in the sample records, was apparently the absence of political publications specially reflecting views against British rule. Such books and pamphlets must have been published during the period but perhaps not registered with the Government departments. Some such publication could have been proscribed.

Printing and Publishing Industry The analysis of the records

reveal significant information regarding the printing and publishing in India. From these

**Printing &
Publishing
Industry:**

records we could make an exhaustive list of printing and publishing houses who had left indelible mark on book publishing and printing industry in the Indian sub-continent. Legacy of some of these printing houses continued for more than half a century and in cases even longer. It is interesting to note that

during the period some cities acquired importance because of the printing facilities available. In U.P. Luc know, Banaras, Allahabad, Kanpur, Meerut, Bareilly, Saharanpur were important centres of Hindi, Sanskrit and Urdu publishing. It is interesting to note that even Nepali books were published in Banaras. Some of the important printing presses like Naval Kishore Press, used to function from Luc know as well as from Kanpur. Kanpur, Lahore, Lucknow, Delhi, and Meerut were important centers of Urdu publications. For Sanskrit apart from the printing presses in Banaras it was Nirnay Sagar Press in Bombay which had a lead over other centers. Bengali books were also published from Banaras.

Significantly during the period Madras was the main centre of printing for Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam and even Kannada books. Mysore was the main centre of Kannada publications.

In Calcutta besides Bengali, books were published in Hindi, Urdu, Assamese, Oriya and Manipuri languages. For Bengali yet another important centre was Dacca.

Bombay was the centre for publishing in Marathi, Sanskrit and Gujarati, A number of Persian and Arabic books were also published from Bombay. Surat, and Ahmedabad were also the centre for Gujarati publications.

Lahore and Amritsar were the centres for Punjabi and Gurumukhi publications.

These quarterly records very closely give an idea of the publishing centres all over the country. Those interested in the history of Indian Publishing and Printing can gather important information from these records. For example, in Bengal the centres of printing and publishing were Calcutta and Dacca, In NWP & Oudh the centers were Lucknow, Allahabad, Kanpur, Meerut and Banaras. Patna and Gaya also became publishing centers, but throughout the period a number of books published by the Bihar Government were printed in Calcutta. In Punjab region Lahore, Ludhiana and Delhi were the centers for Urdu, Persian, Arabic, Sindhi, Pushtu and Kashmiri publications. Another interesting feature was the publication of books from small towns.

Polyglot & Multiscript Publication

Polyglot & Multi-Script

Publications:

Another special feature of the period under review is the multi-lingual and multi-script publications of a large number of titles. In N.W.P. & Oudh there are a large number of books published in both Urdu and Devnagari script. In Punjab a number of books were published in Urdu, Devnagari and Gurumukhi script simultaneously. A number of Sanskrit classics were

published in scripts like Bengali, Tamil, Telugu, Gujarati etc. We have come across cases even of Tamil books published in Telugu script and Urdu books in Gujarati script. There are of course a number of publications in Roman script. Besides the amalgam of English with other Indian languages there are any number of polyglot books in Persian and Urdu; Gujarati-Sanskrit and Hindi or English Marathi-Gujarati. This reflects an attempt towards a linguistic harmony and understanding the needs of multiple linguistic groups, for which we are still striving at this later part of the present century. The experiments made in multi-lingual and multi-script publications in 19th century are forgotten today. We hope the scholars and publishers will try to make a note of the examples set in not far off a period, in our history.

Another interesting feature of the period is the publication of large number of books in Arabic and Persian languages in this country. Even books in Pashtu language are included in the present database.

Remarks,
annotations

etc.

The records provide some interesting notes for the publications recorded in the quarterly reports. The notes are sometimes very significant, revealing the subject matter and nature of the book, thus demonstrating the socio-political reflections of the

period. Quite a few large notes carry full story or detailed explanations about the publication while some other notes clearly reflect socio-political overtones, which could be of much use to the researchers. In the absence of the physical presence of these publications, the detailed notes, wherever given, improved the intrinsic value of the database. We had in our database, therefore, made it a point to enter full annotations from the record. These long notes could be of much help to the scholars in the field of literature, history and social sciences etc.

**Lithographed
& Printed**

books:

Regarding the development of Printing industry and

the history of Printing and Publishing in India, the records could convey the transformation from Lithographic process to the type-setting process for the printing of books in India.

**Print run,
Reprints and
Editions
of books:**

It is interesting to note that even in the early stages of publishing in India, the publications had a fairly good print run. Textbooks had a print run of even up to 20,000 copies. Some religious books, classics, fiction and Drama, in regional languages had a fair print run, at times, upto a couple of thousand copies. Interestingly some religious or educational pamphlets had a print run upto 20,000 or more copies. In one case, print run of a pamphlet published from Madras on

the evils of "Nauch girl" is unbelievably 1 lakh copies; in yet another case a "Gujarati First book" of 1887, had a print run of 1.50 Lakh copies. There are a good number of publications having reprints and new editions. There are a number of cases where a publication had a run of 10 to 15 editions. This reflects the growing demand for education and growing interest in new vistas of knowledge and literature, thrown open by the advent of Western education in the country.

**Christian
Mission
Presses:**

Although established mainly to propagate Christian religion, the Mission Presses in Calcutta and other centres like Allahabad Ludhiana, Madras, Cuttuck etc had a significant role to play in the field of Indian publishing. These presses were publishing in various Indian and Foreign languages simultaneously.

Besides books and pamphlets on Christian religion these presses also published books on other subjects including books for educational purposes.

**Govt. as a
Printer &
Publisher:**

The records also reveal that during the period the British government, its Departments of Education had seriously undertaken publishing of a large number of text-books for the school level students in English and almost all the other regional languages and these books at times had a big print run. British Govt. had also started establishing its own

printing presses in important centres during the period.

Close language-wise analysis of the titles could throw light on the development of modern Indian languages and especially the influence of British rule and English language

Chapter 6

Working of the Pilot Project

The Project Director was in constant touch with Mr. Nye since March 1993 when the approval from the Government of India came. Search for a suitable contractor was also on. However the Pilot project officially began from August 1993.

A short month-wise resume of the activities of the Pilot project is as below:

August 1993

During the first month the Project Director in consultation with and with the help of Mr. James Nye finalised the principles of the data input and finalised the format structural for the data-base.

The search and negotiations for a suitable contractor continued.

September

The second month saw the finalisation of contract agreement with M/s IVY systems, made on 1.9.1993. Few original records were passed on to the contractor for sample entries. One computer trained Assistant was

engaged to assist the Project Director. A number of parleys followed between the Project Director and the Contractor's consultant regarding the programming as per U.S. MARC format.

Project Director visited the Library of congress, Field office (New Delhi) along with the Contractor regarding certain clarifications on the transliteration problems, spacing and punctuations, etc. as per U.S. /MARC format. The finalisation of Format programming took longer time than expected. The Contractor produced some sample data-base. Samples were sent to Mr. James Nye for his comments and suggestions.

October

During the third month the work started picking up but progress was slow. Further consultations continued with Mr. Nye and Library of Congress office (New Delhi).

Only 300 records got completed during the period. When checked by the Project office a large number of inaccuracies in textual inputting and technical errors were noticed. The files were referred back to the Contractor for rectification of errors.

The Contractor's office had management problems. The chief consultant Mr. Rajan left, causing some delay.

November

Due to complicated nature of the records Contractors expressed working difficulties in proof reading from the original records. The Project Director had to accede to the request of the Contractor to help them in

proof-reading of the initially punched data with the original records. The proof-reading with the help of the Assistant continued up to 15th November 1993. Final set of complete floppy-files received from the Contractor's on 23th November 1993.

The term of Project was extended by one month up to 31st December 1993. Work on the Project report started.

December 1993 Final checking of the data-base on the computer with corrected proofs and originals, taken up. The process continued up to 29th December 1993. Final floppies and print out received from the Contractor on 30th Work on the report of the Pilot project continued. Work on the Project concluded on 31st December 1993.

Chapter 7

Editing of the data-base created and finalisation of format for the main project

On the basis of analysis given above at chapter 4 & 5, the reviewing and editing of the created data-base has to be taken by collaborating agencies. It is suggested that the final editing of the data-base may be entrusted to Mr. James Nye, who in consultation with the Project Director and Mr. Graham Shaw may finalise the format and modalities for the working of the Main project with special reference to:

- a) Decision regarding problem areas reflected in
Column headings and item of descriptive parts

of the Quarterly Gazette records as explained in chapter 4 of the report.

- b) Detailed directions for the punching operator of the main project.
- c) The guidelines to the Project Director for taking decisions regarding the anomalies, variations in the descriptions, misprint, and illegible part of the original record and other obvious mistakes in the record.
- d) Guidelines regarding such Quarterly records with deficient skeletal information.
- e) Guidelines regarding and standardisation of diacritical marks or romanisation system for Indian languages.

Chapter 8

Assessment of Contractor's performance

We have already described the difficulties faced by Project Office in the search for a suitable Contractor. In India, we are yet to acquire the expertise with required degree of accuracy in the field of Bibliographic data-base creation on a commercial basis. There are of course certain individuals who have the necessary competence and know-how. It was due to this consideration that IVY System Lt. was engaged where the chief-consultant for such bibliographic work was a former INDSOC official.

The final formatting as per U.S. MARC format took unusually long time by the Contracting agency. The understanding of the intricacies of the original records due to the manifest variations in columns and complications in the descriptive part of a large number of entries, as explained in chapter 4 above, caused much delay in the initial understanding by the punching operator. Due to romanisation variations the punching and proof checking took unusually long time.

Inputting & proof reading rate

As reported by the contractor, the usual rate of punching was about 60 to 30 entries per day per Operator. The cross checking and proof checking also took almost the same rate, per working day. The inputting of 2000 records was done by one punching operator and one senior hand for checking and proof reading. The Project office also helped in the proof reading of the all the initially punched records. Because of the unfamiliarity with U.S. MARC format. Contractor's office took about four months for inputting, proof checking, submitting first out put in floppies, and bringing out the final output on floppies. The first file of 300 entries when submitted to the Project office for final scrutiny, the output was found to be full of discrepancies and with textual and technical errors, regarding punctuation and spacing.

Thus the first file submitted by the contractor was disappointing. However further parleys and help provided by the Project Office in proof checking of entries somewhat eased the working of the contractors.

Inexperience on the part of the punching operator and contractor's office for handling this special kind of records was mainly responsible for the unusually long time taken by the contractor to handle 2000 records. By the 1st week of November they could supply fresh files for 400 entries and by the end of November we received the complete files for all the 2000 entries for final checking. The final checking has also been painful for the project office. The files showed up a number of textual and computing errors. Due to this inordinate delay on the part of the contractor, the term for the Project office had to be extended by one month i.e. upto the end of Dec. 1993.

However the final outcome of the data-base, in spite of the delay and marginal errors, has been generally satisfying so far as the textual rendering is concerned. Regarding the assignment of Fields and sub-fields, the inaccuracies are minimal and in the final output a few spacing and punctuation inaccuracies might have remained within the permissible range.

Economics of Contractor's services

In the absence of any competitive computer market for such data entries the Pilot Project office, after much negotiations could strike a deal @ Rs.15/- per record including fee for programming, which is perhaps the minimum quotation we could think of for the computerisation of records of such complicated dimensions. If we go in for contractor's services for the main project we may even have to go for a higher rate i.e. upto Rs.20/- per records or more.

In view of the experience with Contracting agency and problems faced by the Project Director in getting the work done, it is recommended that, if the main project is taken up, it will be proper to establish a small self-sufficient unit in the Project office employing required number of data punching operators and editorial staff, keeping in view the language requirement of the project, and hiring or acquiring PCs for the unit. The services of senior Programmer could be hired at the initial stage and on consultancy terms. The punching operators could be given a short orientation training course. It is estimated that the expenditure, to get two lakh records computerised through a contractor will be much more in comparison to the expenditure involved in getting it done through a self-managed unit. A detailed budget drawn for a self-sufficient unit is given separately.

Chapter 9

The Feasibility Note

In the first and second part of the report it is stressed that, the importance and the paramount need of the hour is to organise this vital link of India's bibliographical achievement. Actually this project should have been taken up long back by some national body. However, it is high time that Sahitya Akademi in collaboration with U.S. Library of Congress & Chicago University Library takes up this project on a priority basis because of its importance lest the cultural loss becomes irreparable. Already a large number of books printed in the last century are either lost or are languishing in a fast decaying condition, owing to the lack of preservation and documentation facilities in the country. The micro-filming project of "National Bibliography of Indian Literature" (Kesavan Project) in this direction is a monumental undertaking. A proper bibliographical management of the 19th century publications is a major project which must be undertaken without any further loss of time.

The rationale and historical importance of these 19th Century bibliographical records has been explained at length above in chapter 2 of the report. Once these 2 lakh records as per Qrtly. Reports are computerised it will have numerous potentials:

1. The Records analysed and properly edited could result in the preparation of Subjectwise and Language-wise and Author-wise Catalogues of important publications of abiding value, in the later half of the 19th Century.
2. It may be of help in the preparation of National union catalogue or networking of the 19th Century publications on a national basis in collaboration with important libraries, and private collections.
3. The search or location and preservation of important publications may be taken up on a national basis.
4. The machine readable data-base of the 2 lakh publication may open up immense possibilities and opportunities for researchers all over the country in almost all the fields of academic activities.
5. Publishers of rare and antiquarian books could find innumerable gems in these records.

The Pilot project did indeed face a number of teething problems but despite them the database created amply proves that records in the Quarterly reports can be structured in a format and computerised. Various subjectwise and other bibliographies as per requirement could be worked out from the database created to aid the Scholars in different fields of disciplines, including social scientists and for those who are interested in

the history and development of Indian languages and literary history. Proper organisation of this historical bibliography will open up many a hidden treasures and solve many historical and literary riddles.

As estimated the quarterly reports contain approximately about 2 lakh bibliographic records between 1867 to 1900 which need to be converted into a machine readable database on a suitable format. It is estimated that a period of about 4 years will be required to complete the Computerisation of 2 lakh records. A separate estimate of the Budget requirement for the main project and the staff requirement is separately given in chapter 10 of the report.

The Pilot project has given an opportunity to peep into our rich cultural heritage, and experience for sorting out the problems facing the computerisation of such complicated records. It has also opened a new vista in the field of bibliographic control and methodology for creating machine readable database of unsystematised, unmethodical records compiled a century back, during later half of the 19th Century. The Pilot project has uncovered and cleared up the dust lying for long over valuable Cultural heritage of paramount importance to the South Asian region. It is therefore hoped that collaborating agencies including U.S. Library of Congress, Sahitya Akademi, University of

Chicago and the British Library will not hesitate to pool their resources for taking up this project in the right earnest.

Chapter 10

Main Project: Staff Structure for the Project-Unit and Budget Estimate

With reference to the feasibility note in chapter 9, it is expected that the collaborating agencies of the Pilot Project will now consider to take up the Main Project on a priority basis. The economics of the Contractor's services has already been explained earlier in chapter 7.

In case of availing contractor's services, the expenses for inputting 2 lakh records may alone come to over Rs.40 lakhs. In addition, the expenses for Project Director's office, inclusive of Project Director and two Assistants, (salary, allowances), equipments, management and secretarial services etc. will have to be added, which will also be substantial.

Project Unit: It is therefore proposed that a self-sufficient Project Unit, with requisite punching operators and editorial assistants, be established for the Main Project. The expenses for creating the data-base of 2 lakh records through a project unit will be comparatively much economical.

Staff Structure for the Project Unit: In view of the Contractor's experience as narrated at chapter 7, it is estimated that with a staff of three Punching Operators

and two Editorial Assistants (Proof reader), the Project unit should be able to achieve a target of 4000 records per month i.e. about 1000 per week and about 50,000 records per annum. This will be at the rate of 60 to 70 records per data operator per working day. There are in average 500 characters per record. In the prevailing conditions this should be a fair rate of inputting.

Project Term: It is estimated that approximately a period of about 4 years will be required to complete the project.

Budget Estimate (Project term 4 years)

Salaries

Project Director (One) Rs.8000-500-10,000	Rs.4.80 (in lakhs)
Punching Operator (Three) (Rest. 3000-200-4000)	} Rs.9.60 "
Editorial Assistant (Two) (Rs.3000-200-4000) (Salary figures are consolidated)	

Equipments etc.

PCs (Four}	Rs.5.00 "
Printer (One)	Rs.1.00 "
Printout of Qrt. reports	Rs.1.50 "
Maintenance of Equipments and Stationary etc.	Rs.4.00 "

Planning, Meetings, Conveyances

etc .

Rs.8.00 "

Miscellaneous

Rs.6.00 "

Rs.39.90 lakhs (Approx)

(approx @ Rs.30 per Dollar)

=\$1.20 lakhs (Approx)

Notes:

1. The above estimate does not include Office-space, Furniture, Secretarial facilities, Telephone, Fax facilities etc which have to be provided to the Project Office by one, of the collaborating agencies.
2. The Expenses pertaining to conveyance tariff, hospitality etc. for the foreign representative of the Steering Committee are not included in the estimate, which need be provided separately or taken care of by the collaborating or funding agencies.

Financial Resources:

It is hoped that U.S. Library of Congress will be able to provide major share of finances from U.S. Rupee Fund (USIF). Sahitya Akademi as the chief collaborator will contribute by providing Office space, Furniture, Secretarial facilities, Fax and Communication facilities to the Project office. Other sources of funding could be tapped, and Sahitya Akademi may also like to approach the Government of India for some financial aid for the project.

It is expected that, as in the case of Pilot Project, for the Main Project also, Sahitya Akademi will hold the administrative and managerial responsibility.

Appendix

1. Specimen copy of the original record with specimen database
2. Copy of Mr. James Nye's initial proposal
3. Copy of the Pilot proposal
4. Copy of the Memorandum of Agreement with Sahitya Akademi and U.S. Library of Congress.

(K.C. DUTT)
Project Director