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The Status of Library History in India: A Report of an Informal Survey and a Selective Bibliographic Essay

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# **THE STATUS OF LIBRARY HISTORY IN INDIA: A REPORT OF AN INFORMAL SURVEY AND A SELECTIVE BIBLIOGRAPHIC ESSAY**

*Donald G. Davis, Jr.*

The history of libraries, along with the history of the book, has experienced a revival of interest among cultural and social historians, as well as literary scholars, bibliographers, and librarians. If history is one of the instruments for understanding patterns of human behavior over long periods of time and if libraries are a reflection of a basic function of human society—recording, preserving, and mediating the materials that document a civilization—then library history is a worthy topic for investigation.

Since the end of World War II and particularly since the 1960s, the library community has joined other disciplines to engage in more widespread and more sophisticated research in library history. The founding of library history groups within national professional associations in Canada, Japan, West Germany, Great Britain, Poland, the United States, and elsewhere attests to this. The establishment of the International Federation of Library Associations' (IFLA) Round Table on Library History about a decade ago brought a new dimension to this subdiscipline. The growth of periodicals and conferences devoted to this topic is another measure of increasing concern. The international seminar "Libraries at Times of Cultural Change," held under the aegis of the IFLA Round Table on Library History in August 1987 at Brighton, England, represented a new type of endeavor.

## **The Problem**

Although the history and tradition of literacy and books among certain classes in what is now India is long-standing, the modern library movement has roots in the later eighteenth century with real growth appearing a century or more later. Programs for professional library education developed in the principal centers of Bombay, Calcutta, and Delhi in the 1940s, with others following in a further push during the 1960s. A number of surveys and monographic works dealing with Indian library history treat various chronological periods, types of libraries, geographical areas, or a mix of these.

To the outside observer of the Indian library history situation, one question comes frequently to mind. Since the tradition is so rich, the library

education programs relatively strong, and the interest in pursuing national cultural history keen, what is the actual status of library history in India? There have been some comprehensive treatments and individual studies, not to speak of separate articles on various aspects of Indian library history in English, but the international profession does not have a firm notion of what is going on in an organized way in this subbranch of Indian librarianship. This is a problem that surely has limited the participation of India's scholarly librarians in the international library history community. The present concern, then, is not to write the history of libraries in India, but to study the nature of research and writing on the subject.

### **The Research and Methodology**

This project, funded by the American Institute of Indian Studies, aimed to study the current status of library history in India by cursorily reviewing the existing bibliography, by surveying present activities, and by describing and evaluating the findings from an international and sympathetic point of view. Compared with efforts being put forth in other nations with a similar cultural and colonial background, the Indian situation seemed to warrant close study.

A number of questions arose. Some were necessarily broad; some were quite specific. Some answers could be derived from a close study of the literature that already exists; others depend on discussion and observation. All needed to be corroborated by a variety of sources. The project envisioned thorough preparation in available secondary literature before beginning an on-site visit. However, the means of doing this were somewhat limited to encyclopedia-type articles, manuscripts refereed for publication, and perusal of printed materials at hand in local libraries.

The strategy included three segments: first, the systematic review of English-language printed monographs, collected works and chapters in general works, theses and dissertations, and major journal articles—especially those that treated Indian library historiography as a field; second, interviews with several leaders and library historians; third, interviews and general observations in important libraries and departments of library and information science. While the first task was undertaken primarily at the National Library of India in Calcutta, it was completed by additions throughout the project's duration. In the course of five weeks during July and August, 1988, eight library schools and nine other institutional libraries were visited in Delhi, Calcutta, Bombay, Pune, Hyderabad, Bangalore, Madras, and elsewhere.<sup>1</sup> The staff of the American Institute of Indian Studies at its offices in Delhi, Calcutta, and Madras helped to facilitate the research trip. (The travel amounted to about 8,400 km. or about 5,200 miles, all by ground transportation.) Many and various persons contributed

to the survey: librarians and library educators, active and retired, at the institutions mentioned above, as well as others concerned with Indian library history.<sup>2</sup>

## The Survey of Findings

### *The Literature*

A comprehensive search for printed, secondary treatments of Indian library history reveals about thirty books and several dissertations, about thirty articles and chapters in collected works, and at least two whole collections of papers that have direct historical significance. The books and major articles appear in a bibliographic essay attached to this report. These titles deal specifically with library history and generally exclude publishing and printing history, the history of education, general cultural history, literary history in the various regional languages and English, state and regional history, religious and mission history, and library catalogs, even though these are rich sources for supplementary material relating to library history.

Most of the works deal with general aspects of library history that treat extensive periods of history. The public library movement, largely a twentieth-century phenomenon in India, has received the most attention. Others that have attracted scholarly interest include the Muslim influence, the national library, and library associations. The conspicuous gaps in the published literature include such topics as academic libraries, library education, private libraries, and the influence of the British on library institutions.

Two decades ago an analytical study of Indian library historiography suggested that among the characteristics of the literature were the following: redundant coverage of favorite topics; sparsity of chronological detail; lack of statistics; rarity of systematic and orderly treatment of a topic; prevalence of a journalistic, rather than a scholarly, style; and the paucity of bibliographical references.<sup>3</sup> Though some improvement has occurred in the intervening years, those characteristics are still present. The literature demonstrates that authors seldom write more than one book; that many works either appear as general surveys used as textbooks or are doctoral dissertations (to a lesser extent, masters' theses) done in history departments and later put into monograph form or articles; and that studies of regions and state public library development in limited periods predominate. Such journal articles as exist tend not to be scholarly or based on primary source materials. The literature as a whole is confined to Indian journals and publishers.

Historiographical writing is relatively scarce. Among the noteworthy contributions are N. M. Dutt's "History of Indian Libraries from Earliest

Times to the Present Day" (1932), O. P. Sharma's "Literature of the History of the Library Movement in Indian Library Historiography" (1969), and M. K. Murthy's "Examination of Primary Sources in Indian Library Historiography" (1974).<sup>4</sup>

### *The Historians*

A review of the bibliography suggests that there are about a dozen scholars whom one might identify as Indian library historians. About half of these are now in retirement or have continued their research after leaving professional careers. The remainder are still active in the library profession and continue to write or promote research in Indian library history. Persons in the first category would include B. Anderson, formerly of Bombay University; K. A. Isaac, formerly of Cochin University; P. N. Kaula, formerly of Banaras Hindu University; B. S. Kesavan, formerly of the National Library of India; D. N. Marshall, formerly of Bombay University; and J. S. Sharma, formerly of Panjab University, Chandigarh.

The younger scholars who are still building their reputations include B. K. Datta of Vishvabharati University in West Bengal; M. B. Konnur of Poona University; A. A. N. Raju of Osmania University, Hyderabad; K. K. Roy of the *Library History Review*, Calcutta; M. R. Riswadkar of Poona University; and M. Taher of the American Studies Research Centre, Hyderabad. Several Indian library historians are living abroad, including A. M. Fazle Kabir of Atlanta University (USA), formerly of Bangladesh. These are the significant scholars in the field of Indian library history, and their names appear most in the published literature.

### *The Organization Structure*

No one institution in India is noted for scholarship in library history. Those who engage in library history research and prepare manuscripts for publication are well distributed around the country and not concentrated in any one place. The National Library of India, however, seems to have a good collection of published works in Indian library history and would appear to be a logical place to begin study. Because most scholarship has been regionally focused, the larger state and university libraries have been sites for research, as well as the many special archival collections.

Since library history has not had a high profile in Indian library education, it is ironic that most of the theses and dissertations (and these are recent ones within the past twenty years) have been done either in history departments of Indian universities or in library science programs abroad, in Canada, the United Kingdom, or the United States. Examples include

A. M. Fazle Kabir (USA), U. Majumder (UK), O. P. Sharma (USA), and R. N. Sharma (USA). Some of these resulted in published works.

Apparently, there is no funding source, public or private, national or local, to which promising scholars with good research projects may apply for assistance. While support for all research needs more funding, library history does not seem to be getting a share of the meager supply. This surely limits the scope and the depth that can be expected from potential library historians.

Within the Indian Library Association and other library organizations in India, there does not appear to be a unit, an interest group, or a round table that brings scholars with similar interests together. The national library organizations of other countries with developed library traditions have such groups that stimulate and encourage colleagues even though they are separated by distance.

Likewise, there do not seem to be many ad hoc opportunities to gather in conferences or meetings on either a regional or a national basis. One occasion for gatherings, however, is that of the anniversary of an institution and several such meetings have convened, resulting in collections of papers with some historical perspective, if not actually providing examples of library history. One such volume was the 1983 collection that commemorated fifty years of service by the Indian Library Association. Another occasion for meetings or published volumes are *Festschrifts*, and there are many of these in Indian literature that commemorate a person's contribution to the profession, often with emphasis on historical themes. Such works tend to be celebratory in nature. One of the few examples of a conference and a resulting publication is the 1971 volume on *Primary Sources for 16th–19th Century Studies in Bengal, Orissa and Bihar Libraries*, which recorded the papers given at regional seminars in Calcutta (1968), Bhubaneshwar (1969), and Patna (1970).<sup>5</sup>

As for journals that publish research articles on Indian library history, the three most frequently cited are *Herald of Library Science*, *Indian Librarian*, and *Library Herald*. While these are general library journals, each has carried occasional articles on library history. The status of *Library History Review*, which began quarterly publication in 1974 but has become woefully late with succeeding issues, is in question. It has never carried more than a few articles on Indian library history, but instead has concentrated on a worldwide audience. Other international journals that publish occasional articles on Indian library history are *International Library Review*, *Libraries & Culture* (formerly *Journal of Library History*), *Libri*, and *Library Quarterly*. So far as can be determined, the topic does not appear with any frequency in journals of the history profession, either in India or elsewhere.

The place of library history within the curriculum of library education is

not very high. If the prospectuses of the library schools of Delhi and Poona are at all representative, such time as is devoted to the subject is a minor part of topics that are entitled "Library and Society," "Philosophy of Librarianship," or "Comparative and International Librarianship." Whether included at the bachelor's or at the master's level, this situation is not different than that prevailing in, say, Anglo North America. However, as the Indian system seems to allow for fewer elective courses within a degree program, even those students who might be interested in the historical origins and development of their profession do not have the formal means of exploring them. There is more than a hint that the subject is really not very germane to professional education.

### *The Future Prospects*

The elder members of the library history fraternity seem to have worked alone, pursuing their interests as directors of libraries or senior library educators. The junior members of the profession who aspire to scholarship in library history apparently have little incentive to follow their interests in a serious way. Many of the library directors and library educators have earned their doctorates with library history dissertations in history departments of local universities. Whether they will continue to do research and publication in this subject area after attaining the Ph.D. degree is not clear. For some, at least, library history was simply one way to get the doctorate. Whatever the motivation, the younger library historians seem to be working almost on a personal and random basis, without regard for a comprehensive appreciation of the gaps in the research and the potential needs of the scholarly world or the profession. They tend to think that they are the only ones working on or having interest in particular problems; some may have heard of other current efforts or read references to them.

The resulting attitude of the profession at large is one of extreme apathy, combined with a pessimism that anything can be done to change the situation. Although librarians, and would-be library historians in particular, realize that there is a historical and archival legacy that has not been explored and studied, they see little reward or potential recognition for that kind of research effort. This discouraging attitude, however, is coupled with a degree of enthusiasm and high expectations as to what the prospects might be. (The challenging addresses of D. N. Marshall have touched on this.) The potential is great and is all the more discouraging as library historians look at the emphasis on other aspects of their profession and professional education. In short, they seem to be excited, but overwhelmed by the opportunities and their own isolation.

Given this state of organization and attitude, there are few goals for the future in library history. Each isolated scholar is carving out a little piece

of the territory for his or her own solitary research. Only in the history of the book, as reflected in the continuing work of B. S. Kesavan and his assistants, is there a bright spot with funding, acclaim, and the other desirable accoutrements of scholarly activity.<sup>6</sup> The establishment of the *Library History Review* seemed for a while to bode well for the future of library history in India, but its shaky beginning and international focus as well have resulted in it promising more than it could deliver.

### The Assessment

Although a core literature on Indian library history exists, it has many imbalances and gaps. The scholars are very dispersed in their interests and their geographical locations, with one person rarely contributing more than one work. There is little pattern to existing research efforts. The one obsession appears to be preoccupation with legislation and implementation of authorization for public libraries to the exclusion of other libraries in their role in national culture.

Among the scholars there is pessimism about the status of library history within the profession and the cultural history of the nation that stems, in part, from overly high expectations—if the history cannot be done on the grand scale and with the esteem of other subbranches of history, then it should not be attempted. At the same time there is a growth of enthusiasm for a broadening appreciation of the profession's past and its contribution to the nation's cultural and intellectual life. Amidst an almost crippling apathy, which at its worst suggests that there is nothing worth studying in Indian library history, an eagerness exists to discover that someone else is interested and working on a topic.

The causes for this uncertain status of library history in India are by no means certain. Nevertheless, some factors suggest themselves.<sup>7</sup> First, the very complexity of the nation that is India may contribute to the problem. The various vernacular languages, the orality of the historic culture, and the traditional communication patterns make the coordination of systematic library history much more difficult than in other nations. Second, the theoretical and current emphasis on the type of library education espoused by S. R. Ranganathan did not allow for as much historical and cultural analysis as it did for philosophical and management emphases. This developed as a perceived necessity to bring Indian librarianship as quickly as possible into the modern, "scientific" era. A developing and industrializing nation, it seemed, should not devote precious professional resources to the study of the past. Third, the very cultural relevance of the profession to the society has seemed to decline at the very time it should have increased. The discouragement that this has brought the profession, itself not unrelated to the lack of a sound historical consciousness, has



resulted in an even greater impetus to focus on current problems exclusively. The influence of books and libraries on the cultural development of society is a topic, it would seem, that is best left to senior and retired members of the profession and other scholars. Fourth, because of a lack of appreciation of the impact of books and libraries in Indian culture and because of the present state of mind (real library history only began after 1947), there is a reluctance to appear to be documenting failure. Even though librarians may feel that their profession has little history in India worth studying, some reflection frequently causes them to think otherwise. Yet the perception of failure is present, perhaps because the profession at large is pre-occupied solely with the public library movement as exemplifying what is of genuine importance to Indian life.

### **The Challenge of the Future**

If this brief survey and analysis can provide insight and suggest new paths for Indian colleagues, it will have served its purpose. The next steps are in their hands. The Indian library profession must decide if its history is to be taken seriously. Two questions put the matter in perspective. First, is library history a luxury for a few aberrant and possibly elderly members of the profession, or is it a topic that the whole profession, or a significant portion of it, can embrace with pride and enthusiasm? Second, is library history only the province of nations heavily influenced by the West, or is it a mark of a maturing profession in any nation that is coming to grips with its role in the cultural life of the country and contributing its part to that cultural record? The answers to these queries need not be rhetorical.

The most apparent step that the Indian library profession could take to encourage the study of library history would be to establish a communication linkage among those who are already engaged in the enterprise. Such an initiative might take various forms, such as an interest group or round table within the Indian Library Association and the state library associations, if there is a critical mass of people; a program session at the regular meetings of these associations devoted to the reading and discussing of papers related to topics in Indian library history; an occasional newsletter sent to interested parties that would enable scholars and the profession to keep up with each other's needs and research; and planned, supported publications that would serve the nation and document the influence of books and libraries in its culture, thus adding visibility to the library profession in the decision-making segments of society. Another early step would be the development of a model syllabus for use in Indian library schools.

Since the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) will be holding its annual conference for the first time in Delhi in 1992, that occasion would be a splendid opportunity for the Indian

profession to display its historical wares and awareness to the world community of libraries and information service. While history consists of failures as well as successes, 1992 could be an opportunity to celebrate achievement and possibilities.

This project has described and analyzed the current status of library history in India. Some progress has indeed been made, but there are vast areas of opportunity left to be seized. The rich cultural heritage of the library profession in the context of Indian society awaits study and interpretation. Who knows? If librarians and library educators begin to treat their past seriously and with the care and dignity it deserves, perhaps society will better understand their role as the guardians and transmitters of culture, and new ideas, to future generations. If the leaders of the nation understood that critical role more clearly, they just might support it.

## Notes

1. Institutions visited included, in order, National Archives of India, \*University of Delhi, Delhi Public Library, National Library of India, \*University of Calcutta, \*Jadavpur University, the Asiatic Society of Calcutta, \*University of Bombay, \*University of Poona, \*Osmania University, American Studies Research Centre, Andhra Pradesh State Library, Bangalore State Central Library, \*Documentation Research and Training Centre of the Indian Statistical Institute, \*University of Madras, Connemara State Central Public Library, and Tanjore Maharaja Serfoji's Sarasvati Mahal Library. Those institutions with library schools are preceded by an asterisk.

2. Among those who shared insight were John Crawford, New Delhi; Kalpana Dasgupta, Calcutta; Ashin Das Gupta, Calcutta; Uma Majumder, Calcutta; P. B. Mangla, Delhi; D. N. Marshall, Bombay; A. N. N. Raju, Hyderabad; and Mohamed Taher, Hyderabad. Others entering into conversations included G. Bhattacharya, Bangalore; Neela Deshpande, Pune; Heera Kapasi, New Delhi; M. B. Konnur, Pune; P. A. Mohanrajan, Madras; P. Perumal, Thanjavur; K. S. Raghavan, Madras; I. K. Ravichandra Rao, Bangalore; Gangadghera Rao, Madras; J. L. Sardan, Delhi; and Sivani Sengupta, Pune.

3. O. P. Sharma, "Literature of the History of Library Movement in India," *Herald of Library Science* 7/11 (1968): 8-16.

4. See bibliographic essay for publication information.

5. Edited by K. S. Diehl (Calcutta: American Institute of Indian Studies, 1971).

6. *History of Printing and Publishing in India: A Study of Cultural Re-awakening* (Delhi: National Book Trust, 1985-).

7. For an analysis of general library development in India that has some transfer to library history writing in India, see K. Ramakrishna Rao, "Library Development in India," *Library Quarterly* 31 (1961): 135-153.

## Indian Library History: A Bibliographic Essay on Major English-Language Printed Works

Indian library history is a subject that excites the imagination because of its long duration, rich primary resources, and vast potential for insightful study. Yet one can be frustrated not only by the problems of library development in India, but by the status of describing and evaluating that development with historical perspective. This brief essay of some noteworthy publications constitutes a survey that may assist researchers in their task.

One of the earliest calls for an Indian library historiography came from N. M. Dutt, curator of the State Libraries of Baroda, in an address to the Third All-Bengal Library Conference held in Calcutta in 1932. His talk, published as "History of Indian Libraries from Earliest Times to the Present Day" (*Modern Librarian* 2 [1932]: 69-76), lamented the lack of interest or writing on the subject. He said:

The subject which I have selected for my discourse is the history of ancient and modern Indian libraries, but time will not permit of anything more than a brief survey of the subject. I would commend the topic to any university student who is seeking for a suitable subject for his doctoral dissertation. . . . If we look back to the distant past, we are tempted to think that there were no libraries in Ancient India. (p. 69)

Only a few heeded this call and O. P. Sharma's article based on his dissertation, "Literature of the History of Library Movement in India" (*Herald of Library Science* 7 [1968]: 8-16), pointed out the continuing discouraging state of Indian library historical writing. Although progress has been slow in the past two decades, some encouraging signs have appeared.

### *References and Sources*

The beginning of genuine reference works for the use of serious library historians, apart from the general professional tools of Indian librarianship, is P. S. G. Kumar's *Indian Library Chronology* (New Delhi: Metropolitan Book Co., 1977), which systematically, first by large periods and then year by year, lists events in various categories through 1975. Several useful references, particularly for doctoral dissertations, are included in *Bibliography of Research in Library and Information Science*, compiled by V. Pathak and L. S. Ramaiah (Gurgaon, Haryana: Indian Documentation Service, 1986), and P. S. G. Kumar's *Research in Library and Information Science in India* (New Delhi: Concept, 1987). There are useful articles on Indian

library history topics included in the *Encyclopedia of Library and Information Science* (New York: Marcel Dekker, 1960-) and the *ALA World Encyclopedia of Library and Information Science*, 2nd ed. (Chicago: American Library Association, 1986).

As for a description of the sources themselves, the conference papers edited by K. S. Diehl, *Primary Sources for 16th-19th Century Studies in Bengal, Orissa and Bihar* (Calcutta: American Institute of Indian Studies, 1971), reveal the depth of materials available. A number of the papers treat individual libraries and their collections and contents. A more recent example of this kind of survey is M. K. Murthy's "Examination of Primary Sources in Indian Library Historiography" (*Library History Review* 1 [1974]: 77-96).

### *General Studies*

In many ways the best single analytical treatment of Indian library history remains the summary of Ramakrishna Rao, "Library Development in India" (*Library Quarterly* 31 [1961]: 135-153), who attempts to place the topic in the context of historical and social factors. Though somewhat dated now, it is a good beginning. Another major survey article is Anis Khurshid's "Growth of Libraries in India" (*International Library Review* 4 [1972]: 21-65), which concentrates on the last two centuries, but treats the earlier history in cursory fashion. Two other works, very different from each other, illustrate two formats for general studies. The first, *Library Movement in India*, edited by P. N. Kaula (Delhi: Delhi Library Association, 1958), presents four general papers and six regional papers that survey various aspects of Indian library history, though it reflects the widely held idea that the library movement means the free public library movement. The second is S. K. Mukharji's general study, *Development of Libraries and Library Science in India* (Calcutta: World Press, 1969).

The collection of essays is a useful way to present historically related articles for specific occasions. The landmark work *Fifty Years of Librarianship in India—Past, Present and Future*, edited by P. B. Mangla, J. L. Sardana, and M. Singh (Delhi: Indian Library Association, 1983), marked the half-century anniversary of India's major association with forty-five articles, many of which have historical introductions. More recently, R. N. Sharma has edited *Indian Librarianship: Perspectives and Prospects* (New Delhi: Kalyani Publishers, 1981), which brings together nineteen chapters, many of which also include historical material.

Examples of other genres of general studies are *All-India Conference of Librarians, 1918: Chapter in the Library History of Indo-Pakistan*, edited by M. A. Anwar (Lahore: Amer Publications for Department of Library Science, University of the Punjab, 1980), and M. B. Konnur's recent doctoral dissertation, "Transnational Library Relations: The Indo-

American Experience'' (University of Poona, Department of Library and Information Science, 1986).

### *Ancient and Medieval Period*

For a topic that may be less familiar, the student is fortunate to have at least three published books that introduce the ancient and medieval periods in a broad and general way. B. K. Datta's 1967 published doctoral dissertation at the University of Calcutta, *Libraries & Librarianship of Ancient and Medieval India* (Delhi: Atma Ram & Sons, 1970) has proven helpful to many as a starting point. G. L. Trehan's *Learning & Libraries in Ancient India: A Study* (Chandigarh: Library Literature House, 1975) is a much briefer treatment. The work of B. K. Datta on "Early Monastic and Other Institutional Libraries in India" (*Library History Review* 1 [1974]: 18-42) is a welcome addition to the literature, as is S. Sahay's 1977 Bhagalpur dissertation, "History of Libraries in Ancient India down to 1200 A.D." Another dissertation from the same institution and year by A. Prasad is summarized in "Libraries in Medieval India" (*Library Herald* 20 [1982]: 155-159). D. N. Marshall devotes a chapter to the "Indian Subcontinent" in his more recent survey text, *History of Libraries, Ancient and Medieval* (New Delhi: Oxford & IBH Publishing Company, 1983).

### *Muslim Period*

The Muslim period in Indian library history has received initial treatment by N. N. Law, *Promotion of Learning in India during Muhammadan Rule (by Muhammadans)* (London: Longmans & Green, 1916). A more recent monograph by A. Aziz, *The Imperial Library of the Mughals* (Delhi: Idarah-I Adabiyat-I Delhi, 1974), includes references to many Arabic sources and reminds readers that, at his death, Akbar's library contained some 24,000 beautifully bound manuscripts. The detailed study of S. A. Zafar Nadvi on "Libraries during the Muslim Rule in India" (*Islamic Culture* 19 [1945]: 329-347 and 20 [1945]: 3-20) is a valuable addition to the literature on the subject. Kalpana Dasgupta's "How Learned Were the Mughals: Reflections on Muslim Libraries in India" (*Journal of Library History* 10 [1975]: 241-254) is a good brief treatment.

### *Modern Period in General*

Several works have dealt with various time segments in the postmedieval period. N. N. Law, in *Promotion of Learning in India by Early European Settlers up to about 1800 A.D.* (London: Longmans & Green, 1915), has complemented his companion work on the Muslim influence. A. K. Ohdedar's

*The Growth of the Library in Modern India: 1498-1836* (Calcutta: World Press, 1966) treats the story from the Jesuits to the establishment of the Calcutta Public Library and uses printed primary, as well as secondary, sources. From the twentieth century to independence is the focus of P. Adhikari's 1986 Allahabad dissertation, "History of Library Movement in India, 1901-1947." A more recent adaptation of a dissertation in history at the University of Ranchi, Bihar—J. Misra's *History of Libraries and Librarianship in Modern India since 1850* (Delhi: Atman Ram & Sons, 1979)—provides coverage for the decades following independence. Among the significant journal articles that deal with this period are D. C. Johnson's "German Influences on the Development of Research Libraries in Nineteenth-Century Bombay" (*Journal of Library History* 21 [1986]: 215-227) and N. Kaula's "Indian Library Movement: A Chronology (1910-1977)" (*Herald of Library Science* 16 [1977]: 108-130), which appeared the same year as Kumar's chronology noted above.

R. N. Sharma's *Indian Academic Libraries and Dr. S. R. Ranganathan: A Critical Study* (New Delhi: Sterling Publishers, 1981) provides a good survey of libraries in higher education.

### *Public Library Movement*

This subject has attracted the most attention from Indian library historians and is rich in literature that is divided on state and regional lines. S. N. Sadhu and B. N. Saraf have provided one of the few general treatments in *Library Legislation in India: A Historical and Comparative Study* (New Delhi: Sagar Publications, 1967). The first section, "Historical Study," is a good summary. O. P. Sharma's unpublished 1970 Chicago dissertation, "Forces behind the Public Library Movement, 1858-1892," treats the early period in a general manner.

Baroda has long been an early success story and has attracted chroniclers. Two early works were N. M. Dutt's *Baroda and Its Libraries* (Baroda: Central Library, 1928) and J. S. Kudalkar's *Baroda Library Movement: A Short Account of the Origin and Growth of the Central Library Department of the Baroda State* (Baroda: Central Library, 1928). A more recent work is M. L. Nagar's revised Columbia University doctoral dissertation, *Foundation of Library Movement in India* (Ludhiana: India Library Institute and Bibliographical Centre, 1983), which deals with the Baroda public libraries and the work of William A. Borden in the early twentieth century.

Other states have received attention from library historians in recent decades. These include G. L. Trehan's *Modern Public Library Movement and Library Legislation for Punjab* (Chandigarh: Library Literature House, 1967); P. R. Nair's *The Library Movement in Kerala: The Need for Reform and Legislation* (Trivandrum: Trivandrum Writers Club, 1974); S. G. Mahajan's

*History of the Public Library Movement in Maharashtra* (Puna: Shubhada-Saraswat Publication, 1984), a University of Poona doctoral dissertation; A. A. N. Raju's revised 1986 doctoral dissertation at Osmania University, Hyderabad, now published as *History of the Library Movement in Andhra and Pradesh, 1900-1956* (Delhi: Ajanta Publications, 1988); and A. M. Fazle Kabir's *The Libraries of Bengal, 1700-1947* (London: Mansell, 1987), a revised dissertation from Indiana University. Many brief articles on the public library movement in various states have appeared in the pages of the *Herald of Library Science* and the *Indian Librarian*, particularly during the 1960s.

### *National Library*

The National Library of India in Calcutta, the former Imperial Library, has received extensive attention from library historians. The work that is still definitive is B. S. Kesavan's *India National Library* (Calcutta: National Library, 1961), of which the first portion is primarily a historical survey. The other two works are more commemorative in nature: *The National Library of India: Golden Jubilee Souvenir, Sunday, 1st February, 1953* (Calcutta: National Library, 1953), which has a short history of Belvedere and the Buhar Library, as well as a sketch of the National Library's growth; and the pictorial treatment of M. N. Nagaraj and A. K. Ghosh, *The National Library of India, 1903-1978* (Calcutta: National Library, 1978). Most recently U. Majumder has treated the immediate past history of the library in her comparative study with the British Library, *India's National Library: Systematization and Modernization* (Calcutta, National Library, 1987), in which the second chapter is historical in nature.

Works of related significance to the National Library are A. J. Arberry's *The India Office Library: A Historical Sketch* (London: India Office, 1967 [first published, 1938]) and R. Datta's "The India Office Library: Its History, Resources, and Functions" (*Library Quarterly* 36 [1966]: 99-148).

### *Library Associations and Journals*

Two associations commemorated their anniversaries with publication in the early 1980s—*50 Years of Indian Library Association, 1933-1983*, edited by J. C. Mehta and N. N. Mohanty (Delhi: Indian Library Association, 1983), and *50 Years of Government of India Librarians Association: GILA 50, 1933-1983* (New Delhi: The Association, 1983). Special libraries have received selective coverage by A. Neelmeghan in *Development of Medical Societies and Medical Periodicals in India, 1730 to 1920* (Calcutta: IASLIC, Special Publication no. 3, 1963).

*Printing and Publishing*

Although not strictly part of library history, the book trade is vital to the existence and continued development of libraries. Two works are of such significance that they may not be omitted from this brief overview of printed resources. A. K. Priolkar's *The Printing Press in India* (Bombay: Marathi Samshodhana Mandala, 1958) set an early standard and opened the topic for those who followed. B. S. Kesavan, former director of the National Library of India, is currently overseeing production of a multivolume *History of Printing and Publishing in India: A Story of Cultural Re-awakening* (Delhi: National Book Trust, 1985-). Two volumes have already appeared: volume 1, *South Indian Origins of Printing and Its Efflorescence in Bengal* (1985), and volume 2, *Origins of Printing and Publishing in Karnataka, Andhra and Kerala* (1988). The continuing bibliographical works of Graham Shaw dealing with Indian serials and government publication merit notice.

*Biography and Institutional Studies*

Because of the limitation of time and specific knowledge of the subject matter details, the literature relating to individual biographical studies and individual library and institutional histories has been omitted from this review. They are worthy topics for additional bibliographical examination.

I hope that this survey will bring still other works to general notice that have been overlooked here and that colleagues will add to this body of research.