Abstract (in brief)

Literatures in different fields have increase manifold from the time when human first started to use papyrus as a source of information to our present day information society (Bell, 1973) whereby reaching a threshold of what is known as information explosion. As such it is not possible to keep abreast with many literatures being produced in a particular field or group of fields, or of a particular interest or geographical area. This has necessitated the information professionals and workers to a great extent to readily make available bibliographic information of books and other reading materials through a process known as bibliographic control.

Presently there is no proper and systematic documentation of documents and materials on Nagas of Nagaland as well as other parts of the Naga inhabited areas. Therefore, there are urgent needs for documentation of Naga literatures written in both Naga and other languages starting from 19th century till date. The objectives are to study the growth and development of Naga literature in different fields of subjects, the contributions of Naga literatures to the society, the present condition of Naga literatures, to compile and document Naga literatures, to propose suitable bibliographic control tools relating to Naga literatures.

The study were confined to Naga literatures written in Naga languages out of which eight indigenous languages of Nagaland from 16 languages recognised by the Government of Nagaland were chosen, depending on the literary development, publications, collections and availability of literatures. Also based on the accessibility and availability of documents in the State, visits were made to leading institutions, libraries and individual houses for the data collection.

For the present study the period of growth of Naga literatures has been caterogised into six decades starting from fifth decade of the last century (1949-1958) till the first decade of the present century (1999-2008). Because of limited access to the original literatures and lack of documentation and preservation prior to 1949, the base year for the present study was taken from 1949 taking into consideration the availability of the literatures on the Nagas.

The methodology for data collection are bibliographic study through citation analysis, access to personal collection, visit to libraries and individual houses, interview
schedule, discussion and personal contacts with authors, experts, etc. Percentages were used for the analysis of the collected data.

The beginning of literary movement in Nagaland with special reference to Naga languages is a little more than a century old in case of Tenyidie and Ao languages. Literary activity is more active in the theological field. Development of other literature remains in an infancy stage. Moreover the formal education of the Naga society gives maximum emphasis to English learning. Therefore, the indigenous languages of the Nagas are confined to a minimum status.

The work is divided into 6 chapters, which includes introduction, literature review, Naga languages and its growth, collection of literatures in Naga languages in the libraries and individual houses, Naga literatures: a bibliographical study, and conclusion with findings and suggestions. Also overall bibliography and references cited, annexure and bibliography of Naga literatures are given.

The present study indicates that there is gradual growth of literatures on Naga languages from the first to the sixth decade. The overall publications come to 397 volumes for the six decades. Naga literatures represented 12 disciplines with Religion having the highest number of literatures among the Naga languages which covers all the languages except Chokri language.

When it comes to overall language wise distribution of literatures from the first decade (1949-58) to the sixth decade (1999-08), the highest number of literatures published was on Tenyidie language followed by Ao language literatures.

NGOs have published the most number of Naga literatures and the least from the Individual publishers. Kohima has the highest number of publications followed by Mokokchung. Most of the literatures in the State were published during the fifth and sixth decades.