CHAPTER-7

UNESCO SPONSORED PROJECTS ON LIBRARY, SCIENTIFIC DOCUMENTATION AND ALLIED SERVICES IN INDIA

UNESCO - Initiative for the Development of Libraries, Librarianship, Documentation and Information Services in India.

India is a founder member of UNESCO and was the first developing country to host the General Conference (9th Session in 1956) in Delhi. While discussing India’s relations with UNESCO in the field of education, therefore, it is necessary to keep in view the fact that India as a new independent state was interested in all round development as a viable nation. After the initial period of interaction between India and UNESCO, basically, after the year 1950, the Indian attitude to UNESCO’s educational role began to assume a more concrete shape, in as much as India highlighted the practical problems of the expansion of education more than the value of spirituality. It was realized that the ability to read and write is a step towards a better life. How to provide free and compulsory education to all? This was the basic question in the minds of the Indian planners. India realised the need for availability of suitable reading material for the neo-literates an essential requirement for the success of the programmes of social or fundamental education as it helps to stimulate the consciousness of human dignity and development and can also serve as basis for the cultural and moral solidarity of the common man. ¹ It was realised that one of the ways by which the neo-literates could
get suitable reading material was to establish good public libraries all over the country. The resolution of UNESCO's General Conference regarding the role of public libraries in providing basic education acted as a handy solution to this problem resulting in the establishment of Delhi Public Library.

7.1 Public Library Pilot Project-Delhi Public Library

Genesis of the Project

The project had its genesis in a resolution of the 4th General Conference of the UNESCO in Paris in September, 1949 which passed the following:

The Director General is authorized to “organize in one of the Member States at the request and with the assistance of the Government and as part of a campaign for the spread of fundamental education a pilot project for public libraries, mainly intended for persons who have just learned to read and write”. ²

This is an interesting and quite outstanding decision of an international organization as it establishes the importance, indeed, the necessity of library service, in all those parts of the world where an attempt is made to reduce illiteracy and improve and spread education. India accepted the offer through Mr. Maulana Azad, the then Education Minister, who was attending that Conference on the terms and conditions specified by UNESCO. It was decided to invite UNESCO to cooperate with the Ministry of Education in holding the project in India, and in November – December, 1949, Mr. E. N. Peterson, Head, of the Public Libraries Development Section of the
Libraries Division, UNESCO visited Delhi to assist the Ministry to draw up a provisional agreement, so that work on the preparation of the foundations for the experiment could be commenced without delay.

The co-operative type of venture was established in this agreement the Government undertaking to bear the cost of the establishment and maintenance of the library for one year and to continue financial support in the succeeding year. The selected city Delhi was expected to contribute also and provide a suitable building; and the UNESCO agreed to pay for the visit of a temporary foreign advisory-the director; for publicity materials; a six months fellowship for the training abroad of the Indian director designate; the cost of Mr. Peterson’s visit and the time of the Secretariat in Paris in organizing the project, providing technical advice, etc. ³

The General Conference at Florence in May 1950 approved the Indian project and decided to continue its support. On the 22nd May, 1951 a new agreement covering the four years 1951-1954 was signed between the Government in India and UNESCO superseding the Agreement of December 2nd, 1949. The agreement decided that the project should be known as “The Delhi Public Library, in association the UNESCO”. It was made clear the library was to be so designed so as to carry out the policy of the UNESCO Public Libraries Manifesto.

To ensure the availability of adequate finance during the stages of inauguration and development the agreement provided that UNESCO will contribute, subject to approval of the General Conference, a sum of not less than $60,000 to the end of 1954, and for its part the Government of India, subject to parliament’s clearance will contribute
not less than the equivalent of $120,00 in rupees during the same period. To these sums should be added the contribution of the city of Delhi which in 1950-51 and 1951-52 amounted to Rs. 25,000 per annum.

**Staff**

a) Director Designate/Advisory Director: In accordance with the agreement of December 1949 of the award of a six months fellowship by UNESCO to the Indian director designate for training and experience abroad, Mr. D.R. Kalia, Librarian of the Central Institute of Education, University of Delhi, was invited to the UNESCO Seminar on “Role of Libraries in adult education” held at Malmo, Sweden, July-August, 1950. Which gave him the opportunity to meet librarians from many countries and see some of the best public libraries in Scandinavia before proceeding to Paris, the U.S.A. and the UK. Mr. Edward Sydney, FLA, Borough Librarian of Leyton (UK), arrived in December, 1950 to act as an Advisory Director for a period of six months, joined by Kalia in February, 1951 after completing his library training. Mr. Sydney left to England in June, 1951 on completion of his tenure, and Mr. Frank M. Gardner, Borough Librarian, Luton (UK) at the invitation of UNESCO, arrived, Delhi in November, 1951 as UNESCO Consultant.

A part of Dalmia Jain House situated at Queens Road, opposite to the Delhi Railway Station was acquired by June, 1950. It was renovated to make it suitable for a public library. The technical and clerical staff were engaged and the library was
ready for inauguration. The Library was inaugurated by the late Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, the then Prime Minister of India on 27th October, 1951 accompanied by the Honourble Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, Minister of Education and a distinguished company of over 1,200 persons.

It's first aim was to be a model public library, conceived along western lines, offering a free, open access service to all who lived or worked in Delhi. It was to be a living embodiment of UNESCO's 1949 manifesto declaration that the public library should be open to free use on equal terms to all members of the community, regardless of occupation, creed, class or race". At the same time, it will be a model for all public library development to inspire other areas of India and in countries in ASIA, where similar development of public libraries could be undertaken.

The establishment of a modern public library in a metropolitan city was undoubtedly a land-mark in public library development in India. The Indian public was not used to a public library service, let alone a free one, and it was certainly not used to open access to books. It had open shelves allowing unhindered access to books; it did not insist it on a cash security for enrolment and of course, did not charge any fee or subscription from its members.

The library flourished, however, and quickly developed the levels of use and activity including the long queues, which have earned it the tag of "The busiest Public Library in Asia". 

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The Delhi Public Library was started as a modest unitary library. Besides the usual departments viz. the processing department for acquisition and processing of books etc. it had a children's Department specially catering to the needs of juvenile readers, a social education department employing audio-visual media for enlightenment and recreation of the library's public and Extension Services for making library service available outside the precincts of the main library through mobile vans and deposit stations. It took the library about a decade to take roots in the cultural life of the city.

The library had its first major break-through during the sixties when it got special funds for expansion of services under the country's Third Five Year Plan. During this period the library opened four big Branches, started a Braille Section for the blind, commissioned two more mobile vans and opened eight sub-Branches. During the Fourth Five Year Plan the library opened seven bigger sub-branches including a sports library. The Library has thus grown into a full-fledged system consisting of a Central Library, an Extension Services, through mobile vans with branches and sub-branches.

The library starting with four departments, namely lending Department, Children's Department, Social Education Department and Extension Services Department, today operates on a vast scale, as a Metropolitan Public Library System
attempting to serve the whole of the Union Territory of Delhi, an area of 574 square miles with a population approaching 7 million. The library now has a membership of almost 100,000, annual issues of 2 ½ million, a bookstock of over 869,000. The library has 29 branches sub-branches and community libraries, 31 Resettlement Colony libraries, a Braille department a network of mobile service stations serving 81 areas including 14 Braille institutes and two hospital libraries, one prisoner’s library and 21 deposit stations, and a staff of over 450. At the Central Library alone, 2,000 readers a day use the library’s services. The library is now financed by M/O Tourism & Culture, Government of India is now completely financially responsible for the library, and is administered by the Delhi Library Board, an autonomous body established under the Ministry of Human Resource Development.®

Readers Service

The core of the Library’s Service is the adult lending and reference work. The Reference Department answers a large number of queries received in person, over the ‘phone and by post. The Book stock consists of 58% Hindi, 22% in English, and 20% in Urdu and Punjabi, including a sprinkling in Sindhi and Bengali.

Children Department

Another concept which D P L has introduced to India has been the services for specific client groups. Service to children is a
priority, and every library has a children’s section. The department has a membership of over 7000 and issues about 126,000 books in a year. The department also arranges a vigorous programme of cultural activities, eg. Story hours, group discussions, educational games and T.V. programes.

**Adult Literacy**

A similar expedient was adopted in the service of neo-literates, an activity with which DPL is charged. Literacy rate of the country at Independence was around 15%. The major problem is that once people have learned to read, they often lapse back in to illiteracy through lack of neo-literature. To remedy this, DPL sponsored the publication of various pamphlets in Hindi and Urdu. Literacy rate has now reached 36%.

**Social Education Department**

As well as supporting formal education, DPL actively pursues a cultural role. The Social Education Department runs a Gramophone Records Lending Library. The Current Stock is over 3,600 discs, covering both northern and southern Indian music and some lighter music etc. A music listening room has been set up. The library also organize a full programme of cultural activities, such as study circles, debates, lectures, plays, concerts, exhibitions and film shows. Last year 386 such programmes drew an attendance of 53,754 people. The organization of such activities by a library service was something wholly new for India.
**Braillie Department**

Service for the blind has been another of DPL’s innovations. The library has its own Braille transcribing unit, which produces most of the accessions – last year the unit transcribed 236 of the 386 new Braille Books. There are 7 Braille Deposit Libraries, including one at Delhi University, and a weekly Braille Book Mobile to 14 Service points. The library is now trying to establish a Talking Book Unit, based on cassettes. Meanwhile, post free postal loans of Braille Books are also available to all members.

**Extension Service Department**

This department is responsible for providing library service to areas which are not served by the Central Library or Branches, through mobile vans and a network of Deposit stations operated in association with other organizations which have the requisite accommodation furniture and staff for the purpose.

The mobile vans serve some 81 areas urban and rural once in a week. Since traditional women still often stay at home, this development has been especially useful to women, children and aged people. The mobile libraries have a membership of about 21,000 and issue about 300,000 volumes a year. Two sports libraries have been set up, including one at the indoor swimming pool. Another recent initiative has been the setting up (during 1982-84) a series of 31 libraries in Delhi’s Resettlement colonies (resulting from shanty town clearance). Prisoners and hospital patients are other client groups served
by DPL, with three hospital libraries and one prison currently being covered.

Since 1986, the establishment of the “Rural Library on Wheels”, a small van has been serving 13 Delhi villages.

**Legal Deposit**

A complete new development for the library began in 1981, when DPL was designated India’s 4th legal deposit library under the Delivery of Books (Public Libraries) Act of 1954. In 1988-89, 23,120 books were received under the legislation, compared with 5,899 in 1985.

As a demonstration Project – It is known that, preliminary planning for pilot projects inspired by the Delhi experienced is already going ahead in two Asian countries. The experience in establishing the library has also been extremely useful to the organizers of the Government of Colombia – UNESCO Pilot Project for Latin America now successfully operating in Medellin, Colombia. Over the past years, the DPL staff has handled 98 inquiries on matters of detail or general public library policy. Requests for specific assistance have arisen from many of these inquiries one example being assistance in the design of six mobile libraries for Bihar state, which were built in Delhi on similar lines to the Delhi mobile library. Forty-two people, sponsored by the government of India, states Governments, the Indian Army, the Iraqi Government, and the Government of Afghanistan, have been sent to the library for training periods. Also, the DPL under a contract with UNESCO,
undertook a study of the reading interest of new readers which was also been published in the form of a booklet. The report is intended to help writers, publishers, book sellers and librarians in the South Asia.

7.2 Scientific And Technical Documentation In India

In a mixed economy like ours in India, where government initiative and private enterprises have created industrial and scientific complexes with fiercely autonomous privileges, the work of a documentalist has very interesting challenges. Documentation service is a two-way activity in which dissemination and feedback are closely interlinked. This means that the tempo of the service is a factor of the intensity of research and developmental activities of the society. Hence, the organization and functioning of national documentation and information service can best be appreciated against the background of the total research and technological effort of the country as a whole. In a fast-developing country like India, the documentation and information activities need constant observation and planning to sustain the efforts of scientists, research workers, engineers, managers and all other engaged in such activities.

If we look at the growth and development of documentation and information services in India it is seen that organization of Science and Technology information services had got the priority mainly at the aegis of government. The organized documentation and information services on social sciences came comparatively at a later date. Thus, I initiate our
discussion with Science and Technology documentation vis a vis the role of UNESCO.

**Indian National Scientific Documentation Centre (INSDOC) now (NISCAIR)**

During the post war period, India initiated a greatly accelerated programme of Scientific and Industrial Research, planned to meet the growing needs of the industrial and economic development of the country. As a result of a survey of the available resources by way of equipment and personnel, the government decided to establish many laboratories, higher technological institutions, medical and agricultural research institutions and such other scientific organizations in specialized fields as were not covered by the existing laboratories. Programmes were drawn up for training of a large number of scientific personal abroad.

Many new key industries, such as the automobile, fertilizers and heavy chemicals, electronic, machine tool and locomotive were started. Established industries, such as steel and textile were greatly expanded.

The increasing tempo activities in all spheres required ready access to information on the advances in science and technology. Individual institutions could hardly afford to obtain the large volume of literature on scientific subjects which published. Neither they had the resources to set up their own bibliographic documentation, translation and photographic reproduction services.
The foundation of an organization for the provision of a centralised documentation service

The INSDOC with the generous cooperation of UNESCO is an important step towards meeting this need.

History - Contributions made by the Government of India and outside agencies

UNESCO had drawn up tentative plans in March 1953, for a national scientific documentation centre. The plan had proposed the provision of US $ 74,000 in capital expenditure and a running expenditure of $ 376,000; the running expenditure to be shared between the UNESCO and the receiving country. The Government of India approached UNESCO, in May 1950, for technical assistance for the establishment of a bibliographical centre. The request of the government of India received the sympathetic attention of UNESCO, and a memorandum dated September, 1950 was sent to all member States enclosing a detailed draft plan. These proposals were considered by the Government of India and UNESCO in November, 1950 and were finally accepted with the following budget.

a) Salaries and allowances for three experts as recommended in the draft plan.
b) Equipment $ 24,000.
c) Books and publications $ 12,000.
d) Study Grants $8,000.10
The Standing Committee of Parliament attached to the Department of Scientific Research (now under Ministry of Science and Technology) approved on March 17, 1951, the proposals for the commission of the project and recommended grants of Rs 94,500 for the first year, Rs 1,75,000 for the second year and Rs 2,32,000 for the third year\textsuperscript{11}.

After the approval of Government of India had been obtained for the establishment of the project, a formal agreement was entered into between UNESCO and Government of India. This was signed on 7\textsuperscript{th} of July, 1951 by Dr. J Torres Bodet for UNESCO and the late Dr S.S Bhatnagar for the then Government of India.

The National Physical Laboratory offered accommodation and other facilities for the establishment of the centre in New Delhi, in the premises of the laboratory, and the Government of India agreed to the proposal; thus the INSDOC (Indian National Scientific Documentation Centre) was established.

The government constituted a special committee in October 1951, to advise on all matters concerning INSDOC. This committee recommended that the Centre should perform the following functions:

1. receive and retain all scientific periodical which may be of use to the country;
2. inform scientists and engineers of Indian literature articles which may be of value to them by issuing a monthly bulletin of abstracts;
3. answer specific enquires from information available in the centre;
4. supply photocopies or translations of articles required by individual workers.
5. be a national depository for reports of the scientific work of the nation, both published and unpublished; and
6. be a channel through which the scientific work of the nation is made known and available to the rest of the world.

The Head of the UNESCO's Technical Assistance Mission, Mr J B Reid arrived in India on 14th January 1952. His colleagues, Mr A.L. Gardner and Mr A. Pelletier arrived in India in March 1952 and December 1952 respectively.

The Government of India entrusted the organization of INSDOC to the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, who placed it under the administrative control of the Director, National Physical Laboratory.

**Information Services**

INSDOC is essentially a service institution. Since inception, it has been offering a number of documentation and information services in response to specific requests from user clientele. The services are being availed of by R & D organizations, universities, industrial establishments, government departments and individual scientific workers.

a) **Information Dissemination**
The dissemination activities are in the nature of secondary publications, with the exception of Annals of Library Science and documentation which covers primary information. INSDOC "List of current Scientific Literature" was initiated by INSDOC in 1954 as fortnightly service, covering about 650 periodicals. The Bibliography of Scientific Publication of South and South East Asia, was started by INSDOC in 1955, published monthly and covering 300 scientific periodicals published in eight countries of South East Asia. This publication was taken over by UNESCO in 1959.

b) Indian Science Abstracts

The Indian Science Abstracts (ISA) started as an abstracting journal in 1965. Its main function is to ensure comprehensive coverage of scientific publications published in India as well as to cover publications of Indian scientists published in foreign periodicals. It covers all scientific primary and review articles, proceedings of conferences and symposia, monographs, theses, patents and other adhoc publications.

Bibliographical Service

INSDOC on request compile a list of references of recent papers on any scientific subject. This provides the scientific worker with the means of knowing what has already been published in his field of specialization.

Document Copy Supply Service
Scientists and Technologists are often in need of copies of scientific papers and reports which are not readily available to them at their places of work. For this purpose, INSDOC has been offering document copy supply service since its establishment. Some major libraries in the country, such as Delhi University Library, Indian Institute of Technology, Madras and Delhi have been serving as the main resource library in the operation of this service.

Reprography and Printing

It has a full range of microfilming microfiche and photocopying equipment. The photocopying equipment include a number of units of plain paper, quick copying machines. The reprographic section of the Regional Centre, Bangalore, Calcutta and Madras are also well equipped and has facilities for microfilming, photocopying and slide making.

Translation Service

INSDOC has a very dynamic translation programme. Facilities for translating from 20 foreign languages were made available. A liaison with the National Science Foundation of America gave somewhat a spurt to the translation potential of INSDOC. Its capacity in rendering translation from the Russian and European languages is impressive.

Annals of Library Science and Documentation
It is a quarterly periodical being published by INSDOC since 1952. It is a medium for publishing original contributions in the field of library classification, cataloguing, bibliographical organization, documentation techniques, mechanical methods of documentation and information retrieval, bibliographical standardization and reprography etc. over the years. The Annals has earned reorganization as a standard professional journal with international appeal.

**Information Retrieval – S D I Service**

The computer-based activities of INSDOC was initiated in early sixties. INSDOC subscribing databases in a few specific disciplines like engineering, physics etc using CAN/SDI service.

**Centralized Acquisition of Periodicals**

INSDOC initiated a project for centralized acquisition of periodicals on behalf of various CSIR laboratories in 1975. This is not only to help in foreign exchange saving but also reducing the extensive labour input in different institutions subsequently the service was discontinued.

A Management Information system relating to CSIR scientists has been continuing. Bio-data of about 5,000 CSIR Scientists and Engineers has also been developed.

**Information Access Tools**
INSDOC undertook a programme for compiling a Union Catalogue of Scientific Serials available in the country. This contains serial holdings data from more than 750 scientific libraries. This is a very high degree of reliability and bibliographical standard. The Union List of Current Scientific Serials in India has also been brought out in 1982 containing records 11,511 foreign and 1,892 Indian scientific serials being received in 785 Indian Libraries^12.

Directories

As a step towards bibliographical control of Indian scientific literature, INSDOC brought out the Directory of Indian Scientific Periodicals in 1964, 1968 and 1976. INSDOC also publishes information tools and packages in the areas where they are not available and the need exists. Examples are the Directory of Scientific Research Institutions in India. Other Directory of Data Centers in India, Directory of Testing Facilities and a compendium of current research programmes of CSIR Laboratories^13.

National Centre for ISDS

A nucleus of the National Science Library (NSL) has been functioning at INSDOC since 1964. The library has been envisaged more as a cooperative acquisition conception, locating materials in places of actual use with bibliographical control of the holdings being maintained through a union catalogue at the centre. The aim of the National science Library is to have at least one copy of every worthwhile scientific publication within
the country, no matter where it will be kept. The library specializes in material which are not usually acquired by other science libraries in order to supplement the National Collection.

**Manpower development for Information Work.**

**Associateship in Information Science earlier course in Documentation and Reprography**

Many of the established library schools in the country were found to be slow in introducing new programmes to suit the changing requirements. To ameliorate the situation, INSDOC started a full time course leading to the award of Associateship in Information Science in 1964. The objectives of the INSDOC course have been to train personnel and equip them with necessary skills and technical know how to plan, organize, manage, control, supervise in research and development, industrial and other cognate establishments. The teaching programme includes formal lectures, practical assignments, field studies, group discussion, colloquia, term papers and project work. Only a limited number of students including few foreign students are admitted every year. In addition, INSDOC has also been offering ad-hoc training and on-the-job training to employed candidates from India abroad.

**Short-term Training Courses**

**INSDOC** has also been offering short-term training courses on different professional themes and also refresher courses from time to time. Under sponsorship of UNESCO, it organized three
regional training programmes in documentation in 1955, 1963 and 1979 in which documentalist from Burma, Sri Lanka, India, Thailand, Malaysia, Korea, Indonesia, Singapore, Pakistan, Nepal took part. The services of a senior Swedish expert were made available.

**Table-9 List of Training Courses organized by INSDOC**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Course Description</th>
<th>Organizers</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1961</td>
<td>Scientific Documentation in South and South East Asia</td>
<td>UNESCO, INSDOC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1963</td>
<td>Scientific Documentation in Asia</td>
<td>UNESCO, IAFA, INSDOC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1973</td>
<td>Modern Methods of Information work</td>
<td>INSDOC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1976</td>
<td>Documentation and Information Services</td>
<td>INSDOC, DRTC, BARC.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1977</td>
<td>Documentation and Information Services</td>
<td>INSDOC, DRTC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Jadavpur University.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1979</td>
<td>Information Handling for Library and Information personnel in countries of South and Central Asia.</td>
<td>UNESCO, INSDOC</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Advisory Services**

INSDOC has been rendering advisory services to a number of institutions on technical matters, in drawing plan/ blue prints for development of information systems, services, products. So far more than 40 to 50 library and information centres in the country have availed of this advisory service.

**Regional Centres**

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INSDOC established Regional Centres in major cities, such as Bangalore, Calcutta and Madras, equipped with a full range of reprography equipment for document copying, offset printing facilities, compilation of bibliographies and answering technical enquiries, etc. the Madras centre looks after the SDI service for C A search data base also. These regional centres also help in the collection of data for Union catalogue and other projects of INSDOC. UNESCO played a large part in the establishment of the centre at Bangalore, not only by providing the equipment asked for through the UNDP funds, but also by sending an experts from Hungary for a period of six months to help in the matter.

International and National Collaboration.

India has been represented by INSDOC as the national member of the International Federation for Documentation (FID) and member of the FID committee for Asia and Oceania (FID/CAO) and also represented in FID/ET, FID/CC, FID/II and FID/IM Committees. INSDOC maintains a close cooperation with UNESCO, especially with the Divisions of General Information Programme (PGI). INSDOC is closely collaborating with VINITI, Moscow, in the Russian Science Information center project under the Cultural Exchange Programme. INSDOC Also established exchange relationship with a number of foreign countries in the fields of scientific and library information.

UNESCO'S Role in the Development of Science and Technology Information System
During 1960's it was realised that a well planned network of Science and Technology Information System linking various areas is necessary for the country. So with the assistance of UNESCO, Peter Lazer from Hungary visited India to chalk out a plan for the same which ultimately resulted in the development of National System for Science and Technology (NISSAT). The details of this project has been given in subsequent chapter 9 at 9.2.

7.3. Post Graduate Training in Library Education- At University of Delhi

In the area of Professional training, UNESCO established an Institute of Library Science at University of Delhi. This institute started functioning with the Department of Library Science in the University. The Library Science Institute was supported by the UNESCO in relation to grants and technical assistance. In 1964, UNESCO withdrew its support and the Institute of Library Science was merged with Department of Library Science, University of Delhi. Up-till now it has produced hundreds of students having Bachelor of Library Science and Master's Degree and few of them are M.Phill and Ph.D holders. The Alumni's of this institute are occupying higher positions in several Academic professional Government Sector and other Research Organizations and strengthening the man power in the field of Library and Information in India.

7.4 UNESCO's Book Promotion and Production of Reading Material Project

Although the developing countries represent about 70 percent of the world population, they produce only 20 percent of the books
published in the world. The rest of the production is largely concentrated in about 30 industrialized countries. Between 1950 and 1970, world book production doubled, as regards number of copies. Over 550,000 titles and about 8 billion copies per year are now on the market. But the distribution remains unequal. Shortage of suitable books in vernacular languages is a familiar problem on many countries. UNESCO has grasped this central truth with great fervour and has launched in Asia a campaign against trade and intellectual barriers.

The 1955 UNESCO regional seminar on the development of public libraries in Asia held in New Delhi, set up a separate working group to go into the question of the provision and maintenance of elementary reading materials for adults. This group recommended the establishment in each country of a National or State Research Training and Production Centre. The aim of such centre was to undertake research and evaluation of material, to train potential writers through seminars and workshops to produce model literature and audiovisual aids, to make recommendations for book production in general and finally to serve as a clearinghouse for book material on the production of literature.\(^{15}\)

The first regional conference held at Tokyo in 1956, recommended an increase in the production of suitable reading material for new literates.

A regional meeting of experts was convened by UNESCO in 1956 in West Pakistan to develop a programme for the production of reading materials for new literates. A decision was taken to concentrate on Burma, Sri Lanka, India and Pakistan. Under the UNESCO project,
direct assistance was given to competent agencies and publishers for
the production of model books in the main languages of the region,
namely Burmese, Sinhalese, Hindi, Urdu, Bengali, and Tamil. The
contract stipulates that five hundred copies of each book must be
distributed free to public libraries and reading rooms.

UNESCO has held seminars at Rangoon in 1957, Madras (India) in
1959, at Colombo in 1961 on reading materials in South Asia. A
regional centre for the production of reading materials in South Asia
has been functioning at Karachi, Pakistan since 1956.

UNESCO-Regional Centre for Production of Reading Materials for
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the Karachi centre has been nominated as a field office for UNESCO's International Copyright Information centre.

ROCBA, a regional centre for the Asian Continent recognizes the need for the continuing provision of literature for new literates. It works closely with book trade organisations and National Institutions in some twenty Asian countries in various activities of book promotion. It provides advisory services and indeed financial assistance. Being an International co-ordinating body, it holds seminars, exhibitions, book-fairs and training courses in individual countries and at regional gatherings.

The centre has been responsible for a quarterly news-letter since 1962. The news-letter highlights the activities of the centre and carries interesting and scholarly articles by contributors from all over Asia. It has been a regular source of information for Asian countries and it keeps these informed of each others activities, resources and problems. ROCBA also undertakes to publish bibliographies and indexes in the fields of book development and promotion.17

7.5 UNESCO Book Coupon Scheme

In 1948, the UNESCO devised the book coupon scheme under which the participating countries in the soft currency areas can purchase publications without exchange of dollars from hard currency areas. The Government of India have been participating in this scheme from the very beginning and have, (1956) received book coupons worth $2,33,000. In 1949, the scheme was extended to include scientific films and UNESCO coupons worth $3,20,00 (2,90,000 for scientific
materials and $ 30,000 for films) have been received. It enabled India to obtain much-needed scientific and technical publication, equipments and films from hard currency areas without spending any foreign exchange.

7.6 Bibliographical Services

UNESCO's International Advisory Committee on Bibliography, made a contract with the Indian Library Association, in 1954, for standardizing authors names in the Asian countries for the purposes of entries in catalogues and bibliographies.

Union Catalogue and Lists of Periodicals

The importance of the Union catalogue as a powerful tool for library co-operation need nor be over systemised. In the South East Asian region, India received assistance for compilation of the Union Catalogue of Learned Periodicals in South Asia Vol-1 physical and biological sciences of this catalogue was brought out by the Indian Library association.

Related to union catalogues are the compilations of lists of periodicals. UNESCO entered into a contract with the Indian Library Association in 1952 for the preparation of retrospective bibliography of Asian learned periodicals.

7.7 Microfilming Project in India

In the interests of the conservation of cultural heritage, UNESCO has sent microfilming teams to India to reproduce manuscripts and other
archival documents to protect them from the effects of time and other hazards.

Microfilming Project–

The UNESCO Microfilm unit was sent to India on June 1966 with the following objectives –

1. To microfilm selected valuable manuscripts, to preserve them available for researchers.
2. To train people in microfilm technique.
3. To assist the national authorities in installation or the improvement of microfilm services.
4. To make a list of microfilmed materials to let researchers know what has been photographed.

UNESCO Microfilming Unit at Calcutta–

Microfilming work started at Calcutta (National Library). The work concerned with developing, printing and other allied jobs was started on 4th August and continued till 22 August, 1967.

a. Microfilm: The final results in the period of the microfilm work in India (24 June, 1966 to 22 August, 1967) at the twelve centres shown below are 378 rolls, negative and positive containing 285,820. 19
Table-10 Showing the name of the centres for the microfilming work under the UNESCO Projects:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Serial No.</th>
<th>Name of the Centres</th>
<th>No of Institutions Participating</th>
<th>No of Manuscripts</th>
<th>No of Exposures</th>
<th>No of reels</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Calcutta</td>
<td>09</td>
<td>551</td>
<td>43,739</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Poona</td>
<td>05</td>
<td>185</td>
<td>13,063</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Hyderabad</td>
<td>07</td>
<td>114</td>
<td>27,215</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Patna</td>
<td>03</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>9,973</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Madras</td>
<td>03</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>10,860</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Mysore</td>
<td>02</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>1,576</td>
<td>03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>Tanjore</td>
<td>01</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>8,780</td>
<td>06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>Trivandrum</td>
<td>01</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>7,655</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>Delhi</td>
<td>02</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>2,227</td>
<td>04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td>Gauhati</td>
<td>02</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>2,234</td>
<td>04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.</td>
<td>Jammu</td>
<td>02</td>
<td>107</td>
<td>13,896</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.</td>
<td>Srinagar</td>
<td>01</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>1,633</td>
<td>02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total:</td>
<td></td>
<td>38</td>
<td>1,308</td>
<td>142,901</td>
<td>189</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Training in microfilming-

In National Library, Calcutta, two persons were selected as trainees. Both of them were trained to run the microfilm camera and the dark room process.

7.7 Library Field Mission and Fellowships

In the first years of its work UNESCO depended largely on the help of the experts who were sent to restore and re-plan damaged libraries and other institutions. UNESCO has assisted a large number of countries to organize their library services on a national scale, by providing them expertise. They have also helped in setting up public, national, special or University libraries; planned library building, worked as advisory Directors and technical experts in a wide range of library activities.
Table-3 gives an account of UNESCO experts who were sent to India on field missions to advise, organize and management of public libraries as well as scientific documentation centers.

Fellowships are regularly provided to give further training to the persons who have to take over the library after the UNESCO experts leave.

**Table-11 UNESCO Field Mission Experts to India.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date of mission</th>
<th>Duration</th>
<th>Name of Expert</th>
<th>Country of Origin</th>
<th>Category of mission</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1951</td>
<td>6 months</td>
<td>Edward Sydney</td>
<td>U.K.</td>
<td>Pilot Public Library project</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1951</td>
<td>6 months</td>
<td>Frank M Gardiner</td>
<td>U.K.</td>
<td>Pilot Public Library project</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1952-1955</td>
<td>3 years</td>
<td>J.B. Reid</td>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>Scientific &amp;Tech. Documentation project</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1952-1955</td>
<td>3 years</td>
<td>A Pelletier</td>
<td>U.S.A.</td>
<td>-do- (mechanical processing)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1957-1959</td>
<td>3 years</td>
<td>P Garde</td>
<td>Unspecified</td>
<td>Libraries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1966-1972</td>
<td>7 years</td>
<td>P Lazar</td>
<td>Hungry</td>
<td>National Inf.System for Scientific &amp; Technical documentation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1966-1967</td>
<td>2 years</td>
<td>O.V.Malugin</td>
<td>unspecified</td>
<td>Scientific Translation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1966-1967</td>
<td>2 years</td>
<td>A. Salem</td>
<td>Unspecified</td>
<td>Mobile Microfilm Unit.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1966</td>
<td>1 year</td>
<td>S.V. Nazarjev</td>
<td>Unspecified</td>
<td>Scientific Documentation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1978</td>
<td>3 months</td>
<td>Johnson, Gerald G.</td>
<td>U.S.A.</td>
<td>Numerical Data</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1978</td>
<td></td>
<td>S.Radhakrishna</td>
<td>Unspecified</td>
<td>STI Application</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Sources:**

b) J.S. Parker, UNESCO and Library Development planning, London-
c) Library Association, 1985 (Appendix).
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year of Award</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Field of study</th>
<th>Duration</th>
<th>Place of study</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1950</td>
<td>D. R. Kalia</td>
<td>Librarianship</td>
<td>6 m</td>
<td>Sweden, U.S.A &amp; U.K.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1950</td>
<td>N. N. Chatterjee</td>
<td>Scientific literature</td>
<td>6 monthly</td>
<td>Netherlands, Switzerland, Belgium, UK and France</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1951</td>
<td>M. S. Dandekar</td>
<td>Scientific translation and abstracting</td>
<td>Unspecified</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1951</td>
<td>Dr. J. V. Karandikar</td>
<td>Photographic reproduction of documents</td>
<td>Unspecified</td>
<td>Netherlands, FRG, UK, France Switzerland,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1951</td>
<td>S. K. Mookherjee</td>
<td>Librarianship</td>
<td>6 monthly</td>
<td>UK, Sweden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1951</td>
<td>K. S. Nagarajan</td>
<td>Photographic reproduction of documents</td>
<td>Unspecified</td>
<td>Unspecified</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1953</td>
<td>Dr. P. Sheel</td>
<td>Organization of Scientific Doc. Centre</td>
<td>Unspecified</td>
<td>Unspecified</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1954</td>
<td>M. M. Tandon</td>
<td>Librarianship</td>
<td>Unspecified</td>
<td>Unspecified</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1955</td>
<td>P. Basu</td>
<td>Scientific translation and abstracting</td>
<td>Unspecified</td>
<td>Unspecified</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Sources:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country of origin</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Country of Mission</th>
<th>Category of Mission</th>
<th>Date/duration of mission</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. India</td>
<td>Ahmed Nagar</td>
<td>Sudan</td>
<td>School libraries</td>
<td>1 year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. India</td>
<td>D.R.Kalia</td>
<td>Iraq</td>
<td>Lib. services</td>
<td>year-1959-1960</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Turkey</td>
<td>METU Lib</td>
<td>1 year 1960-1961</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Iraq</td>
<td>Nat. lib</td>
<td>1 month 1978</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. India</td>
<td>J.V. Karandikar</td>
<td>Thailand</td>
<td>Micro-serves</td>
<td>1 month 1956-1957</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Argentina</td>
<td>Nat Lib</td>
<td>4-5 month 1969</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Print.serials cat.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. India</td>
<td>Y.P.Kathphalia</td>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>Archs. Rest.</td>
<td>6 weeks 1969</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. India</td>
<td>D.Keswani</td>
<td>Africa region</td>
<td>Reg.Archs. training</td>
<td>Unspecified</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>applications</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. India</td>
<td>S.Parthasarathy</td>
<td>Ethiopia</td>
<td>Nat.Sc.&amp; Tech.Inf.</td>
<td>2 months, 1978-1979</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. India</td>
<td>T.S Rajagopalan</td>
<td>Sudan</td>
<td>Govt. Doc.c Cat.</td>
<td>6 months 1972-1973, 1982</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Somalia</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. India</td>
<td>Nihar Ranjan</td>
<td>Burma</td>
<td>Nat. lib. Mus &amp; cul.</td>
<td>Unspecified</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ray</td>
<td></td>
<td>Burma</td>
<td>-do</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. India</td>
<td>S.S. Seth</td>
<td>Nigeria</td>
<td>Trg.coll.lib</td>
<td>1963</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Uganda</td>
<td>East Africa-sch. Libp.</td>
<td>30 months 1968-1972</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. India</td>
<td>A.P Srivastava</td>
<td>Iraq</td>
<td>Lib. &amp;Doc. Trg.Prog.</td>
<td>6 months 1968-70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Iraq</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Iraq</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. India</td>
<td>P.Vij</td>
<td>Saudi -Arabia</td>
<td>M/oPetroleum Lib.</td>
<td>1 year, 1964-65</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
7.9 Table-14 UNESCO Seminar, Conferences and Workshops.

Throughout the years, a number of International Conferences and Seminars was organized by UNESCO which was held in India. Some of them are mentioned below:


1959. Seminar on reading materials in South Asia, Madras, India.


1975. Workshop on training users of Scientific and Technical Information.

1976. SPINES.


References

2. UNESCO, aims & activities, New Delhi: LokSabha Secretariat, 1956. p.15
3. Sydney Edward, Delhi Public Library Project Pt-1. In UNESCO Projects in India, Ministry of Education, Govt. of India, 1953. p.69
4. Ibid. p.70


11. Ibid.


13. Ibid. p.72

14. Ibid. p.77


20. Ibid.