CHAPTER - I

BIBLIOGRAPHY : GENESIS OF BIBLIOGRAPHY
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BIBLIOGRAPHY

1. GENESIS OF BIBLIOGRAPHY

Bibliography is one of the primary tools used for reference by the Librarians. With the help of the primary tools, the librarian is able to identify the books and the reading material by title, author or subject and help the readers when they approach him for information. There are various forms and numerous definitions of bibliographies, but no single definition is suitable for all situations. Generally, the librarian, when speaks of bibliography, he refers to systematic or enumerative bibliography.

The term bibliography which was first used by Louis Jacob de saint Charles in his bibliographic parsiana (1645 - 50) became popular in the eighteenth century. It is derived from the two Greek words, viz., Biblion and graphein. Which means “Biblion” means “Books” and ‘graphein’ is “to write” respectively. Thus etymologically bibliography means ‘writing of books’. Perhaps it originally meant the copying of manuscripts in the pre-printing era. The term, it has gradually acquired a wide connotation, more particularly, in the European context, shaped also by a succession of social and intellectual advances beginning from the middle ages. It is thus a legacy of the western scholarship, borrowed by the East. Despite the great and ancient traditions of culture and scholarship, there are no great evidences of any

kind of bibliographic practices in India. One cannot simply assume that it was there and try to establish by citing the prologues and colophons applied to literacy works that contained references to one’s own early works or works of others. Since methods and means could vary from culture to culture and from place to place, bibliography in western sense perhaps was not practised in ancient India. Also it could not have been adopted until recent times. Still, scholarship was by some means enlarged, extended and conveyed, generation after generation.

In the eighteenth century, in France the meaning of Bibliography changed from the “writing of books” to “writing about books”. In this sense F. Ebert a great German bibliographer defined bibliography as “in the broad sense, the Science that deals with literacy productions” 2. This led to being regarded as, “The Science of books: According to Funk & Wagnalls Standard Dictionary defined bibliography as “a list of works an author, or of the literature bearing on a particular subject” 3. Bibliography as defined by Louis Shores, is a “list of written, printed or otherwise produced record of Civilization, which may include books, serials, pictures, films, maps, records, manuscripts and any other media of communication” 4. In the words of Dr. Ranganatha, ‘bibliography’ “is a list of documents listed together for some purpose. The purpose is to bring to the attention of the reader an exhaustive or selective list of


documents relevant to his pursuit of study or enquiry”⁵. “Bibliography is a complex structure of lists which extends from the local library to the region, nation and the world. A bibliography records not only what is available, but also what had been available in the past and what will be available in the immediate future”⁶.

There must have been, however, some kind of practice in realising the scholarly objectives underlying bibliography. It calls for extensive investigations so as to bring to light all the interesting hidden facts of the indigenous practices of creation and preservation of information or diffusion of knowledge.

Bibliography, as the product of the west, originally meant the writing or copying of already existing manuscripts so as to produce multiple copies for use⁷. Without exception, this was the practice everywhere; India too was not an exception. When printing was invented and became popular, the bibliographic practice seems to have extended its meaning to include composition as well. The increasing abundance and the distribution of such printed materials all over Europe, naturally created the problems of collecting them together and also creating necessary means to facilitate awareness of the existence of such materials. The early bibliographers addressed themselves to the task of recording and describing all extent items scattered throughout Europe. Perhaps


prompted by curiosity merely to know. Thus, descriptive recording and listing of books and other extent materials also came to be regarded as bibliography. Conard Gesner (1516 - 1565), the Swiss Scholar, who compiled his Bibliotheca Universalis (1545) was the first to shape it and give it scholarly credentials. A further change in the usage of the term occurred in eighteenth century as a consequence of the growth of large private collections brought about in the wake of a popular enthusiasm for lavish book collection, especially antiquarian items treating the same as art forms 8. To help to establish the historical importance and antiquarian values of such materials, a series of bibliographies, e.g., Micheal Mittaire's Annals typographic, Joseph Ame's Typographical Antiquities and others were compiled laying foundations for historical bibliography. This new tradition set in motion similar pursuits by bibliographers like DeBure, Peignot and others as historical investigations assuming Scholary endeavour of verifying source materials in linguistic, literacy, historical and other studies. By extending the principles and techniques of these bibliographers, Henry Bradshaw established yet another bibliographic method known as analytical bibliography which investigates the physical nature and the circumstances of the production for construction of the book 9. Robert Proctor's Index to early printed books in the British Museum, with notes of those in the Bodleian, further extended this analytical technique to be capable of establishing the hidden facts and details of claims, authenticity, origin etc., of bibliographic items. The publication of the first volume of the British Museum's Catalogue of Printed Books in XV Century (1908) on Proctor's model brought into


vogue what came to be designated as descriptive bibliography, as a result of analytical method. This induced a more significant development in the publication of Pollard’s Shakespeare’s folios and quartos (1909) contributing to texturala bibliography, helpful in establishing the authenticity and accuracy of texts. Irrespective of the purpose and the methods, all these varieties have enumeration or listing as the basis. During the present century, important areas of bibliographic studies have come to be identified as (1) Descriptive bibliography, (2) Textual Bibliography, (3) Analytical bibliography or critical bibliography, (4) Historical Bibliography and (5) Systematic or enumerative bibliography. The objectives and functions of these different branches have become more and more specialised involving, many sophisticated techniques, particularly, the enumerative bibliography has expanded and enlarged its scope. The ever increasing output of graphic material has brought in automation methods and techniques of bibliography compilations. However, the implications of universal bibliographic control (aimed at optimisation of the use of the increasing production of literature) and the great body of literature on bibliography has virtually overshadowed the other branches.

2. BRANCHES OF BIBLIOGRAPHY

It is a useful convention to divide bibliography into different branches. Ranganathan, who takes the composite view of a book as comprising of a trinity of Atma, Sukshma Sarira and Sthula Sarira distinguishes three branches of bibliography. The bibliography that concerns with the Atma or content is termed ‘document bibliography’. The one which concerns itself with the Suskhma Sarira is termed as ‘descriptive bibliography; while the one that deals with the Sthula sarira or the physique is called the ‘physical bibliography’. The first one is obviously the
systematic or the enumerative bibliography. The second one combines the analytical as well as descriptive methodologies. The third one is the historical one. In the actual process, the historical, the descriptive, the textural, the critical and the analytical methods, however, combine under what may be termed as 'palobibliography'.

There are, in fact, many ways of explaining. Esdaile and others categorize bibliography as consisting of analytical, historical and systematic types\(^\text{10}\). Greg, Besterman and others recognised only two branches, viz., critical and systematic bibliographies\(^\text{11}\). They combined historical and analytical bibliographies and called it 'critical bibliography'. Further, Greg opined that critical bibliography was truly the scholarly and intellectual part of the bibliographic work. Thus, it is a science. The systematic bibliography is either an art or a technique. But they are inter related.

2.1 Descriptive Bibliography

Descriptive bibliography is concerned with the material form of the book. All the details of a book that are discovered/recovered by applying the technique of analytical bibliography are then recorded systematically using the technique of descriptive bibliography. Descriptive bibliography provides standards for describing books and records the result of analysis in a standardised form. The aim of descriptive bibliography is to describe the material form of the books i.e., the transcript of the title.


page; the collation entry; the art of collation; the page by page description; facts relating to this particular copy. It differs, however, from an enumerative or systematic bibliography in respect of the quality and kind of detail which is included. Its objective is standard description, according to a formula of a series of books within the defined field listing of irregularities, classifying and explaining textual differences of a work. “Its function is primarily that of recording the bibliographic detail of a book which has been established during the process of analytical bibliography.”

2.2 Textual Bibliography

It is a type of bibliography which helps scholars in determining the effect of writing or printing process, on the correctness, or the completeness of a text. It is based on theory that the physical process which results in the publication and dissemination of a book can have a bearing on the development of the text. The most important reason to study textual bibliography is that its study ascertains the truth about authorship, about text, about the originality of the editions and their priority. Thus textual bibliography is the backbone of textual criticism.

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13. Ibid., p. 414.

2.3 Analytical or critical bibliography

An analytical or critical bibliography involves investigation of the physical nature of the book which can be, and frequently is, sufficiently exhaustive to enable all the circumstances of the books manufactured and history to be revealed\(^{15}\). The history, identification, or analytical and systematic description or classification of writings or publications considered as material objects is called analytical bibliography\(^{15}\). Thus analytical bibliography deals with a physical description of the books. It means that an analytical bibliography is concerned more with the physical aspects of the book. It examines facts and data concerning a publication by studying the signature, catchwords, cancels and watermarks and making a record, in an approved form of the results. According to Sir Walter Greg, it examines the materials of which they are made and the manner in which these materials are put together\(^{17}\). It traces their places of origin and their subsequent adventures that have shaped them. It is concerned with the technology of the physical production of a book, paper making, type caster, block maker, printer and binder.

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2.4 Historical bibliography

The study of books as 'Objects of art' may be termed as historical bibliography. According to Stokes, "it is difficult to look critically a late sixteenth century play, a late seventeenth century sermon, an eighteenth century plate book, a nineteenth century novel or a twentieth century periodical, without some understanding of the state of printing office, the position of the author and the publisher, the channels of book distribution and the general social and cultural climate of the time". According to Pliny, culture rests on written tradition. In the process of transmission from one generation to another, during this process, a scholar requires the knowledge of the art of writing, printing, illustrations and binding. This study of the history of making of books is called historical bibliography. It helps in studying the growth of knowledge of human race and also reveals that man throughout the ages has been craving and curious of inventing things to better his progress. Hence, in a nutshell, this is the history of the untiring efforts made by man, for several centuries to give to the present-day world, the modern book.

Irrespective of these branches, a librarian, a scholar, a student and everyone else who has anything to do with books understands bibliography as listing or enumeration of bibliographic items. It is here that bibliography gains its importance as a systematic listing.

18. Ibid., p.418.
2.5 Systematic or enumerative bibliography

Systematic or enumerative bibliography may be defined as the preparation of lists of books in short, the compilation of bibliographies which list describe and arrange all graphic materials according to their affinity with each other for reference or study. The field of systematic bibliography can be divided into a number of ways, depending upon the characteristics used. The examination of individual books in order “to assemble the resulting entries, simple or elaborate as the case may require into logical and useful arrangements for reference and study”.

The following characteristics may be used to distinguish bibliographies:

a) Kinds of materials;

b) The purpose of compiler;

c) Geographical area of coverage; Language;

d) Time; and

e) Enumeration.

A common conceptual difficulty, connected with bibliography, stems from the term signifying both the art and the craft as well as the artefact. Used principally as a finding and verification tool in library practice, bibliography has been considered as a product of specific inventory practices in the literature of a particular field. The conception of bibliography as a comprehensive apparatus created to meet specific

information needs makes it evident that it is anchored in the subject literature because it is intimately linked to the life process of a particular discipline\textsuperscript{21}. A unifying concept of bibliography is now necessary because knowledge cascading from the many faceted, multitiered, institutionalized knowledge producing and disseminating systems of today's scientific disciplines is much more difficult to access than the knowledge that flowed from individual thinkers and writers of past centuries. While launching a fifty six volume comprehensive and annotated bibliography of India in 1950, at National Library, Calcutta, the National librarian argued\textsuperscript{21}. Well known bibliographies are solid highways to scholarly esteem and approval, for, without them, it is difficult to carry on any research and serious study. Dr. Luther Evans, the former Director General of the UNESCO, has very aptly said that without bibliographies, the records of civilization would be an unchartered chaos of miscellaneous contributions to knowledge, unorganised and inapplicable to human needs\textsuperscript{22}. And indeed, for want of bibliographies, the records of Indian culture that so long remained a chaos causing serious handicaps for ideological studies.

Katz says, Bibliography is analogous to a map or chart. It serves to guide the librarian in a chaotic world of books and other forms of communication . . . . . No modern library can hope to function without bibliographical guides\textsuperscript{23}.


There was a time when it was possible for a diligent scholar virtually to read all records of learning. Today, even for a voracious reader, it is not possible to read all the publications even on his chosen subject. To control knowledge explosion, there is a need for bibliographic organisation. As there is no time for a research scholar to make his own efforts to gain quick, easy, comprehensive and updated access to information, provision of comprehensive lists of documents on his subject of research is imperative. Through Publishers Information Card Service (PICS), the scholar is in a position to know about the latest additions made to his subject. It helps to avoid duplication of research and keeps the researcher well informed of work done and being done. It serves as a tool for book selection. As bibliography is an index compiled systematically, it serves as a key to the literature or identifying a book or any reading material which may be of interest to the reader, bibliography is indispensable. It helps in the identification of bibliography which is indispensable. It helps in identifying bibliographical details of both old and current documents.

3. OBJECTIVES AND FUNCTIONS OF BIBLIOGRAPHY

A bibliographer's work, particularly, the results of analytical and historical studies resulting in descriptive details and systematic listing and recording is of great value to scholars in the areas of linguistics, literature, history, and other human studies. It also provides the basis for textual criticism. But this kind of high levels of investigation and intellectual pursuits is not warranted in the case of practical applications of knowledge as in social sciences and in pure sciences.
The most important functions of bibliography are

(i) to save the time of the user: It saves the time of the user by providing relevant literature otherwise it would consume more time to collect the material or information. But for bibliography, even a scholar faced with such a vast amount of literature would use his way, wasting much time before he is able to read even of past of which he is required to study.

(ii) Easy access of information: Information is vital to the development of various fields of knowledge. Therefore, it is essential that relevant information be brought to the attention of professionals, administrators and researchers, who have urgent need of it.

(iii) It acts as a bibliographic tool: No modern library can function without bibliographical tools like bibliography.

(iv) To assist an enquirer: To know the total out (current and retrospective) of material on particular subjects or topics, irrespective of the language, the origin or the physical nature of the items, and

(v) To explain issues concerning the variations and differences of texts of works, their editions and versions etc.

The need for or uses of any bibliography can be summarised as follows.

1. To serve as a tool for book selection.

2. To help in identification and verification of bibliographic details of documents both old and current.

3. To help in inculcating reading habits, publication of relevant reading list is a must.
4. To help in location of material, in terms of place of publication, location, in the library of point of purchase.

5. To save the time of the scholar by providing him the comprehensive list of documents on his subject of research.

6. To have bibliographical control of vast mass of documents produced in conventional and non-conventional forms and by manual and mechanical means, i.e., in short to control knowledge explosion.

7. To provide quick and easy access to information contained in documents to user or scholar, to keep him update.

8. To keep the scholar informed of the latest additions made to his subject by giving him the means of new publications given in publisher's subject for it is an index compiled systematically.

9. To make available a list of books known to exist in a certain library or else in a certain field of study such as a definite period of time, or a specific subject, or a given language, or a certain form of exposition or an individual author, and so on.

10. To discover the life-story of books as a physical object, in respect of its printing, paper and other aspects of gross body of book.

11. To avoid duplications of research; in case of a researcher, bibliography enables him to find out what has already been written on his subject and allows him to keep himself well informed and uptodate.

12. To promote the use of books and other materials by the publications of subject bibliographies and author bibliographies.

13. To assist the user in locating the existence of or identifying a book or any reading material which may be of interest to the reader.
14. To serve as a key or guide to the literature of the subject, for it is an index compiled systematically.

The UNESCO and the Library of Congress, in their survey report, 1950 have stated the following aims and functions of bibliography.

1. “Its aims is to make it possible for intellectual workers, to learn of publications recording the developments in their fields of interest not only in their own countries but also the world;

2. promote the effectiveness of a particular project in research;

3. contribute to the cultural development and enjoyment which are derived from records of learning and culture;

4. assist in promoting useful applications of existing knowledge and in making the applications which have been developed in one country, widely known to all countries”24.

Quick and easy access to information is vital to the development of various fields of knowledge. In this respect, bibliography plays an important role. A scholar can very well know about the existence of a document/documents in a particular field of knowledge. He can also identify a document by knowing its bibliographical details. It can serve as a books selection tool for the librarians. In well established libraries, the bibliographical details help in locating the material. It is useful to a general reader and research scholar as well.

Bibliographic organisation and services recognise no national or political boundaries. This is true because a book has universal value. Notwithstanding the practical impediments, it has to be made available for all and at all times. The ‘Universal bibliographic control’ actually is a plea as well as a plan. It points out to the mechanisms of announcing the world wide output of materials for awareness and also facilitating the means for accessing. Thus a wide ranging variety of bibliographies are needed. Briefly stated, they are (1) current and retrospective (national, regional and language) bibliographies (2) a variety of trade bibliographies, (3) a host of special bibliographies (on the basis of a wide variety of categories) and (4) bibliographies of bibliographies.

4. TYPES OF BIBLIOGRAPHIES

There are many types of bibliographies and the leading bibliographies defer slightly in the names they assign to its various branches. There are primarily, of two kinds.

1. General bibliography
2. Special bibliography

1. General Bibliography: It comprises:

   (i) Universal Bibliography (through earlier it was only at an ideal, presently the technology has almost made it a practical proposition);

   (ii) Language bibliography;

   (iii) National bibliography; and
(iv) Regional bibliography.

2. Special bibliography: This includes:

(i) Subject bibliography;

(ii) Author and bio-bibliographies;

(iii) Bibliography of forms of literature;

(iv) Bibliography of materials of particular periods;

(v) Bibliographies of special categories of literature; and

(vi) Bibliographies of specific types of materials.

Current and retrospective bibliographic, primary and secondary bibliographies and bibliographies of bibliographies are other categories. But every type is not strictly called a bibliography. For example, a list of periodical articles is an index. Similarly, we have concordances, calendars, wiscographies, pictographies, directories and so on.

5. AUTHOR/PERSOAL BIBLIOGRAPHY

An author's bibliography (last work) is one which lists books, parts or portions of books, periodical publications, and individual articles found scattered or referred to in the pages, and after given in the foot notes of books and periodical articles. It includes even those items which are found listed at the end of the chapter or article or book. Besides, the adaptations to literature used by the author would also be included. This kind of bibliography is a source-list and the author himself becomes a consumer as well as distributor of ideas.
Personal bibliography is "a list of the writings by and on a person". In the field of literature, personal bibliographies are extremely important. They serve a very useful purpose for the scholars in the field concerned.

An author bibliography is a complete list of all the documents by an author. This would cover his books, articles in periodicals, contributions to books, documents edited by him, etc., in all their various editions, translations and adoptions. Thus, "a personal bibliography of a purely 'by' kinds is an author bibliography".

If an author bibliography is to active literacy or scholarly value, it must bring together in a definitive manner, all works written by an author, arranged so as to serve as a true outline of his contribution. Sometimes an author bibliography is called a bio-bibliography. Ranganathan also calls author bibliography by the name, producers, (through) bibliography. A bibliography of an author is more likely to contain a complete list of his works. In the case of a collected works, the contents, pages, will usually constitute a bibliography.

Preparation of author/personal bibliography warrants above all a thorough knowledge on the part of the bibliographer of the history of the times in which the author lived and flourished. He should be familiar with the social, political, religious and cultural conditions of the time of the author. Author bibliography generally follows the arrangement as in the library catalogue with some variations and adjustments and


adjustments and elaborations as may be needed. Usually the arrangement will be complete or nearly completed with collected works. Smaller collections of two or more works published together; single work in alphabetical order, each followed by reference to books dealing with the particular work; translations of the author's works; works of other writers translated or edited by the author and appendix i.e., criticism, reviews and biographical notes.

Author bibliography is either descriptive or enumerative. If the author is a pioneer in his particular field, the bibliography should be descriptive and the arrangement chronological, otherwise alphabetical arrangement is suitable. Author bibliography can be arranged and also divided as books, contributions to books, collected works, contributions to periodical publications; books and periodical publications edited by the author, books and pamphlets about the author, symposia, biographical, critical works, reviews by the author etc. A personal bibliography is a list of writings on the different aspects of the career of the multi-faceted personality or hero having more than one distinct sphere of activity in addition to the works he may have written himself, eg., Churchill also enjoyed a reputation as a historian as well as a statesman. Esdalice says that all men have one quality in common; between birth and death. They exist in the dimension of time. They are first young and then old. All literature dealing with special episodes in a life can, therefore, often be most significantly arranged in the chronological order of their episodes.

6. BIBLIOGRAPHIC CONTROL

If we want bibliography to adequately meet the requirements of bibliographic control or organization, then the bibliography must be complete to the extent possible. Thus, it must cover all forms of published communication and in order to achieve this, it is essential that bibliography consists of parts. Each part must limit itself to one specific nation, and then within each part, sub parts must keep within increasingly narrow limits of either type or form of material. In ultimate terms, the objective of bibliography must be to achieve a complete listing of recorded knowledge, on a national basis and thereby obtain a complete listing for the whole world through cumulations.

The term bibliographic control means THE MASTERY OVER WRITTEN AND PUBLISHED RECORDS WHICH IS PROVIDED BY AND FOR THE PURPOSES OF BIBLIOGRAPHY. ('Bibliographic control' is synonymous with effective access through bibliographies: Thus, a reference to 'bibliographic control in medicine' means 'effective access through bibliographies to sources of medical information') 28. The bibliographical organisation is defined as the pattern of effective arrangement which results from the systematic listing of the records human communication. In India, inspite of our rich literacy heritage, we are yet to transform the institutions of libraries into instruments of mass education. For the first two centuries, we have played the part of helpless spectators and virtually kept out of bound

every creative phase of our effective civilization. Under the spell of this class phase, our ancient libraries were considered nothing more than the store houses of dusty books and manuscripts. 15th August, was a red-letter day; a great turning point in India’s political, cultural and economic history. In the field of library services too, tremendous progress was made. Imperial library was renamed as the National Library and the first issue of the Indian National Bibliography was issued in 1958 from Calcutta which may be considered as the first systematic effort on Government level towards the ‘bibliographical organization control’ : The delivery of Books and Newspaper Act of 1954 and 1956 offered a new lease of life to the efforts made by some eminent librarians towards bibliographical organisation and control in India.