
UNIT 5 NATIONAL LIBRARIES: THEIR FUNCTIONS: A DESCRIPTIVE ACCOUNT OF NATIONAL LIBRARIES OF INDIA, UK AND USA

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5.0 OBJECTIVES

In this Unit, we are introducing you to national libraries, their objectives, 'functions and activities with a brief historical sketch of how they originated. National Libraries of India, UK and USA are briefly described as case studies.

After reading this Unit, you will be able to:

- trace the origin of national libraries and how they evolved;
- describe their growth;
- elucidate their objectives, functions. and activities;
- explain the development of different types of national libraries; and
- give brief descriptions of the national libraries of India, UK and USA.

5.1 INTRODUCTION

The concept of national libraries is a recent development dating back to a few centuries. This development has been a feature of socio-economic, culture and scientific advancements in the western industrially advanced countries. Although national libraries in some form existed in many countries in the past, the origin and growth of national libraries as we understand them today, have been an outcome of the Renaissance and Reformation movements in Europe. Their growth has been accelerated by advances in



science and technology and their applications in industry, trade, transportation and communication:

In this Unit, we study briefly the growth and development of national libraries. Their objectives, functions, and activities have been a topic of debate and discussion in many international and national forums. Although no universally acceptable definition has emerged out of these discussions and debates, a general, consensus of objectives, functions and activities of national libraries could be formulated from such discussions.

National libraries have grown and developed in recent decades in different dimensions, indicating the need for specialised national libraries on the basis of subjects (i.e., Medicine), functions (i.e. Lending), user groups (i.e., Blind), and materials (Newspapers). This is also briefly sketched out in one of the sections of the Unit.

While almost every country has a national library, today, we have taken as case studies the National Library of India, the Library of Congress and the British Library, all these great national libraries have some common aspects. While each one of them has its own unique and distinct features. Books have been written on these libraries describing their historical background, growth and advancement in recent decades and their future perspectives. We have briefly highlighted their main features in this Unit.

5.2 CONCEPT OF A NATIONAL LIBRARY

The concept of national libraries, as we know them today, has developed in about three centuries back, mostly in industrially advanced countries of the West. The growth and advancement of such libraries have been a conspicuous feature of the intellectual and cultural development of a country. Not only have they grown in size, particularly in the last half a century, they have also expanded in multifold dimensions, tending to develop into a network of national libraries. There are, in some countries today, national subject libraries for medicine, agriculture, science and technology, and for a few professional services like document supply, compilation and production of national bibliographies. These trends are also witnessed on the Indian scene in some measure. We shall study all these developments in this Unit.

5.2.1 Historical Perspective

Libraries existed ever since mankind started keeping records of events, activities and achievements, although they were not necessarily the same as we conceive them today. We, thus, find libraries of :

- Clay tablets as in Assyria and Babylonia;
- Papyrus as in Egypt;
- Vellum./Parchment and wooden boards in Medieval Europe;
- Hand made paper in China and India;
- Palm leaves, birch barks, silk cloth, copper plates etc., in India; and
- Bone and paper in China:

The production of such records was not only time-consuming but also very expensive. Libraries consisting of such records could, therefore, be established only by ruling monarchs and by wealthy religious institutions. The spread of the art of making paper and the discovery of printing in Europe in the 15th century, however, led to production of books as we understand them today. Libraries consisting of such books began to appear along with these developments.

The Renaissance and the Reformation in Europe brought about a tremendous change in the life of the people. These two movements enabled people to undertake voyages of discovery, both in the sphere of intellect and physical and geographical world.

Consequently, books were written in larger number on the new lands discovered, about



the people living there and the new knowledge acquired. Education spread gradually. Hence arose the need for different types 'of -libraries to cater to learning needs of students and teachers. Thus we see the birth of university and college libraries for the benefit of students and academicians. Social changes brought by scientific and technological discoveries, the concepts of liberal education, education for all, political thought and ideas of democracy etc.; all these factors contributed to the creation and development of public libraries for common man and special libraries for scientists, technicians and other specialists.

5.2.2 Emergence of the National Library

Along with the different types of libraries mentioned above, there always existed in many countries, another type of library which stood apart and above the rest. It had its origin in the older royal or-institutional library. Bibliotheque Nationale de France, the British Museum Library of Great Britain (Now British Library) and the Library of Congress of the United States began in that way. These national libraries developed in recent past.

The early characteristics of these National Libraries were that they were the focal points of the nation in each country: They enjoyed the privilege of receiving a **copy** of every book published in the country. They had funds for buying foreign publications, space to house them and a staff to process them. They were located in the capital of the country. These libraries were built up to preserve, protect, conserve and perpetuate the nation's intellectual and cultural heritage. They were not particularly oriented towards providing public library service. The collection of these; libraries were largely in arts, literature, philosophy, religion and one or two social sciences. Books on science and technology were still to come. These libraries were used by scholars in humanities and social sciences, who could spend a great amount of time in these libraries;. With the advent of the 20th century, science and technology gained ascendancy. The researches of scientists like Newton, Roentgen, Pierre, Marie Curie and many others, opened flood gates of scientific research.

This 'in turn' resulted in an extensive output of scientific literature. Alongside these, there was also a similar spate of literature in other disciplines. National libraries found it increasingly difficult to acquire all important documents, leave alone processing and making them speedily available to users. However, the rapid growth and development of university and special libraries, which were more responsive to users, in a way, mitigated the problems of scholars and research scientists concerning access and use of books and other documents. These developments set governments, leaders of libraries and other intellectuals and scientists to 'review the objects and functions of the national library, particularly in relation to the problems and prospects of creating a library system for the country. Discussions and' debates over these issues stimulated new thinking and a more precise and concrete definition of what a national library should be provided.

5.2.3 Definition of National Library

It is against this background that we shall now examine two of the recent prominent definitions of a national library: -

- a) Edition 6 of Harrods's *Librarians' Glossary and Reference Book* (1987) defines a National Library as:
 - i) a library maintained ~out of government funds;
 - ii) serving the nation as a whole;
 - iii) books in such libraries being for reference only;
 - iv) libraries are **usually** copyright libraries; i.



- v) the function of such a library is to collect and preserve for posterity, the books, periodicals, newspapers and other downbeats published in the country;

This is best done by a law requiring publishers to deposit copies of all publications issued by them; and

- vi). being-purchased books published in other countries.

The ALA *Glossary of Library Terms*, simply defines, the National Library As "a library maintained by a Nation".

One of the unique privileges of a National Library of a country is to receive by law all print and non-print materials produced by the country. This It ~gal provision is usually incorporated in the Copyright Laws of the country, by which an author, an' artist or a musician, has the exclusive right, granted by law, for a certain number o1' years, to make and dispose copies of a literary, musical or artistic: work. These laws proved for the government to receive a few copies of print and non-print materials which are usually deposited with the National .few Such legal privileges are also obtained for the National Library of a country by special laws enacted for the purpose, e.g.; the Delivery i)f Books and, Newspapers (Public Libraries) Act of the Government of India. National libraries that enjoy this privilege are also known as Copyright or Legal Deposit Libraries.

The definition is silent about the services that a National Library has to offer other than the twin functions of collecting and conserving the nation's intellectual patrimony and buying important books published in other countries.

A more comprehensive definition of a National Library was attempted by UNESCO, at its 16th Session of the General Conference held in 1970, when UNESCO made "Recommendations Concerning International Standardisation of Library Statistics". The following definition of the National Library occurs in this document;

"Libraries which, irrespective of the titles, are responsible for acquiring and conserving copies of all significant:

- i) publications published in the country and functioning as a
- ii) deposit library either by law or under other arrangements.

They will also normally perform some of the following functions :

- iii) produce a national bibliography ,
- iv) hold and keep up-to-date a. large representative collection or foreign literature, including books about the country;
- v) act as a national bibliographical information centre;
- vi) Compile union catalogues
- vii) publish retrospective bibliographies...:"

This definition is quite comprehensive and covers seven of the most important functions of a National Library.

The objects, functions and activities of a National Library lave been a subject of discussion and debate in many forums in the last two decades. Although no conclusive definition has ever emerged, some consensus and practices have guided National Libraries that are developing in the third world countries.

5.2.4 Objectives and Functions of a National Library

While discussing the overall objectives of National Central Library, Ranganathan emphasised that :

"The National Central Library should be national in every sense of the word and not merely the symbolic representation of the library personality of the nation. It must be the



channel through which all the library obligations of the nation to the international world are discharged. ... It should be national in the sense of being the ultimate book bank of the nation capable of supplementing the library resources, of every locality, by being open for use by any citizen wherever he might live and whether in the present or in the future. It should also be national in the sense of having representative copies of every reading and kindred material published within or on our country and by or on all the nationals of our country. It should also procure practically every reading material published anywhere in the world for which there is likely to be a reasonable demand from our people".

In the Final Report of the Regional Seminar on the Development of National Library in Asia and Pacific Area held at Manila in 1964, the following functions of the national library have been given :

- i) To provide leadership among the nation's libraries;
- ii) To serve as a permanent depository for all publications issued in the country;
- iii) To acquire other types of materials;
- iv) To provide bibliographical services;
- v) To serve as a co-ordinating centre for co-operative activities; and
- vi) To provide service to government.

Keeping in view the "two definitions given in the earlier section and the practices in vogue in some of the important national libraries of the world, we may give a fairly exhaustive list of the objectives and functions of a National Library.

a) Functions Relating to Collection Development and Conservation

Two important and exclusive features that distinguish a national library from other types of libraries are : a) Its comprehensive collection of not only national outputs but also of documents published outside the country that are about the nation; b) the responsibility of preserving these documents for posterity. These two functions are unique to national libraries.

These functions are spelled out below :

- i) To serve as a central and comprehensive collection of national output, acquired through legal deposits, gifts or exchange;
- ii) To acquire and maintain documents about the country or its people or activities, published outside the country by any national or in any language or form;
- iii) to collect and preserve select manuscripts and such other archival records of national relevance and importance;
- iv) To collect foreign documents for which there may be demand from the people of the country;
- v) To collect and preserve specialised materials such as books for the blind, dramatic compositions, engravings, medals, music compositions, cinematic films, photographs, sound recordings, etc., if these materials are not being collected by other agencies;
- vi) In sum, conserving the national intellectual and cultural heritage for the benefit of the future.

b) Disseminating Functions

The information on books, periodicals and other materials collected may have to be disseminated through:

- i) catalogues in printed, microforms and machine readable forms;



- ii) compilation of retrospective or current bibliographies on various subjects in anticipation of or on request.

Retrospective bibliographies include past publications over a period of time, while current ones confine only to current publications.

For example, the compilation and publication of Bibliography on Ideology of the National Library of India is a continuing project, in which four volumes have been published, viz., Indian anthropology, Indian botany (2 volumes); and Bengali language and literature. Current bibliographies are usually compiled on request from scholars and institutions on current topics, most of which may be short and selective.

- iii) Index to currently published journals literature appearing in research and/or scholarly periodicals;

If no other institution or agency compiles and publishes indexes to current scholarly or research journals, National libraries, may undertake this responsibility.

- iv) Preparation and production of abstracts of current literature on subjects of national interest;

The Indian Science Abstracts, a record of current literature in Indian science, prepared from the journals and other documents received by the National Science Library, is being brought out by the Indian National Scientific Documentation Centre.

c) National Bibliographies

Preparation and production of national bibliographies of books and periodicals and other non-print materials, in printed and/or microforms and machine readable forms is other formation of the National library. By-products of these may be directories of publishers, authors of repute with their addresses and current statistics relating to production of books and other documents.

Examples of national libraries, performing this function are :

The Indian National Bibliography published by the Central Reference Library (National Library Campus, Calcutta), and the British National Bibliography, brought out by the British Library.

d) Readers' Services

- i) Providing facilities for reading, consulting, etc., on the premises, including research alcoves/rooms for serious readers such as researchers; scholars and writers;
- ii) Offering reference, bibliographic and information services;
- iii) Providing inter-library lending and serving as a national and international inter-library loan centres;
- iv) Providing photocopying services, including the preparation of slides, overhead transparencies and other facilities to scholars, researchers and others;
- v) Offering specialised services to government; business and industry such as answering technical enquiries from business and industry, preparation of special lists/bibliographies on specific topics on request from Government Departments; and
- vi) Serve as a referral centre, which assists users to locate any source of information through specialised directories and guides.

Self Check Exercises

- 1) State three causes that led to-reviewing the objects and functions of a national library.



2) State the broad-groups; under which the objects and functions of a national library can be considered. List also the activities of any one of them.

- Note :** i) Write your answers in the space given below.
 ii) Check your answers with the answers given at the end of this Unit.

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5.3 TYPES OF NATIONAL LIBRARIES

We have mentioned earlier that the activities of National Libraries have expanded considerably in recent decades. Consequently, several of these activities and functions are being shared, by a few National Libraries that have sprung up. However these trends have not been identical in all countries. Historical traditions, socio-economic, scientific and technological developments have determined the nature of emerging National Libraries. National Libraries that have been operating in different countries may be grouped by a) functions b), subjects c) special groups served d) type of material collected e) sub-national serving a geographical area or a cultural group f) functional sharing. Table 1 given below, shows the different types of National Libraries and the functions performed by them with examples.

Table 1 : Types of National Libraries

| Types | Functions | Examples |
|--|--------------------------------------|--|
| Comprehensive | All functions | National Library of Canada |
| By Functions | Lending | British Library Lending Division (Formerly National Lending Library for Science and Technology) |
| By subject | Agriculture | National Agriculture Library, USA |
| | Medicine | National Medical Library, India |
| | Science Scientific & Technical | National Science Library, India Technical Library USSR |
| By special groups | Blind, | National Library for the Blind, UK |
| | Legislators | National Diet Library, Japan |
| Sub-National serving a geographical area or cultural group | Area/State/cultural group | National Library of Wales National Libraries of Serbia USSR National Library of Scotland |
| Sharing | Sharing functions | State and University of Aarhus, Denmark |

Self Check Exercise

3) Give one example of national libraries which are specializing by type of materials, by subjects and functions.

- Note :** i) write your answer in the space given below.
 ii) Check your answer with the answers.



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5.4 DESCRIPTIVE ACCOUNT OF A FEW NATIONAL LIBRARIES

A library which performs the functions and activities mentioned in the earlier section of this unit will necessarily have to be at the centre of the nation's bibliographical activities. Against this background, profiles of the national libraries of India, The United States of America and United Kingdom are given below:

5.4.1 The National Library of India

The Constitution of India provides for the establishment-of a National Library under article 62 of the VII Schedule of the Union List, and declared it as an institution of National importance.

i) Historical Background: First Phase: (1835-1903) Calcutta Public Library

The story of our National library falls into three distinct periods. The beginning of the present National Library can be traced to the Calcutta Public Library founded by public men and scholars of Calcutta in 1835 and which was opened to public on 21st March 1836. In 1844, the Calcutta Public Library moved into a spacious building, built in honour of Lord Metcalf (Governor-General). In 1857, consequent up on the outbreak of the Indian War of Independence, the Europeans of Calcutta withdrew their support for the library and the Calcutta management of the Library in 1859.

The initial enthusiasm which was, responsible for the establishment of the Library, gradually waned and by the end of the century, the activities of the Library came to a standstill.

Second Phase: (1903-1947) The Imperial Library

In 1899, when Lord Curzon, the then Viceroy and Governor General of India; visited the Library, he found it in a miserable condition. Lord Curzon, who was interested in art and learning, immediately swung into action. He bought the rights of the Library from the proprietors. He later merged this Library with the Official Imperial Library consisting of government departmental libraries and the remanent of the East India Company Library. With this nucleus, Lord Curzon declared open the new Imperial Library of India on 30th January 1903 in the Metcalf Hall. John Macfarlane of the British Museum was invited to look after the new Imperial Library, as its first librarian.

In 1928, the Government of India appointed a Committee under the Chairmanship of Mr. J.A. Richey, to suggest measures for reorganising the administration of the Library. This Committee, recommended among other things, that the Imperial Library should be declared as a copyright depository Library. This recommendation was followed up by the successive librarians, Mr. Chapman and Khan Bahadur K.M. Asadullah; to secure for the Imperial Library, the privilege of copyright deposit. But their efforts were not realised until the enactment of the Delivery of Books (Public Libraries) Act, 1954.

While the Calcutta Public Library had Peary Chanda Mitra and Bipin Chandra Pal as librarians, the Imperial Library also had a galaxy of great librarians as for example, Harinath De, a scholar and linguist, John Alexander Chapman, K.M. Asadullah, a good organiser and administrator, who had the credit of starting library training courses in 1935 in the Imperial Library, Calcutta.

Third Phase : (1948-1947) The National Library of India

With the dawn of freedom, the founding fathers of the new nation transformed the former Imperial Library into the new National Library of India in 1948. One of the most pressing needs of the Library was additional space. This problem was solved by a magnanimous gesture which the then Governor-General of India, Shri C. Rajagopalachari, made by offering the Viceroy's Palace in Calcutta, namely, the Belvedere Palace, with its sprawling, lush green lawns, for housing the new National Library. Shri S.S. Kesavan, a man of vision, enthusiasm and administrative skill, was appointed the first Librarian of the new National Library. The imperial institution was transformed into a temple of knowledge of free India. The new National Library was declared open to the nation by the then Union Minister for Education, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad on 1st February 1953, in connection with the golden Jubilee celebrations of the library.

The Review Committee appointed by Ministry of Education, Government of India in 1969, recommended the following basic features of the National Library:

ii) Organisation and Management

The National Library became a department of the Ministry of Human Resource Development. The Director is the head of the Institution, assisted by two professional librarians. There are deputy and assistant librarians to look after the technical and professional work of the library. Two administrative officers assist the director in administrative matters.

The Library is organised on a functional basis. The technical and professional functions operate under two main divisions viz., Professional and Conservation. The professional divisions now 42 in number, look after acquisition, processing, maintenance of reading materials and readers services. Divisions of reprography; preservation and laboratory functions come under the conservation division. The administrative division is concerned with personnel, maintenance of building and garden, security, etc. Except for the Laboratory division which is headed by a chemist and the Reprography division under the joint supervision of an assistant librarian and a micro photographer, all the other technical divisions -are headed by assistant librarians. The organisation chart (figure 1) of the Library given at the end of this section, gives an idea of the organisational setup of the library.

The library is accommodated in four buildings, three of which are at the Belvedere Campus and the fourth at Esplanade, with a total carpet area of nearly 3,45,696 sq.ft.

iii) The collection

The National Library has a collection of nearly 221 lakhs of books and other materials (1996), The collection is built up through :

- Books received through the Delivery of Books and Newspapers Act;
- Purchase
- Gifts
- Exchange
- Depository privileges

The majority of books are in English and in the Indian languages and the rest in a few foreign languages.

The broad categories of publications acquired through purchase are as following :

- Books and journals on India, in any language, published anywhere in the world.
- Indian publications, published before 1954, and not available in the library.





- Books by Indian authors, published abroad.
- Standard reference works.
- Books on library, documentation and information sciences; science and technology (general histories, reference works); education, agriculture, planning and development; standard works on history, geography, sociology, etc.; Biographies of eminent personalities of the world; rare and out-of-print books in microforms; foreign language books as far as the budget permits.

The National Library has some notable gift collections which have enriched its holdings considerably. Some of the outstanding gifts have been the collections of Sir Asutosh Mukherji (76,000 books), Ramdas Sen, Barid Baran, Jadunath Sarkar, Dr. S.N. Sen, Prof. Vaiyapuri Pillai and the archival papers of Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru. The pride of place in these gifts go to Sir Asutosh collection which covers the whole gamut -of subjects in the humanities and in the sciences as far as knowledge extended upto the early decades of the twentieth century:

The National Library has exchange relations with 170 institutions in 56 countries all over the world, and with a number of institutions within the country. Through this method of collection building, the National Library has enriched its collection by the acquisition of valuable foreign documents, not normally available through trade channels and Indian publications not obtained through the Delivery of Books and Newspapers (Public Libraries) Act, 1954.

The library, being a repository for United Nations documents and its agencies, has built up a rich collection of UN Publications. Besides the UN publications, the publication of the following agencies and governments are deposited in the National Library, according to agreements made with the Government of India.

- American Government documents
- British Government documents (against purchase)
- Canadian Government documents
- European Economic Community and other colonial Government publications.

iv) Processing

The library's cataloguing system follows the Anglo-American cataloguing Rules (A.ACR-2), the Rules for Descriptive Cataloguing of the Library of Congress, For uniformity and consistency in subject headings, the Subject Headings used in the Dictionary Catalogue of the Library of Congress, 8th edition is followed.

The books are classified according to the Dewey Decimal Classification (DDC): The four editions of DDC i.e. 16th to 19th have been used for this purpose. Cutter's. Three Figure Author Tables is used as a guide to assign author marks.

The library catalogue is both in the card and printed forms. The card catalogue is in the dictionary form for English language publications, arranged in two sequences, author and subject.

The printed catalogue of the library is available in 10 volumes which is the alphabetical author catalogue, covering authors' names beginning with the letters A and S.

v) Reader's Services

The National Library extends its services through its various reading rooms, lending section, bibliography and reference divisions. Presently the following services are offered :

- Lending including Inter Library Loan;
- Reading Rooms;



- Bibliography and Reference Services;
- Reprography Services.

a) Lending Services : A peculiar feature of the National Library of India, is that, except for rare books, gift collections, generally out-of-print publications, government and UN documents and serials, all other books are lent out for home reading. This function is rather peculiar to a National Library, as most National Libraries are for reference only and seldom offer lending services to individual users. However, for historical reasons, the National Library, of India, has continued its lending facilities to the members of the library in and out of Calcutta. On an average 250 books are issued everyday.

Inter library loan service is offered to members and institutions with the co-operation of other libraries, both at the national and international levels. This service obtains loan of books from Russian State Library, Moscow, the British Library, U.K., and libraries in Australia, Hungary, Denmark, Sweden and a few other countries.

b) Reading Rooms: Apart from its main reading room which accommodates 320 readers at a time, the National Library maintains ten reading rooms for using different specialised materials. The main reading room stocks a very selective and open shelf collection of about 10;000 volumes of general reference books and books for basic study and reference on specific fields of knowledge.

c) Bibliography and Reference Service: The Bibliography Division of the National Library was established in 1951 with an aim to function as an active agent to disseminate knowledge and information in an organised and effective manner: This service is offered in response to requests from scholars, researchers and writers for a bibliography on a specific topic, without any charge for the service. These bibliographies are usually short and selective. Occasionally extensive and exhaustive bibliographies are also compiled in collaboration with other institutions. List of translations and list of bibliographies published in India are compiled and sent to the UNESCO for inclusion in the INDEX TRANSLATIONUM.

As a support facility to scholarly activities in the country, the National Library brings out retrospective bibliographies on subjects of national interest. The bibliographical project on Indology is one such. effort, conceived as a major publication programme, to bring out comprehensive bibliographies on Indian culture. Four volumes have so far been published on Indian anthropology, Indian botany (2 volumes), and Bengali language and literature.

The Indian National Bibliography, a monthly record of Indian Books, is compiled and published by the Central Reference Library (located in the premises of the National Library) on the basis of publications received by the National Library under the Delivery of Books and Newspapers (Public Libraries) Act.

Reference service is offered to persons who visit- the library in person as well as to those who make enquiries through telephone or post. This service ranges from identifying a publication for a reader to answering fact finding questions or handling complex questions of subject oriented or technical nature, involving prolonged search through a number of documents and. occasionally consultation with experts.

d) Reprography Service: With the installation of Plain Paper Copiers at the main and other reading rooms, facilities are provided for obtaining copies of journal articles, small technical reports, etc., at nominal rates to scholars and research workers. An In-house printing unit is operating for printing small documents for limited circulation.

Modernisation and Automation

The Library with the help of specialists developed a standardised chart of diacritics for automated bibliographic services in Indian languages. To keep pace with modernisation and automation of library services, a Computer Centre has been set up in December 1987



installing a H P 3000/37 MICRO AX-a mini computer. In 1991, one PCAT/286-micro computer has been added to this Centre. One 24 Pin L & T Printer is attached with this system. The Library has acquired MINISIS (Minicomputer Integrated set of Information Systems) from the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) Ottawa, Canada and CDS/ISIS from National Information System for Science and Technology (NISSAT), New Delhi. MINISIS is installed for bibliographic control of library operations, while CDS/ ISIS is used to create small databases for special areas or subjects.

Bright Future

This library still has an elaborate automation plan, which would gradually revamp the whole system and services. It is planning:

- 1) To install a main-frame computer with a number of terminals and bring in all the library operations within the purview of automation;
 - 2) To introduce GIST Technology to process Indian and other non-Roman (script) languages publications received in the library;
 - 3) To bring in the preparation of the Indian National Bibliography (INB) and facilitate its regular and timely publication;
 - 4) To introduce Compact Disk Technology;
 - 5) To introduce Optical Disk Technology;
 - 6) To avail of and provide resource sharing by participating in the networks like NICNET, SIRNET, I-NET, INDONET, CALIBNET etc.;
 - 7) To introduce and develop full text database or access full text database by keyword;
 - 8) Developing DTP system for Publication.
- vi) Budget:** The National Library operates on annual budget appropriated by the Government, including salaries, services and acquisitions, etc.
- vii) Staff:** The National Library has a staff strength of about 800, one third being library

professionals and the rest having other specialisations.

viii) General Observations: Compared with other major national libraries of the world, India's National Library is at its infancy. In 1968, the Government of India appointed a committee of eminent educationists to review the working of the national library and to make recommendations for its further development. Much of these recommendations have remained on paper. Valuable suggestions were also given by experts from time to time to modernise the activities of the national library and bring it to the level of well-established national libraries of the world.

As mentioned earlier, trends in the creation of national libraries of different types have! also taken roots in India. The National Science Library at the Indian National Scientific Documentation Centre (INSDOC), and the National Medical Library of the Ministry of Health Services are operating at present. A National Library for the Blind and the Physically ' Handicapped already exists in Dehra Dun.

In view of all these developments, the National Library of India, has to act as a catalyst and a co-ordinating agency among all these national libraries and assume leadership in all bibliographical matters of the country. Like the Library, of Congress and the British Library, the National Library of India should have its own Executive Board, so that necessary progress could be made speedily.

Self Check Exercise

4) State the three historical phases of the growth of the National Library of India. vote :



Self Check Exercises

- 5) Using the organisational chart (Figure 1) of the National Library, enumerate the major divisions of the National Library.
- 6) List the Readers, Services offered by the National Library of India.
- 7) List the types of national libraries operating in India at present.

- Note :** i) Write your answer in the space given below.
ii) Check your answer with the answers.

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5.4.2 The Library of Congress (LC)

The Library of Congress, Washington, D.C. which is at present considered as the national library of the United States of America, was originally created to serve the U.S. Congress. It was established in 1800 with a small collection, but grew steadily. By the Copyright Law of 1870; the Library acquired the status of a depository library, getting the privilege of free delivery of two copies of printed books, charts; dramatic or musical compositions, engravings, prints or photographs, etc. Today the Library ranks as one of the largest national libraries of its kind and occupies an eminent place in the world of scholarship and learning. We give below a few glimpses of this great Library. An idea of the size, magnitude and range of LC's collection and services can be had from the following facts :

- LC is the largest centre for information storage in the world, having 20 million volumes, books representing only one-fourth of its collection; the other 59 millions of stored data are on sound records, motion picture reels, computer tapes or in the form of manuscripts, maps, prints and photographs. Less than one-fourth of its collection is in English;
- It operates with a staff of about 4800, comprising professional librarians, highly trained personnel such as musicians, lawyers, chemists, computer specialists, scientists and technologists, braille specialists, etc.
- It is housed in three enormous buildings with three different architectural styles; covers a total area of over 71 acres; 3,000 readers can sit at a time in its several reading rooms; and
- It offers services to a variety of specialist groups such as Congressmen, legal community, scholars and academicians, performing artists, blind and handicapped, library and information community;

Ten million pieces of material are handled every year, twenty seven thousand every day.

A) Organisation, Management Activities and Services

The Chief executive of L.C. is the Librarian, a top ranking Government official, appointed directly by the President of the United States, vested with enormous powers and responsibilities. Many eminent scholars and learned men have occupied this position and have nurtured. its growth and development and have enhanced its reputation through service to scholarship and learning. The Librarian is assisted by top ranking professional library experts, scholars and specialists.

LC is organised into eight major blocks or departments. They are :



- Office of the Librarian
- Management, Services
- Congressional Research Service
- Copyright Office
- Law Library
- Processing Services
- Research Services
- National Programmes

Each of these departments is organised into divisions and sections based upon users served, functions performed, materials acquired/processed, services rendered; programs formulated and implemented. The organisation chart (Figure 3) gives the total picture of the activities and functions performed by these divisions:

Some of the activities and functions of LC are briefly described below just to indicate their scope and range.

Collection development, processing the mass of material for use, organising catalogue . . . services, are the responsibilities of the Processing Services Division. Sixteen sections function under this major division - Acquisitions and Overseas operations, Cataloguing; Bibliographic. products and services are its major sections.

Collection Development

The collection development of LC is done through a) Copyright Depository Privileges, b) Exchange, c) Gifts and d) Purchase. While the copyright receipts bring in the commercial ' and other 'materials of the nation, the government exchange programmes bring in the records of all government affairs-federal, states, and foreign.

Gifts constitute the most valuable source of the library's materials. Besides, useful materials are donated by individuals. Some of the most rare, unique and significant materials come from scientific societies, labour unions, churches, industrial organisations and utility companies. Nearly 18 lakh material are received in a year by way of gifts, constituting the rarest portion of the Library's holdings.

More than 40 million dollars worth of foreign materials are purchased every year, which includes books and monographs, periodicals, newspapers and' other special materials. Acquisition activities have been extensive and widespread, as for example procurement offices have been established, under Public Law 480 program, in India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Nepal, Indonesia, etc., to acquire all worthwhile materials of these regions for LC and the nation.

The Rare Books division alone has over 6 million books, some of them are most precious.

B) Processing and Organising the Collection

LC has developed its own techniques and methods for processing its huge mass of materials, many of which have become national and international standards. A big processing department comprising nearly 1500 professionals classify, catalogue and organise the collection. The Card Catalogue of 20 million cards in 25,548 drawers has been replaced in 1981 by a computerised catalogue. More than 2,000 computer terminals are located throughout the library for users to access LC resources through the computerised catalogue.

C) The Services

As it was basically created to serve the members of the Congress, personalised services are rendered to the members of the Congress. The Law Library serves the legal community. The Research Service cluster - comprising Divisions for Performing Arts,



Area Studies; General Reference, Special Collection and Preservation - serves the scholar and academic community. The creative world of authors, writers, musicians, artists, etc., are served by the Copyright division. They rely on the copyright to protect their intellectual products. Great musical, theatrical and literary collections are kept to help preserve their traditions.

The National Progress cluster serves many national programmes" such as the American Folklife Centre, National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, Educational Liaison Office, Publishing Office and others. Within these five major departments nearly 90 independent functions are performed including several reading rooms wherein 3,000 persons can sit at a time.

D) National Library Activities

Of the several activities which are national in scope and perception, mention may be made of the National Union Catalogue, the Cataloguing-in-Publication Project and the Library Automation Programme, more particularly; the computerisation of LC catalogue which is generally known as the Machine Readable Cataloguing (MARC) Project. The MARC Project also contributed to international thinking on the subject of machine readable cataloguing and set international standard formats for cataloguing various types of documents.

The National Union Catalogue (NUC) compiled, maintained and printed by LC is an index to world publications and considered to be a valuable service to scholarly and library communities. It is an enormous author index to practically every book published anywhere in the world. NUC lists 18 million title holdings of about 2500 libraries.

LC has a long history of successful co-operative cataloguing projects, ranging from the National Union Catalogue, Printed Catalogue Card Distribution Service, Cataloguing-in-Publication project (CIP) to the distribution of MARC tapes. These projects have been undertaken as a part of LC's national mission to share with other libraries the cataloguing records created by LC and thereby spare other libraries from duplicating their cataloguing work. The Printed Catalogue Card Distribution Service has been providing libraries a facility to acquire them to build their own local catalogues without much delay. The CIP Project provides cataloguing data on the verso of the title page of a book which considerably reduced libraries' need for using LC's printed Catalogue Card Distribution Service. LC prepares cataloguing data for nearly 80 percent of US publishing industry's output, excluding paperbacks, with a comprehensive subject coverage and with the co-operation of a record number of participating publishers.

LC's computer activities for library automation and machine readable bibliographical records have been a pacesetter and precursor to many international computerised programmes in libraries. LC offers a variety of computer services, the most notable of them being the services available to the members of the Congress through a number of databases and the Machine Readable Catalogue of the Library. The Library has been putting its Western language books and documents into the computer since 1968 which provides quick access to LC's catalogue information, through the numerous terminals available at various points in the Library. .

The Library of Congress is indeed a highly complex institution but a vibrantly active centre. Endowed with such incomparable facilities and unparalleled riches, it is no wonder that scholars all over the world regard the Library as a heaven for their academic pursuits.

Self Check Exercises

- 8) Enumerate the major departments of the Library of Congress, using the organisation chart (Fig: 3)
- 9) List three activities of the Library of Congress that aid professional library and bibliographical service in general.

Note : i) Write your answer in the space given below.
ii) Check your answer with the answers.

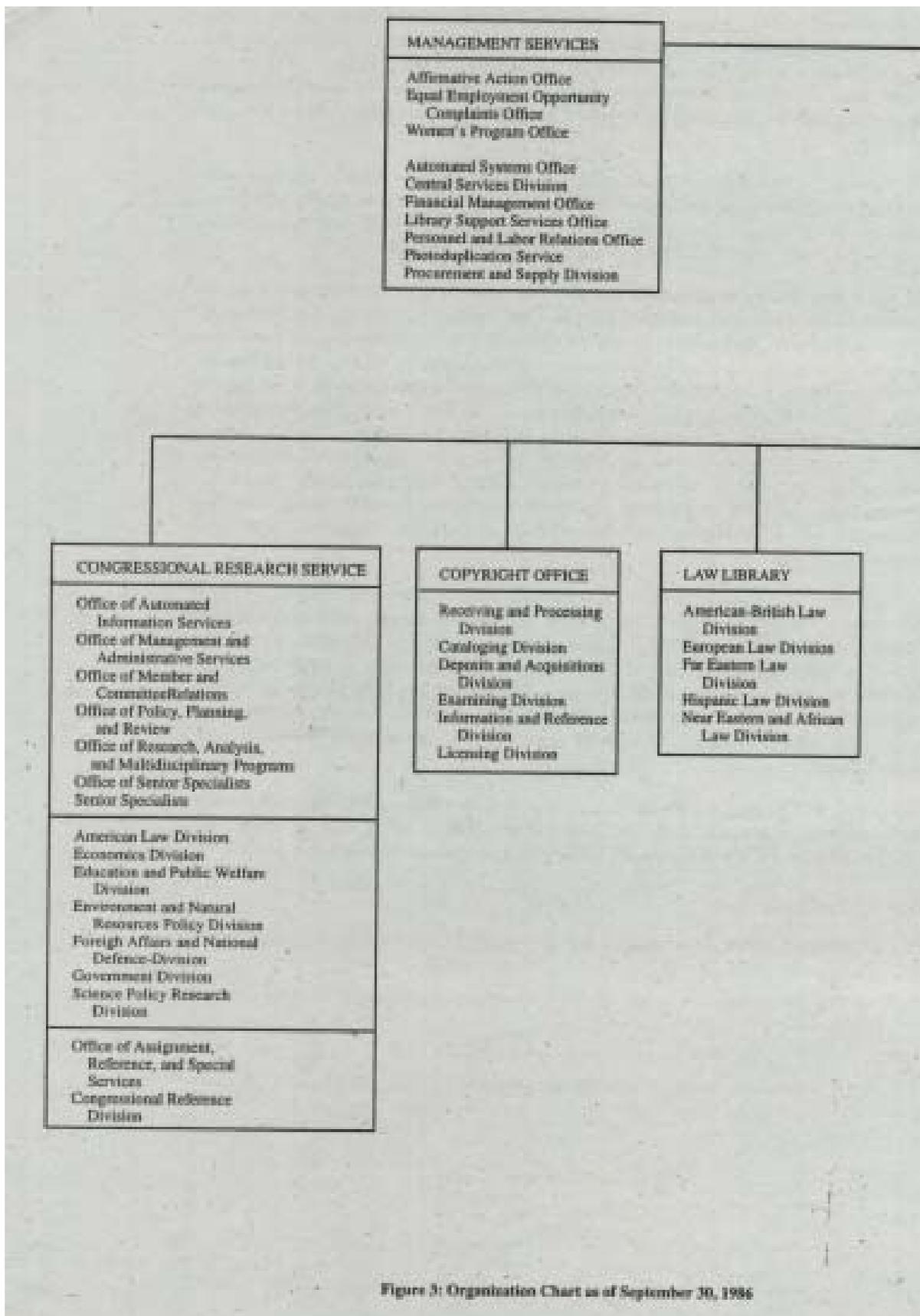
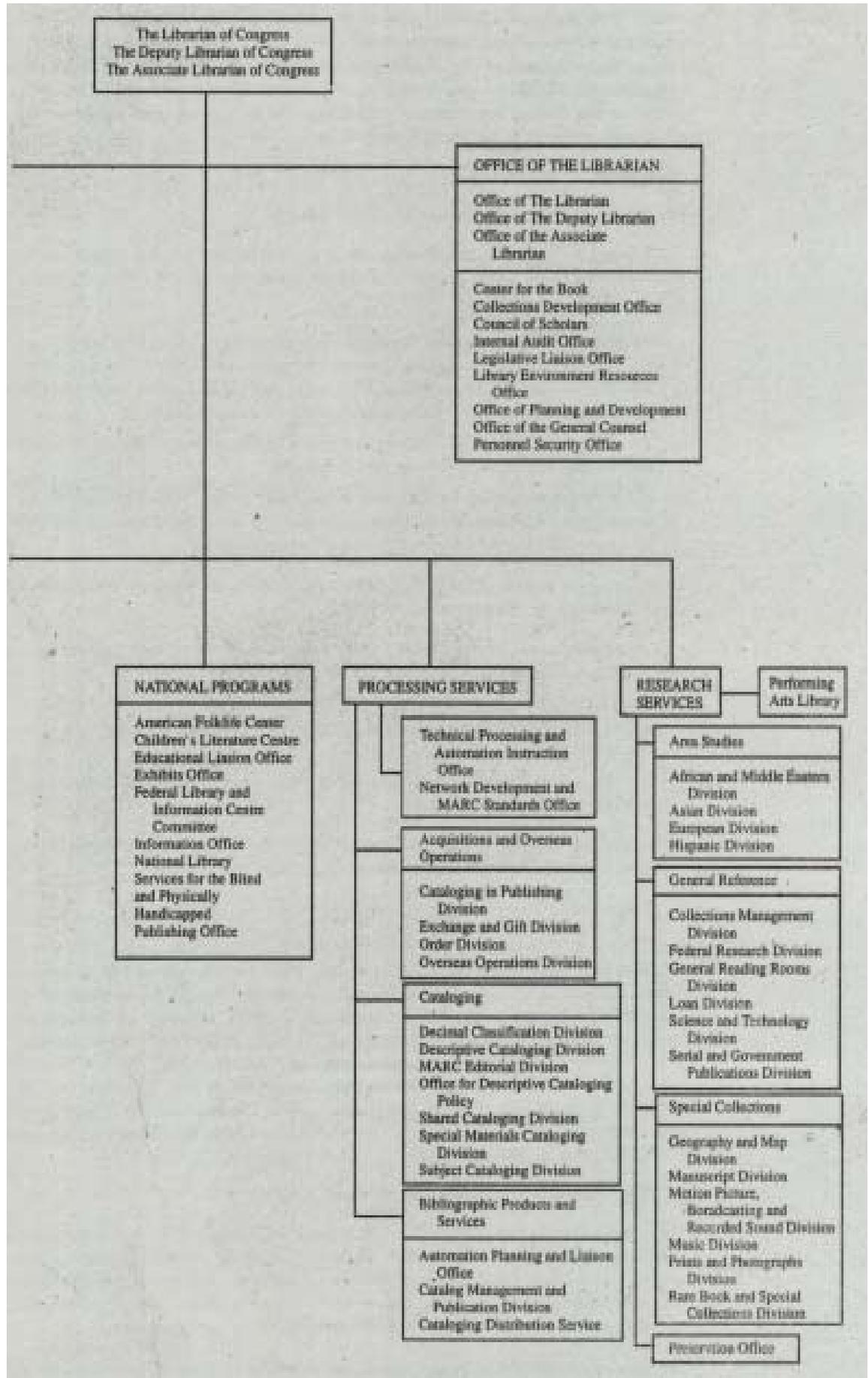


Figure 3: Organization Chart as of September 30, 1986





5.4.3 The British Library

The British Library is the national library of the United Kingdom. It is more than just a library. It has the world's leading resources for scholarship, research and innovation, with incomparable collection, and expertise of staff. It occupies a central position in the library and information network of UK. It reflects the intellectual, cultural and socio-economic life of the country. The library aims to serve scholarship, research and development, industry, commerce and all other major users of information. Its services are based on the wealth of materials collected by the British Library System.

Objectives

The objectives and the functions of the British Library :

The British Library was created with an aim to provide the best possible central library services for the country. The objectives of this Library as depicted in the White Paper are as follows :

- a) Preserving and making available for reference at least one copy of every, book and periodical of domestic origin and of as many overseas publications as possible. The aim will be to provide as comprehensive a reference service as possible: If a reader cannot get what he wants near at hand, he will know he can find it in the British Library.
- b) Providing an efficient central lending and photocopying service in support of other libraries and information systems of the country; and
- c) Providing central cataloguing and other bibliographic services related not only to the needs of the central libraries but to those of libraries and information centres throughout the country, in close co-operation with central libraries overseas:

To achieve these objectives, the British Library Act specifies the functions of the British Library. In short, the functions are as follows :

- 1) The British Library shall constitute a comprehensive collection of books, manuscripts, periodicals; films and the recorded matter, whether printed or otherwise;
- 2) The library shall act as a National Centre for reference, study and bibliographical and other information services in relation to scientific and technological matters and to the humanities; and
- 3) The services of the Library shall be available In particular to institutionf-of education and learning, other libraries and industry:

The library will carry out and sponsor research and in this way it will benefit institutions providing library and information facilities whether public or otherwise:

i) Background

The British Library was established in 1973 by an Act of Parliament (1972). This was a sequel to two major committee recommendations which went into the University and the national libraries set up in the country and made recommendations for the development of a national library system. The British Government, therefore, presented a Whitepaper to Parliament and the British Library came into being. It brought together the library departments of the British Museum, the National Central Library, the National Lending Library for Science and Technology, the British National Bibliography Limited and, in 1974, the functions of the Office for Scientific and Technical information (DSTI). Subsequently the Library took responsibility for other organisations viz., the Indian Office Library and Records in 1982, the HMSO Binderries in 1982 and the National Sound Archive in 1983.

ii) Organisation, Management and Services

The British Library is directed by a Board of Management comprising of the Chairman, the Chief Executive, the Directors General from the three operating divisions (humanities



and social sciences; science, technology and industry; bibliographic services) and nine members who have knowledge and experience of library or university affairs, finance, industry or administration. The Chairman and the nine experts serve the Board part-time.

The organisation chart (Figure 4) at the end of this section, gives an idea of the organisational structure of the British Library.

A) Humanities and Social Sciences

The Humanities and Social Sciences Division of the British Library (formerly the Reference Division) comprise the library department of the British Museum plus the India Office Library and Records, the National Sound Archive and the Library Association Library. More than 11 million volumes are available for reference and selected items for loan.

Admission to specialist reading rooms is normally by a Readers Pass. Academic teachers, post-graduate student, librarians, information scientists, journalists and other investigative professional and other are eligible for Readers Pass.

The division is organised into five units :a) Collective Development b) Public Services, c) Special Collections, d) National Sound Archive, e) Preservation Service. The Collection Development Unit co-ordinates the acquisition and record creation of material for the English Language, Western and East European collections of printed books, the Oriental Manuscripts and Printed books, and the collections relating to the history and culture of South Asia.

The Public Service Unit provides a wide range of reference and information services, based on the collection to those who visit the library and also to remote users. This Unit is responsible for the General Reading Room, Rare books, Official publications and Social sciences, Library Association Library and News paper Library.

The Special collections Unit looks after the non-book collections within the library that includes Western manuscripts.

The National Sound Archive preserves sound recordings of all kinds.

The Preservation Service Unit directs and controls conservation and preservation of the Humanities and Social Sciences collections, in addition to R&D activities in preservation processes and related areas.

B) Science, Technology and Industry

This Division comprises of the Document Supply Centre and the Science Reference and Information Service. This Division not only focuses on providing service to science, technology and industry but also supplies documents to the humanities and social science communities:

The Document Supply Centre is the largest such centre in the world, exclusively devoted to the supply of documents on loan, photocopy and micro-film. This has been a world service of outstanding success.

The Science Reference and Information Service Unit provides reference and information services, covering modern science and technology, business and commerce, patents, trade marks and designs. The computer search service 'of this unit, provides on-line searching of over hundred databases':

C) Bibliographic Services

This Division ~directs activities towards the creation of a national database, recording UK publishing output. It also provides the most important central resource of bibliographic records and services in UK, supporting the library community as a Whole and rest of the British Library. It publishes a range of printed and microfiche bibliographies, including the British National Bibliography and books in English, operates BLAISE (British Library Automated Information Service) on-line service,

which gives access to the British Library and other complementary databases for information retrieval and record supply; and supplies bibliographic records of magnetic tapes in machine readable form.



D) British Library Research and Development

This Department promotes and awards funds for research and development related to library and-information operations in all fields, relating to library, documentation and information aspects. The results of research are disseminated through a number of channels, including the publication of reports and a full programme of conference, seminars, demonstrations and workshops.

The Central Administration of the British Library supports the other divisions and departments including centralised personnel, training, administrative, accommodation and legal services.

Collections

The British Library occupies a shelving space of 104 Miles (167 KM). It contains a collection of 33.21 Lakhs including books, serials, reports, theses, conference proceedings, Music Scores etc. The annual intake is about 2 lakh documents. It possesses roll micro films over 2000 miles (3226 KM), Microfiches more than 42 lakhs. It also has about 35.66 lakhs of documents available on-line from Batch Information and Data Service Via JANET.

On-line Access

The British Library is in the process of mounting into it a number of data bases. In UK, the British Library files are available on the various inter-regional library systems. The serial, conference and monograph files are on the UNITY system. The literature files are available on BLAISE.

The details of the data base are available at the British Library National Bibliographic Service at Boston Spa.

The JOURNAL CONTENTS PAGE service is available on subscription. The service is tailored to individual requirements. New TITLE ALERT, is a weekly listing of new journal title: The Stock Alert Service offers subject searches based on BLAISE's collections.

One Roof - Many Buildings

Though the British Library is being managed by British Library Board, its different divisions are located in different buildings in the London City.

- 1) Reader Admissions Office
- 2) Main Reading Room, North Library
- 3) Official Publications Library
- 4) Music Reading Area
- 5) Map Library
- 6) Manuscript student's Room N B : The above mentioned divisions are located on Russel Street, London.
- 7) Newspaper Library, Colindata Avenue, London
- 8) Oriental Reading Room, Store Street, London
- 9) Science Reference Library, Chancery Lane, London 10) Science Reference Library, Keam Street, London



- 11) India Office Library and Records, Blackfriars Road, London 12) IOLR News Paper Reading Room, Adwych, London 13) Library Association Library, Ridgmount Street, London.

Arrangements are being made to get all the above mentioned wings in one roof and one building.

Self Check Exercise

- 10) Give in five lines the bibliographical services division's activities of the British Library.

- Note : i) Write your answer in the space given below.
 ii) Check your answer with the answers.

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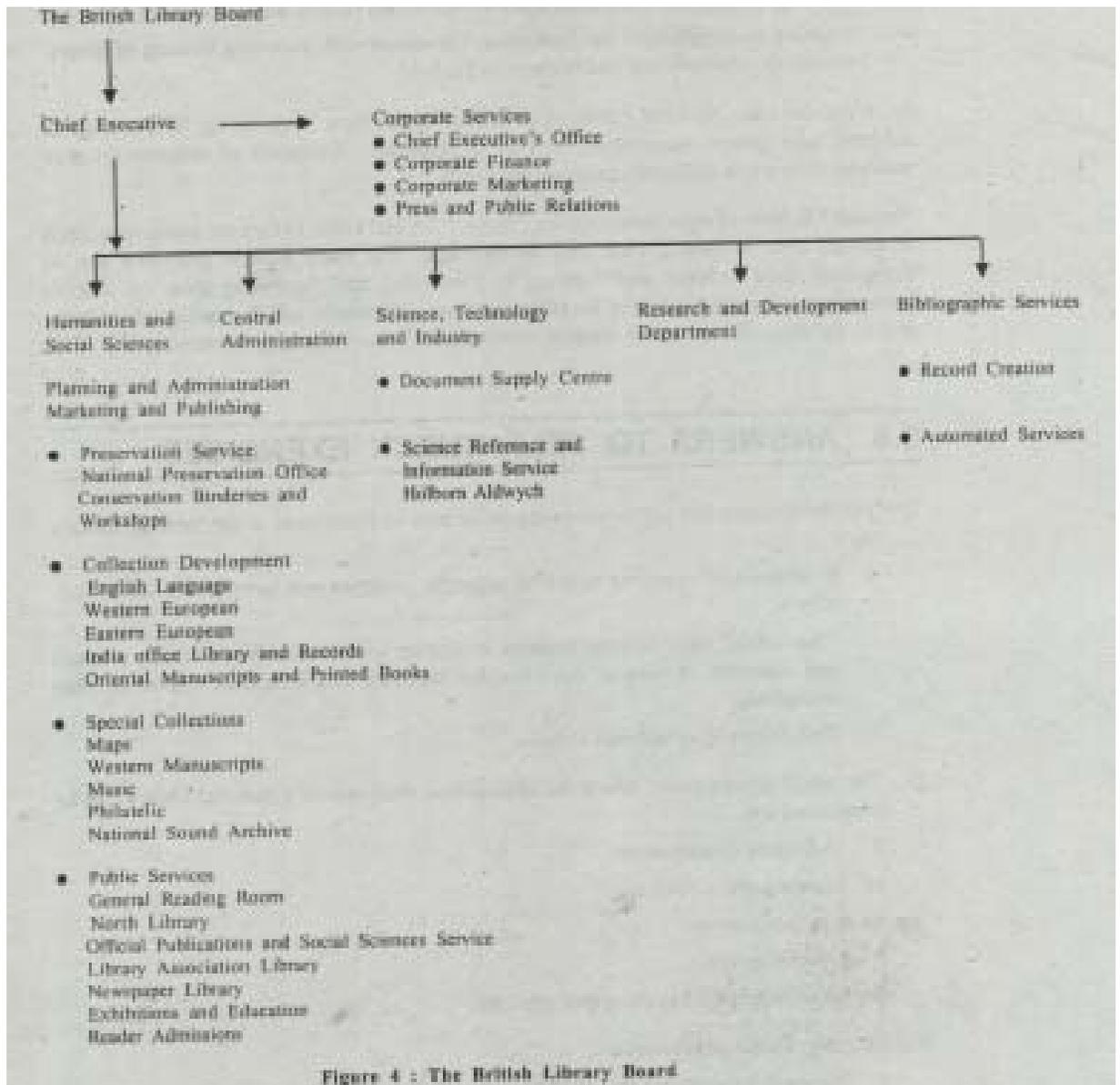


Figure 4 : The British Library Board

5.5 SUMMARY

National libraries, as we understand them today, have originated, grown and developed in the last two or three centuries. Almost all countries of the world today, have a national library, representing or reflecting their cultural, literary, socio-economic, scientific and technological traditions and advancements. This unit, traces briefly the origin, growth and development of National Libraries, more particularly, it examines the evolution of the concept of National Libraries. The objectives, functions and activities of National Libraries are studied in the light of experience obtained by different countries in developing their National Libraries, keeping in view their expanding functions and activities. On the basis of consensus evolved at national and international forums, the objectives and functions of a National Library would include

Building a comprehensive collection of the outputs of a country, both print and non-print and in addition acquiring all documents on the country/nation, irrespective of their origin and language;

- ii) Acquisition of foreign publications based on demands;
- iii) Processing and organising the collection according to international standards to make them available for use.
 - iv) Disseminating the information of the collection through catalogues, bibliographies, abstracts etc.;
 - v) Providing library, documentation and information services to all categories of users; and
 - vi) Assuming responsibilities for professional developments, including training of library/ information professionals and research in the field.'

In recent decades, National Libraries of several types have been set up on the basis of subjects, user groups, state/regions, or type of materials. Examples of different types of national libraries in different countries are given.

National Libraries of three countries, viz., India, USA and Great Britain are briefly described to get an idea of their growth and development. The main aspects described are: a) Collection, their varieties and volume; b) Processing and organising them for use; c) Disseminating the information of the collection through a number of bibliographical products; and d) Services offered using modern computer and communication technologies.

5.6 ANSWERS TO SELF CHECK EXERCISES

- 1) The three causes that led to reviewing the objects and functions of the National Library are :
 - i) Production of extensive output of scientific literature and literature in other disciplines;
 - ii) The difficulties of national libraries to cope up with demand for service by scholars and scientists, in view of the extensive literature in scientific as well as in other disciplines;
 - iii) Undefined role of national libraries.
- 2) The broad groups under which the objects and functions of a national library can be considered are:
 - i) Collection development
 - ii) Dissemination service
 - iii) Readers services





- iv) Other activities.
See Sub-section 5.2.4 in the text of this Unit.
- 3) Example of national libraries are:
 - i) National Agriculture Library, Washington, D.C → Subject
 - ii) British Library Document Supply Centre
 - iii) British Lending Library for Science and Technology
- 4) The -three historical phases of the National Library of India are :
 - i) First phase : 1835:-1903 : Calcutta Public Library
 - ii) Second Phase: 1903 -1947 : The Imperial Library
 - iii) Third phase: 1947 onwards: The National Library of India.
- 5) The major divisions of the National Library of India as given in the organisational chart are the following:
 - i) Indian, Asian and African Language Divisions
 - ii) Acquisition and Processing Divisions.
 - iii) Stack and Reading Rooms of Annexe Building, Gift Exchange, Maps and Prints Division.
 - iv) Main Reading Room, Reference and Bibliography, European Language Divisions
 - v) Science and Technology, Rare Books, Reprography Divisions Administration and Accounts
 - vi) Security and Conservancy Division.
- 6) The Readers Services offered by the National Library of India are:
 - i) Lending services, including Inter-library loan
 - ii) Reading Rooms located at the main building and the Annexe numbering 10, with an open shelf collection of about 10,000 books of reference and basic subject oriented collection.
 - iii) Bibliography and Reference services; Bibliographic services includes compilation of short and select bibliographies on specific topics on request.
 - iv) Reprography services which include copying facilities for getting copies of journal articles, small reports, etc. On a nominal charge and a printing unit for printing small publications for limited circulation.
- 7) The national libraries operating in India on the basis of subject, for special groups and for specialised materials are :
 - i) The National Science Library, INSDOC (Subject specialisation)
 - ii) The National Medical Library, (M/o Health Services) (Subject)
 - iii) The National Library for the Blind and the Physically Handicapped (For special groups)
- 8) The major department of the Library of Congress are:
 - i) Office of the Librarian
 - ii) Management Services
 - iii) Congressional Research Services



- iv) Copyright Office
 - v) Law Library
 - vi) Processing service
 - vii) Research services
 - viii) National programs
- 9) The activities of the Library of Congress which aid professional library and bibliographical services in general are:
- i) The National Union Catalogue of Printed Books
 - ii) The Cataloging in Publication;
 - iii) MARC Project and Library Automation Program
- 10) The Bibliographical service of the British Library includes the publication of a range of printed and microfiche bibliographic records, the British National Bibliography, the Books in English; BLAISE on-line service, which gives access to the British Library and other complementary databases for information retrieval and record supply.

5.7 KEY WORDS

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| Birch Barks | : Bark of a tree cut to a certain measurement and soaking in water and dried in sun to make writing material, |
| Depository | : A place where anything is kept or stored for safe keeping. |
| Papyrus | : An ancient paper like material made from tall stem of a river plant. |
| Parchment | : Skin of sheep or goat which undergoes a process and treatment for writing purpose. |
| Sub-national | : Under the national setup: |
| Vellum | : Skin of an unborn and -still born lamb or calf which undergoes a process and treatment for writing purpose. |

5.8 REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

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