

Bibliographic Control of Urdu Publications in India: Current Status and Trends

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Abstract

This attempt has been made to find out the current status of bibliographic control of Urdu publications in India and the work being done on its bibliographic control in 16 state Urdu academies of India. The National Library of India, Kolkata working as national bibliographic agency and state Urdu academies, which are autonomous bodies of their respective states are responsible for the growth and promotion of the Urdu language in those states, are included in the scope of this survey. The main objectives of this study are to find out the status of bibliographic control of Urdu publications in India, and to find out about secondary literature in Urdu language compiled by these State Urdu Academies, and to identify the problems and challenges in the bibliographic control of Urdu publications in India. It has been found from some literature reviews that no such study has been conducted on bibliographic control of Urdu publications in India. Thus this study would be helpful to researchers working in the field of bibliographic control, Urdu literature and language, and language bibliographies and other related areas.

Keywords: *Bibliographic Control, Language Bibliographies, Urdu Bibliographies, Urdu Academies, India.*

Introduction

For any nation, bibliographic control is a broad-based activity with the single goal of creating a framework within the country for systematic listing and management of a country's publication output or intellectual heritage, whether published by citizens of the country or about the country, and making it publicly available. National bibliographic control comprises various resources in order to standardize the information in a universally acceptable bibliographic format. These are; catalogue code, classification schemes, author tables, and subject headings, which are applied in the creation and maintenance of catalogues and union lists etc. Besides some standardized writing formats such as the APA, the MLA and the Chicago formats are followed for compilation of bibliographies. According to International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA, 2021) guidelines, Universal Bibliographic Control can be achieved more successfully if libraries or national bibliographic agencies collaborate and shared their bibliographic data maintained according to universally accepted standards. This practice also promotes sharing and the re-use of bibliographic data by different libraries and bibliographic agencies, which reduces repetition in data entry for bibliographic control at national as well as universal level.

In comparison to countries that belong to a singular language culture, in multilingual countries like India, in which language diversity is a part of the historical cultural heritage and an essential component of the country's philosophy, the bibliographic control of publications in various languages, as in national language or local languages, is very critical. Furthermore, access to publications published in linguistic minorities and non-scheduled languages in India are very difficult, and it demands an idealized bibliographic control framework

for the preservation and easy retrieval of that data.

Urdu language is one of the 22 scheduled languages in India and it is an ancestral language which is spoken in many Indian states and is also an official language in some states of India. Therefore, bibliographic control of Urdu publications is an important area for study and research in librarianship.

Research methods and scope of the study

- Qualitative analysis has been applied in the present study. Purposive sampling technique has been applied in the selection of information rich cases for analysing the status of bibliographic control of Urdu publications in India. Data has been collected through personal visits, printed or electronic documents and the Internet-based resources as well. Besides, wherever personal visit is not possible due to some reasons, data has been collected via telephone or e-mails.
- An analytical survey has been conducted to find out the secondary literature about Urdu publications (i.e., Urdu bibliographies, indexes or catalogues) compiled or published in Urdu language by National Library of India and sixteen state Urdu Academies of India; namely Andhra Pradesh Urdu Academy, Bihar Urdu Academy, Chhattisgarh Urdu Academy, Delhi Urdu Academy, Haryana Urdu Academy, Karnataka Urdu Academy, Madhya Pradesh Urdu Academy, Maharashtra State Urdu Academy, Odisha Urdu Academy, Punjab Urdu Academy, Rajasthan Urdu Academy, Tamil Nadu Urdu Academy, Telangana State Urdu Academy, Uttarakhand Urdu Academy, Uttar Pradesh Urdu Academy.
- The main purpose of the survey is to analyse the role in bibliographic control of Urdu publications performed by the above mentioned institutions.

Objectives

- To identify the status of bibliographic control of Urdu publications in National Library of India and various State Urdu Academies of India.
- To find out the secondary literature (i.e. bibliographies, catalogues and indexes, etc.) on Urdu publications in National Library of India and State Urdu Academies of India.
- To identify problems and challenges in bibliographic control of Urdu publications
- To suggest measures to improve bibliographic control of Urdu publications.

Result

- National Library of India is working as National Bibliographic Agency in India
- It compiles Indian National Biography (INB) of 14 major languages of India including English (i.e., Assamese, Bengali, English, Gujarati, Hindi, Kannada, Malayalam, Marathi, Odiya, Punjabi, Sanskrit, Tamil, Telugu and Urdu.).

- It publishes a combined National Bibliography of India in Roman script as well as 14 separate language bibliographies.
- Qaumi Kitabiyat (National Bibliography (Urdu)) is one of those language bibliographies.
- Its regular issues with different frequency of publication are being published since its first issue (1959) to the current issue (2020).
- Publications received under Delivery of Books and Newspaper Act- 1954 (D.B. Act- 1954) are included in Indian National Bibliography and its 14 language bibliographies including Qaumi Kitabiyat.
- There are 28 states and 8 Union territories of India. But only fifteen states and one Union Territory have State Urdu Academies for the promotion and development of Urdu language in their respective states.
- Only four Urdu academies (i.e. Rajasthan Urdu Academy, Delhi Urdu Academy, Madhya Pradesh Urdu Academy and Utter Pradesh Urdu Academy) have done some remarkable work in the field of publication.
- But no Urdu academy has given any attention towards bibliographic control of Urdu publications and development of their libraries. The condition of libraries at Urdu Academies is very poor.
- Not even a single Urdu bibliography has been published by these academies.

Discussion of result

Government obligation: On the basis of present study, one of the extracted reasons is the negligence and lack of interest of State Governments towards Urdu language. Lack of recruitment of competent library staff in all Urdu academies is a common issue which is needed to pay attention. So it is obligatory on part of government take some initiatives to improve the conditions and functioning of Urdu academies.

Staff obligations: The secretaries/directors of Urdu academies should pay attention towards the development of libraries and bibliographic control of Urdu publications. Staff should perform its duties efficiently and faithfully.

Role of coordinating agency: National Library of India should collaborate with State Urdu Academies and work as coordinating agency for the bibliographic control of Urdu publications more accurately and more updated at state level as well as national level. Central government as well as state governments of different states of India should take initiatives towards this direction.

The Delivery of Books Act should be amended and altered right away.

To make Indian National Bibliography available online, the required steps must be taken.

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