SOUTH ASIA COOPERATIVE COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP
2016 SUMMARY REPORT AND OUTCOMES

The 7th Annual South Asia Cooperative Collection Development Workshop was held on October 21, 2016 in Madison, WI. In addition to celebrating and sharing our successes around our “niche collecting efforts,” we focused our attention on collection stewardship, challenging ourselves to consider if we have matured enough as a collaborative to begin committing to retain collections for the wider benefit and if so, how.

Print Retention

Previous workshops have concentrated on SA collection development, in which we have asserted ourselves as selectors at both local and national levels. In 2016 we looked to collection stewardship, and to asserting ourselves in location and retention decisions. This year’s meeting was primarily educational, with presentations from CRL librarians who have expertise and experience with shared print projects all over North America. CRL explicitly encourages print archiving efforts by domain, valuing subject expertise in identifying appropriate materials, and CRL offers tools to enable consortia such as ours to document our decisions and to handle the data required for effective sharing.

Marie Waltz spoke on Print Archive Agreements, formal contractual documents committing institutions to detailed and specific terms. “Print archiving requires time, resources, and a commitment to the long term,” made at the highest levels of our library administrations. Agreements are drafted by a consortial governing body, considering costs, standards, and terms, including duration of the agreement. CRL’s PAPR registry (http://papr.crl.edu/) holds “comprehensive information about titles, holdings, and the terms and conditions of archiving and shared print programs.”

Amy Wood spoke on Metadata for Shared Print. Effective sharing depends on having and disclosing precise and uniform data on holdings across institutions. The key tool here is the repeatable MARC field 583, which discloses holdings data, condition information, and retention commitments through Worldcat. For the structure of the CRL experts’ dense-packed and detailed presentations, please see their slides (attached), which include helpful bibliographies on the history of Print Archiving Resources and the Marc 583 Action Note.

Niche collection presentations

Adnan Malik : South Asian diaspora newspapers at UC Berkeley, supporting Berkeley’s long-standing interest in the diaspora in the US, and especially in California.

Bronwen Bledsoe : Niche Collecting at Cornell, highlighting popular religious imprints from Nepal and mantra-tantra from other regions, with some indication of why these things matter.
Both presentations are available online at https://www.lib.utexas.edu/collection/south-asian-cooperation.

Future workshop ideas

- Plan print retention
- Web archiving
- LC’s OFORS system and its implications for collaborative collecting
- Data sets

Outcome on local specialization statements

Revised niche collecting statements are posted at https://www.lib.utexas.edu/collection/south-asian-cooperation/local-specialization. The general thrust of most statements remained the same. Many participants reported progress and some noted substantial gifts in areas of specialization (Virginia, NYU, Cornell). Helpful revisions include expansions of existing text to include examples giving specificity to general statements (Michigan, Minnesota). Several institutions expanded existing interests, either institution-specific or SA collection-specific (Columbia, Illinois). Duke added colonial era photography of South Asia; Cornell added Sri Lanka. Texas made its first declaration—popular and pulp fiction in regional languages. Indiana declared film initiatives, collecting feature films in Indic vernaculars, and archiving out of copyright films from the web. The national collection on South Asia is significantly enhanced by our diverse niche collection strategies.

2016 Participating Institutions

- Center for Research Libraries
- Columbia University
- Cornell University
- Duke University / TRLN
- Emory University
- Harvard University
- Indiana University
- Library of Congress Islamabad Field Office
- Library of Congress New Delhi Field Office
- Stanford University
- University of California, Los Angeles
- University of Chicago
- University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
- University of Michigan
- University of Minnesota
- University of Pennsylvania
- University of Texas
- University of Virginia
- University of Wisconsin
- Yale University