CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS

Cooperative Collection Development for South Asia Partnership Workshop
Friday, October 15, 2010, 9:00-1:00
Madison, WI

BACKGROUND

South Asian library collections have long benefited from cooperation in developing collections of distinction. PL-480 and the subsequent SACAP programs may be the most long-standing and recognized, but partnerships and sharing strategies have also been worked out through initiatives such as CRL, SAMP, regional consortia (SACEast, CIC, and SACWest), cooperative cataloging projects (LC, OCLC, SAUC), and digital projects (DSAL). Recent and looming budgetary, space and user-preference demands have forced us to rethink and re-strategize how we might best serve the local, national and international South Asian Studies communities. Because of our long-standing history of successfully working together, we believe these impending demands and needs can be met through collaboration.

Although many librarians and library administrators believe in the possibilities of cooperative collection development in the abstract, many are reluctant to embrace the opportunities to do so, citing anxieties over immediate local teaching and research needs, statistical ranking measures and logistics of interlibrary loan as well as affective concerns. Despite indicators that these benchmarks are changing (for example, 2010 Title VI CFP highlighted inter-institutional collaboration and access over local ownership and the CIC Directors are looking to consolidate models for area studies collections and services), these concerns are still very real and often times palpable. Yet, we believe that not deliberately collaborating will only continue to homogenize and hinder our collections—not only will we certainly lose depth, we will ultimately lose breadth as well.

PURPOSE OF THE WORKSHOP

The purpose of this half-day workshop is to draft tangible agreements for collaboration through the Library of Congress’ Cooperative Acquisitions Program (SACAP) profiles. We will identify areas that are disposed to and ready for sharing, those that are of interest but need more investigation and those that are unacceptable for the time being. Real financial pledges are essential and different institutions are encouraged to participate according to their needs and abilities; commitments are expected to take the form of explicit dollar commitments (ranging from $1000) or designated percentages of SACAP profiles. Using individual institutions’ SACAP profiles, informed by statistical and other assessment reports (SACAP’s “Report 13,” WorldCat holdings statements and the like), and with these real financial commitments, we will create formal arrangements and agreements to inform future collection development activities for South Asian Studies.
REQUIRED PREPARATION FOR PARTICIPATION

Because successful partnerships are built upon many smaller arrangements and understandings, the following must be articulated and shared before participation in the workshop:

- Indication of intent to participate; due: May 1, 2010
- Institutional administrative support and/or preliminary commitments to collaboration; due: June 1, 2010
- Clearly documented interlibrary loan policies, including loan periods and provisions for sharing of rare items, unbound/bound journal volumes and non-print media; due: July 1, 2010
- Preliminary FY 2012 financial commitments for collaboration; due: August 1, 2010
- Preservation and other archiving arrangements; due September 1, 2010
- Copies of Individual FY 2011 SACAP Profiles; due October 1, 2010

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

It is expected that participants will leave the workshop with draft agreements for collaboration which can then be vetted and endorsed by their respective administrators and faculty constituencies. The hope is that these agreements will be ratified and implemented by the beginning of FY 2012. While such new agreements will certainly enhance, diversify and distinguish the national collection on South Asia, our belief is that they will simultaneously strengthen our profession and enable us to intensify our relationships with our user communities.

For more information or to indicate interest in participating, please contact:

- James Simon, Director of International Studies and Global Resources Network, Center for Research Libraries, simon@crl.edu
- Mary Rader, South Asia Bibliographer, University of Wisconsin, mrader@library.wisc.edu
- Bronwen Bledsoe, South Asia Curator, Cornell University, bb246@cornell.edu