

Publications of Government of India : Nature, Scope, and Bibliographical Control

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Traces the role of Government Publications in the library. Illustrates the definitions of Government and Government Publications in different countries. Categorizes them as Parliamentary and Non-parliamentary publications. Steps for the bibliographic control are described. Lists the sources for selecting them. Traces the problems related to U.P. Government Publications. Provides suggestions for improvement over the prevailing situation.

The functions of the Government have in recent years, increased far beyond the original function of a police state. As such, Government activities comprise various fields of human endeavour, general welfare, cultural development, economic upliftment, rural conditions etc. Government publications, therefore, are of various categories. Besides pure administrative reports and proceedings, Government also publishes scientific, technical and art books, periodicals, etc.

In fact, Government publications are a mirror of the functions of a Government and its agencies. These form one of the most extensive, reliable, impartial sources of

authoritative, technical, scientific and other information covering practically every phase of human activities, including the activities of all the agents of Government.

Definition: In this connection it is pertinent to survey how such publications are defined by different countries for different purposes.

USA: The most recent attempt in 1962 in the United States to define Government documents for the purpose of depository library programme is contained in section 1901 of the United States code title 41: 'Information matter which is printed as an individual document at Government expense

National Library 1958—.

Part II.

3. New arrivals (Monthly)
New Delhi, Jain Book Agency, nd.
4. Catalogue of publications (annual)
New Delhi, Ministry of Education,
Government of India.
5. Catalogue of civil publications relating
to Agriculture, Forest, civics, commerce,
finance legislation, Industry, public
Health, Railways, Science, Trade etc.
Delhi, Government of India—1953.
6. Indian Books (Annual)
Varanasi, Indian Bibliography Centre,
1970—
7. Catalogue of publications (Annual)
Delhi, Ministry of Education, Govern-
ment of India, nd.
8. List of publications. Dehra Dun, Forest
Research Institute & Colleges, nd.
9. Supreme Court reports (Annual)
Delhi, Supreme Court.

Restrospective Aids :

1. Mohinder Singh

Government publications of India:
A survey of their nature, bibliographical
control system, Delhi, Metropolitan,
1967. (The publication lists 1500 docu-
ments approximately but excludes State
Government publications.

Bibliographical control of the Publications of Uttar Pradesh Government :

So far as bibliographical control of U.P.
Government publications is concerned the
prevailing situation is still more serious. The

office of Superintendent, Printing and Sta-
tionary, at Allahabad is responsible for pub-
lications and marketing of U.P. Government
publications. Many important publications
such as :

- a. Financial Handbook,
- b. U.P. Codes,
- c. Departmental Manuals and
- d. U.P. Acts.

These are brought out by the Superin-
tendent of Printing and Stationary but
there is no efficient system of marketing.
It is rather surprising that no regular cata-
logue of U.P. Government Publications is
being published and thus those who need the
valuable information contained in U. P.
Government Publications are suppose to be
aware of existense of U.P. Government Pub-
lications by their own means and thus biblio-
graphical control becomes impossible.

Moreover office of the Superintendent
of Printing and Stationery does not have any
authorized agent for marketing of their pub-
lications and marketing is done only through
a small counter at the office of Superinten-
dent of Printing and Stationary at Allahabad.
Although there was a counter for sale of
publications at Soochna Kendra, Lucknow
but now it has been closed and is existing
only on paper.

This inefficient marketing system hinders
the proper sale of the publications as result
of which huge volumes of U.P. Government
publications lie unsold and become obsolete
and weeded out. Thus resulting in huge loss
to State exchequer.

So far as the publication of court-decisi-
ons is concerned the Ministry of Law and

or as required by law'.

For the purpose of the distribution of Government publications to the Library of Congress, such publications are defined (in section 1718 of the United States code, Title 41) as publications and maps which are printed or otherwise reproduced, under authority of law, upon the requisition of a Congressional Committee, executive, department, bureau, independent office, establishment, commission or office of the Government. In USA the terms 'Documents and Public Documents' are used in this sense.

UK: In UK the term Government publications has been used by H.M. Stationary Office to include 'Parliamentary' and 'Non-Parliamentary' papers.

India: We have not been able to find the official definition for publications as given by the Government. However the definition of the Government as contained in Indian standard glossary of cataloging terms is:-

Corporate body with full or limited sovereign power over a territory. It has generally executive, legislative, judicial and administrative functions, other functions such as defence, taxation, regulation of commerce, public transport and communication will vary with the degree of limitations in sovereign power.

Thus we may say that all the publications by above should be considered Government publications.

It is interesting to note that the preliminary convention concerning international exchange of official publications defines official publication in article 2 as :

1. For the purpose of the present convention, the following are considered official publications: Parliamentary documents, reports and journals and other legislative papers, administrative publications and reports from central, federal and regional Government bodies, national bibliographies, state hand books, bodies of law, decisions of the court of justice and other such publications, when executed by the order and at the expense of any Government authority.

2. The present convention does not apply to confidential publications, circulars, and other documents of a non public nature.

Kinds of Government Publications :-

Government publications may be mainly divided as 'Parliamentary' and 'Non-parliamentary'. These are :-

Parliamentary

1. Reports, notes and proceedings, debates etc., of legislative bodies (State, Central)
2. Acts of Parliament and local legislature, including amendment sheets.
3. Bills, Stationary, instruments including.
 - a—Explanatory memoranda
 - b—Reports, of standing committees appointed to consider individual bills.
 - c—Reports, accounts, papers etc., presented by standing committee etc., in pursuance of provisions in acts of parliament.
 - d—Reports of committees appointed for the sole purposes of considering the working of individual acts etc., or of

framing orders and regulations under an acts.

Bill and statutes include explanatory memoranda, chronological tables of statutes and index to the statutes. 'Annotated Laws' are not included in this category.

Non Parliamentary

1. Administrative reports, proceedings, transactions, etc. of departments (executives, judicial etc.) including administrative reports of high courts etc.
2. Rules, Regulations, codes, circulars etc., of different departments.
3. Reports, papers, by an official
4. Budget estimates
5. Collection or series of reports (to a department by different persons)
6. Army, Navy etc. : Reports of operations, orders, circulars proclamations, despatch emanating from armies, navies, marine corps, etc.
7. Embassies, Legations, Consulates
8. Archives.
9. Government Agencies, Government commissions and committees : Reports and recommendations of official commissions or committees, whether permanent or temporary, Boards etc.
10. Bulletin reports, calenders, Prospectuses, Catalogues etc., of Govern-

ment institutions (scientific laboratories, museums, libraries, etc.) National Bibliographies.

11. Directories, Civil lists and Army and Navy lists, Census reports Annual ledger and national legislatures.
12. Government Gazettes
13. Conventions
14. Charters.
15. Treaties and other international documents.
16. Courts (reports, opinions, decisions, published by Government at their expenses.
17. a—Trials
b—Civil actions
c—Crown state and criminal trials.
d—Courts material
18. Constitutions and official drafts of proposed constitutional amendments.
19. Propaganda and publicity literature: pamphlets; illustrated sheets, maps, charts, etc.

Bibliographical Control of Govt. Publications

There are no consolidated sources for book selection of Government publications at present. Agencies publish some catalogues at irregular intervals. Various agencies of Central and State Government publish documents, manuscripts, reports—priced and unpriced. The catalogues issued by

these agencies mention only the priced items but not the unpriced. Many recent documents are notified in official Gazettes. The latest journals and newspapers may also be included as sources. Publication Division also issues catalogues of its publications and Controllers of Printing and Stationary also issues catalogues of state government publications of irregular intervals. A list of sources is given here which may serve as tools for selections of Government publications.

Parliamentary Publications :

1. Lok Sabha Debates (in Hindi and English)
Part-1—Question and Answer
Part-2—Proceedings other than Question and Answer.
2. Index to Lok Sabha proceedings (sessional)
3. Rajya Sabha Proceedings (published in single in daily editions)
4. Index to Rajya Sabha proceedings (Sessional)
5. Journal of Parliamentary International (Qly)
6. Digest of Central Acts and constitutional cases (Half Yearly)
7. Privileges Digest (Half Yearly)
8. Catalogues of parliamentary publications, Delhi, Lok Sabha Secretariat.

For Laws Statutes :

1. *Gazette of India*

Acts, bills etc., presented to parliaments, Laws, ordinances etc., are published in the Gazette of India, and some

of them are published separately. The acts first issued in part two, section one of the Gazette are cumulated and published with tables showing the effect of legislation and with indexes.

So far as state laws and statutes are concerned most of the Indian states issue bills, acts, laws, codes, Law reports, Digests.

2. *Chronological Tables of Central Acts, Regulations and Ordinances :*

A very useful publication published in 1958, containing central acts, regulations, ordinances and acts of the President from 1934—57.

Restrospective :

3. 1790—1928 : The regulations and laws enacted by the Governor-General in council for civil Government of the whole of the territories under the presidency of Fort William in Bengal 1890—1927—28 Vols.
4. 1830 : Chronological tables and index of the Indian statutes compiled under the orders of the Government of India, Vol-One : Chronological tables, 1931.
5. 1935—47 : A collection of statutes relating to India : Second Edition published during 1935—40, 3 vols., 1950—51, 10 vols.

Non Parliamentary Publications

1. Catalogue of civil publications of the Government of India (Monthly).
Delhi, Manager of Publications. 1984—
2. Indian National Bibliography (Monthly).
Calcutta, Central Reference Library,

Justice publishes *Uchcha Nyayalaya Nirnay Patrika*. The latest publication available of *Uchcha Nyayalaya Nirnay Patrika* is of 1983, thus leading a person far from Law & Justice which is a fundamental right.

However, the information regarding Acts may be found in Gazettes of U.P. which has no periodicity.

Suggestions for Improvement

1. In each state there must be at least one depository library (preferably public library) where the Government publications should be sent directly from publishers.
2. All the state Government departments should send the list of their publications to the Superintendent, Stationary & Printing of their states within 10 days of the publication of the document and the Superintendent, Printing & Stationary should bring a monthly list of publication. This should be a low-priced publication so that the libraries could subscribe this list easily. One copy of the list should be sent to the depository library(ies) of the state and one to the Manager, Publications Division, Government of India.
3. Manager, Publications Division should with the help of state-lists bring out a half yearly regular union list of Govt. of India publications.

This list should also be low priced. And should be supplied to the depository libraries of the states and to the other libraries on subscription.

4. There must be at least four depository libraries in the countries in each region i.e., north, south, east and west where all the publications of Govt. of India should be sent direct through the respective publishers.
5. The union list of publications should be arranged alphabetically both state-wise and subject-wise and the publication of union Government departments should be arranged separately subject-wise. At the end there must be an index covering all the access points viz., departments etc.
6. The Government publications should be brought out in time because most of the statistical publications become obsolete after some time.

REFERENCES :

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2. Mukherjee, A.K. Reference work and its tools, 3rd ed. Calcutta, World Press, 1975.
3. Indian Standard Glossary of Cataloguing Terms, rev. ed. New Delhi, ISI, 1980.
4. Sengupta, Benoyendra. Indian Government Publications; their bibliographical control *In* Bhattacharjee, K.K., ed., *Modern Trends in Librarianship*, Calcutta, World Press, pp. 121-126, 1979.
5. Sengupta, Benoyendra. *Cataloguing Theory and Practice*, 3rd rev. ed. Calcutta, World Press, 1974.