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South Asia Cooperative Collection Development Initiative 2012 Summary Report and Outcomes

Librarians from 18 institutions cooperating to broaden and deepen the North American collection on South Asia met for a 3rd workshop in Madison WI in October 2012. Previous workshops had focused on collecting through one mainstay traditional channel, the Library of Congress's Cooperative Acquisitions Program (LC-CAP). In 2010 participants strategically de-duplicated **monographic profiles** and added less-collected profiles from their approval plans, especially in the Indian subcontinent's local languages. In 2011 the group addressed its **LC-CAP serials subscriptions**, again aiming to reduce redundancy and increase diversity in the North American collection. In 2012 we stepped outside the LC-CAP box to **declare a range of niche collecting interests** based on institutional strengths and librarians' own special knowledge.

The imperative to coordinate collecting at US research institutions is widely felt these days. What distinguishes this particular effort is its grassroots character, as the diversity of our niche collection statements makes clear (please see summary information below and full descriptions at: <http://www.library.wisc.edu/guides/SoAsia/cooperation.htm>). Rather than a programmatic or systematic division of collecting labor, or one predetermined by set financial commitments, this Workshop on Cooperative Collecting for South Asia urged elective efforts to enrich the national collection as participants see fit. As subject specialists, workshop participants are acutely aware of the sorts of material scholars desire but find it hard to obtain—old Indian school textbooks and early women's magazines, for example. Neither the scope of traditional collecting parameters nor the idea of the stand-alone research library is serving our patrons well.

Participants declared a striking variety of niche specializations. Some are already established interests at the holding library, some are new. Michigan, Iowa, and Cornell spoke for four less commonly taught languages, Oriya, Kannada, Nepali and Newari. Duke and Illinois commit to non-traditional materials, including bazaar literature and comic books. Berkeley and UCLA carry forward the established California interest in Diaspora materials. Chicago, NYU, and Madison do ethnomusicology, film studies, and theater. Human rights and development studies are especially strong at Washington and Minnesota. Princeton is uniquely interested physical sciences from South Asia, while Virginia specializes in the north Indian state of Bihar. Not to mention other rarities—South Asian Judaica, Indo-Persian, ephemera, sound recordings, LGBT materials, and much much more. Niche collecting now will provide materials for current research and for projects yet to be imagined, both within South Asian studies as we now understand it and in thematic studies of global scope.

The workshops on South Asian Cooperative Collection development made us rethink our established practices and have turned our attention towards the larger collection of which our own are merely part. In this round less commonly collected materials—like less commonly taught languages nationwide—are coming into their own.

2012 Participating Institutions and summary commitments

- Berkeley: Newspapers of the South Asian Diaspora in the U.S.
- Chicago: South Asian Music and Ethnomusicology
- Columbia: Art Catalogs from South Asia
- Cornell: Materials from Himalayan Region, especially those in Nepali and Newari
- Duke: Bazaar literature and Other Ephemera
- Illinois: South Asian Graphic Novels and Comic Books
- Iowa: South Asian Legal Materials in English, Kannada Language Materials and South Asian Film Studies
- Michigan: Periodicals and Other Materials in Oriya or about Orissa
- Minnesota: South Asian Art History, and Development Studies From South Asia
- NYU: South Asian Cinema and Theater, and Materials about the South Asian Diaspora in the U.S.
- Pennsylvania: South Asian Epigraphy and Manuscripts, and Filling In Gaps in Sanskrit Series
- Princeton: Materials vendored through LC in the Physical Sciences
- Toronto: South Asian Canadian Authors, and Materials Supplied through the Indo-Shastri Program
- UCLA: Materials of the South Asian Diaspora in the Gulf, Southeast Asia, and California, and Materials of South Asian Religious Minorities such as the Baha'i and Jewish Communities
- Virginia: Materials Related to the History of Bihar
- Washington: South Asian Human Rights & Refugees
- Wisconsin: South Asian Theater
- Yale: Materials about Buddhism and Jainism, particularly those in Pali