

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN
MEMORIAL LIBRARY

SOUTH ASIAN LIBRARY
COLLECTIONS AND
SERVICES

FALL 2006

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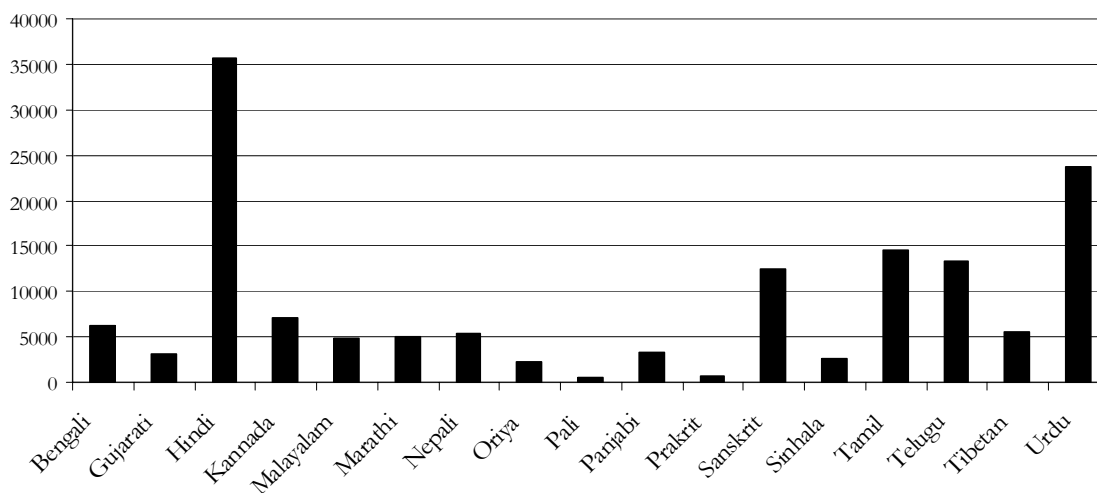
OVERVIEW

The University of Wisconsin-Madison's Memorial Library has one of the strongest collections of materials from and about South Asia in the United States. This brief report outlines the general characteristics of the collection, highlights recent developments and identifies available services related to South Asian studies available through the Library.

COLLECTION CHARACTERISTICS

LANGUAGE STRENGTHS

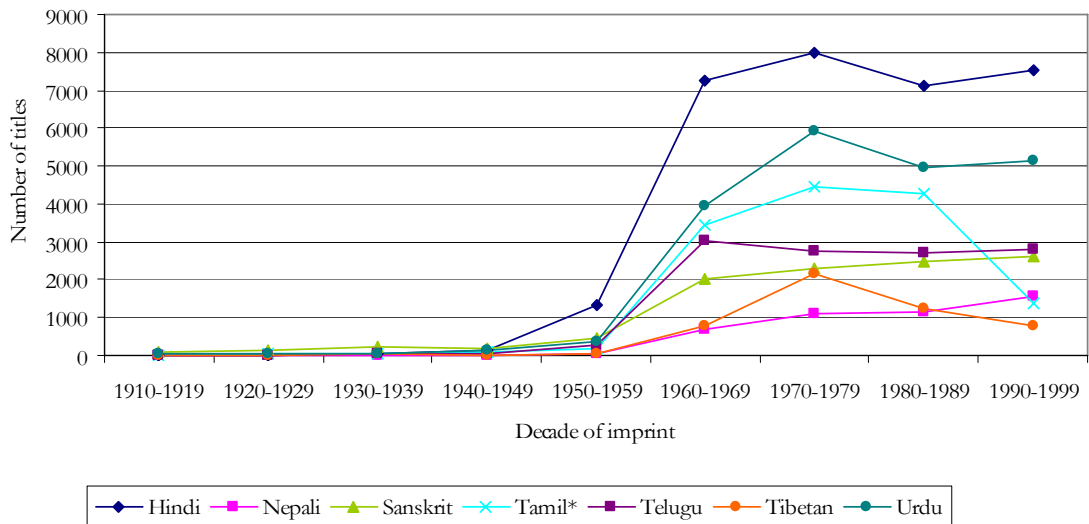
AS OF 8/2006, OCLC STATISTICS indicate that UW's Library has over 140,000 cataloged titles in South Asian languages in its collection.¹ Current collecting is in the following languages: Hindi, Nepali, Pali, Sanskrit, Telugu, Tibetan and Urdu; on average, we add approximately 3,500 titles annually in these languages. While the number of titles held is significant, we do not actively add to the collection in the following languages: Bengali, Gujarati, Kannada, Malayalam, Marathi, Oriya, Panjabi, Sinhala, or Tamil; collections in those languages should effectively be considered closed. The South Asian language holdings comprise approximately 47% of the Asian language collection at the UW.



¹ These statistics are based on title, not volume, counts—potentially a big distinction especially for Sanskrit and Tibetan titles.

DATA FROM THE PAST 100 YEARS illustrates our historically strong collection of notable reputation. It also reflects that the majority of the collection was developed under the Public Law 480 (PL-480) program wherein materials were sent in bulk from South Asia to participating libraries at little or no cost. The PL-480 program was instituted in the late 1950s and most libraries subscribed to it in 1962. Although it ran until the early to mid-1990s, most libraries began to cut their acquisitions profiles in the 1980s when they were forced to begin paying for their receipts. Looking at the data in the tables below, one can see that UW was no exception to this pattern. PL-480 was a boon to our local collection yet it also causes some concern. First and foremost, it means that our collection will not be unique within the U.S. Under PL-480 (and its later incarnation, the Library of Congress Cooperative Acquisitions Program), the Library of Congress identified titles to be collected for participating libraries, purchased multiple copies and sent these copies to recipients, without their direct involvement in selection (other than some broadly defined subject and language profiles). Therefore, what Illinois received is what Michigan received is what Wisconsin received and so on. National collections are strong but they are similar, if not almost identical, for the PL-480 years. The second concern is for the material not acquired under PL-480, namely the material pre-1962, that not picked up by the Library of Congress and those things published outside of South Asia. Addressing these lacunas will be priorities for upcoming collection development efforts.

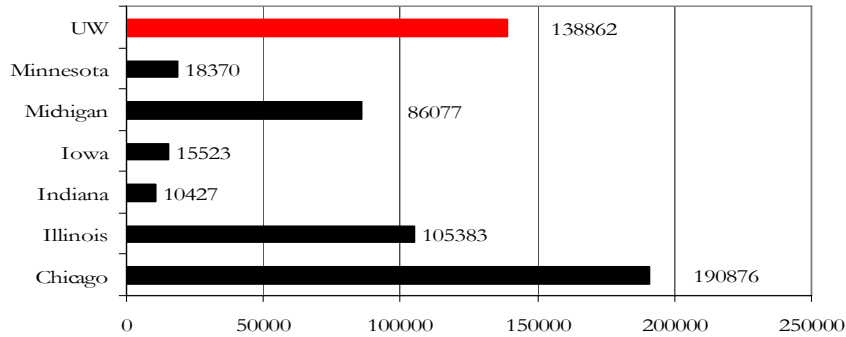
UW MAJOR LANGUAGE HOLDINGS BY DECADE OF IMPRINT



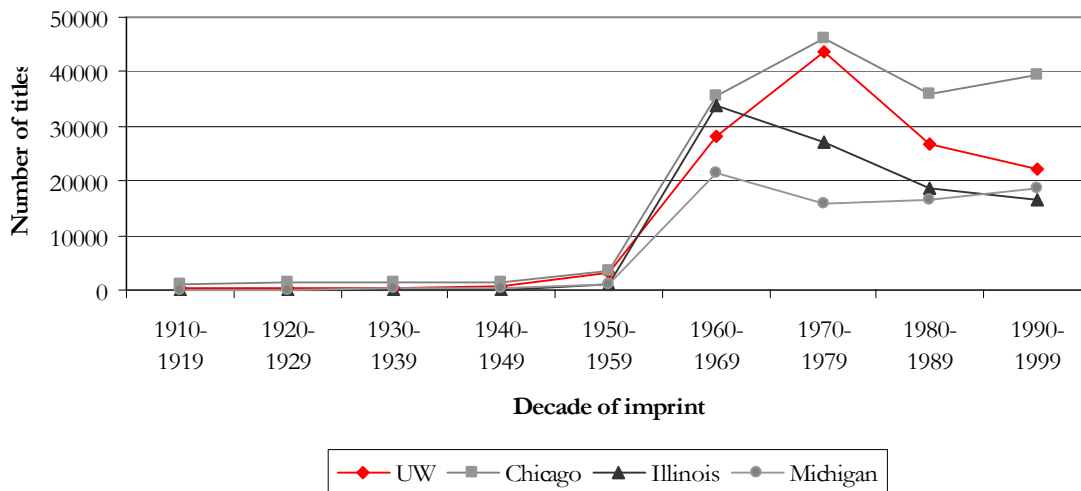
A QUICK SURVEY ACROSS CIC LIBRARIES with significant South Asian holdings shows UW to have the second largest cataloged South Asian language collection (after Chicago). A language comparison across the top 4 CIC South Asia collections (UW, Chicago, Illinois and Michigan) further illustrates our holdings in comparison to our peers. Such statistics further illustrate that most libraries also developed their collections primarily through the PL-480 years (and that collections have weakened since the end of that program). As noted above, we should observe these statistics with a qualified

pride: although our collections are historically strong they are not necessarily unique nor will they grow dramatically given current financial constraints. Opportunities for cooperative collection development, particularly across CIC institutions, are being sought out and developed.

**CIC SOUTH ASIAN LANGUAGE COUNT COMPARISON
(BASED ON 2005 OCLC DATA)**



**CIC SOUTH ASIAN LANGUAGE COMPARISON BY DECADE OF IMPRINT
(ALL LANGUAGES)**



SUBJECT STRENGTHS

HISTORICALLY, SOUTH ASIAN LIBRARY COLLECTIONS have been dominated by Humanities content primarily in the areas of language, literature, religion and history. Other areas, such as those falling in the Social Sciences, have also been collected but were not part of active and concerted collection development efforts until after the implementation of the PL-480 program in 1962 and the concurrent switch from a primarily Indological focus to that of “Area Studies.”

A STATISTICAL ANALYSIS OF SUBJECT STRENGTHS within the collection is perhaps best undertaken through the use of the Library of Congress’ classification system and related call number ranges. For our purposes here, two sources have been used for subject analysis data: the North American Title Count (NATC) and the Library’s local (Voyager) system. The NATC’s data is slightly dated (from 2001) and perhaps overly general because it doesn’t allow the breaking down of data by specific ranges within subclasses (unless predefined by the NATC). However, it does give a sense of the subject areas in comparison to the entire UW collection as well as compared to other research libraries. Tables below illustrate UW’s holdings and standings in the broad, major areas related to South Asia from the NATC and actual counts from the Library’s local database for particular call number ranges. These statistics reinforce that our collection is strong in the fields of religion (other than Islam) and in the languages and literatures of South Asia.

North American Title Count²

UW holdings in areas of South Asia concentration (based on 2001 data)

Call number	Subject	Collection Count	Rank among peers (excluding LC)
BL	Religions, Mythology, Rationalism	30,275	1
BP	Islam, Baha’ism, Theosophy	10,633	10
BQ	Buddhism	12,170	3
DS 330-500	History: Southern Asia, Indian Ocean	29,832	4
PK101-2891	Indo-Aryan Languages	53,949	2
PK 2901-5534	Indo-Aryan Literature	6,809	3
PL 4601-4961	Dravidian Languages	23,213	2

² The NATC and Local title counts should be viewed with a note of caution: the Library of Congress’ classification system is notorious for not adequately representing non-Western subjects, either by overly teasing out some areas or by lumping others together inappropriately. Furthermore, the assigning of subject categories and call numbers is highly subjective and up to the discretion of the cataloger and therefore materials may be classed in a particular call number range while another may just as accurately have been applied. South Asia-related Humanities topics are relatively easily identified through the LC system but Social Science topics are virtually impossible to extract via call numbers and therefore have not been included here. Future reports will address Social Science topics in detail.

Local Title Counts

UW holdings in areas of South Asia concentration (based on 2005 data)

Call number	Subject	Collection Count
BL 1100-1295	Hinduism	10,950
BL 1300-1380	Jainism	1,285
BL 1400-1495	Buddhism	2,284
BL 1500-1590	Zoroastrianism; Parsecism	217
BL 2000-2047	Religion in South Asia	1,655
BP (all) ³	Islam	13,246
BP 63.A37	History of Islam in South Asia	2
BP 63.I4	History of Islam in India	114
BQ (all)	Buddhism	14,811
BQ 1001-4060	Buddhist Literature	2,839
BQ 320-400	History of Buddhism (South Asia)	201
DS 331 - 500	History of South Asia	31,497
PK 101-2899	Indo-Aryan Languages	60,339
PK 2901-5471	Indo-Aryan Literature	6,872
PL 3561-3801	Tibeto-Himalayan Languages	1045
PL 4601-4794	Dravidian Languages	30,357

RECENT COLLECTION DEVELOPMENTS

THE LIBRARY'S SOUTH ASIAN VIDEO COLLECTION, primarily created in the 1980s and 1990s by Jack Wells under his *South and Southeast Asian Video Archive* project (please see <http://digicoll.library.wisc.edu/SEAvideo/>), is nationally known and highly utilized. A recent grant from the Friends of the Libraries has enabled the reformatting of the most highly used titles from this *Archive* to DVD format. In addition, we continue to add to this important video collection with an emphasis on DVD formats and versions with English subtitles; in the 2005-2006 year, we added over 100 titles.

THE LIBRARY RECENTLY BOUGHT ONE SHARE in the Urdu Research Library Consortium's purchase of the noteworthy Urdu collection of litterateur Mushfiq Khwaja. The Consortium has purchased the collection from the heirs of Mushfiq Khwaja and is in the process of moving it to a new accessible location in Karachi, Pakistan. Once there, it will be fully cataloged and processed after which requests can be made for digital document delivery of collection content. This is the second cooperative purchase of Urdu material in which the Library has participated, the first being the collection of Abdus Samad Khan in Hyderabad, India.

³ Islam proves a special problem when trying to generate statistics using call number ranges. Although the "core" area for Islam in South Asia falls within the BP63 range, unfortunately many other areas are used to class South Asian Islamic titles, ranging from Islam generally (found within other areas of the BP class) to other disciplinary classes altogether (History, etc). A quick search in Madcat on the subject keyword "Islam" and general keywords for the countries of South Asia bring up close to 1500 titles, almost tenfold the number of titles generated in the "official" BP range.

LIBRARY SERVICES AND PROJECTS

SOUTH ASIAN STUDIES GUIDE

THE LIBRARY'S SUBJECT GUIDE for South Asian topics, the revamped *South Asian Studies Guide* (please see <http://www.library.wisc.edu/guides/SoAsia/>) describes online reference sources related to South Asian Studies, lists the Library's current South Asian serial subscriptions, and links to important web-based projects. In 2005-2006, a page listing the tables of contents of recent issues of significant South Asian journals was added (<http://www.library.wisc.edu/guides/SoAsia/toc.htm>); faculty members and other interested parties are alerted to new entries on this page monthly.

GUIDE TO THE INDEXING OF SOUTH ASIAN STUDIES PERIODICALS

ENABLED BY GENEROUS grants from the International Institute, the Delmas Foundation and the General Library System, the Library has created the *Guide to the Indexing of South Asian Studies Periodicals* (please see <http://digicoll.library.wisc.edu/SouthAsiaIndex/>). The *Guide* serves two main purposes for researchers worldwide: it identifies and lists South Asian periodical titles and it identifies if a particular title has been indexed and if so, to what extent. For the benefit of researchers at the University of Wisconsin, it also notes UW holdings and call number locations. As of 8/2006, the *Guide* contained over 7800 titles in more than 75 languages; more titles and indexing sources are being added daily.

ALERTING AND CURRENT AWARENESS SERVICES

KEEPING CURRENT WITH THE SCHOLARLY LITERATURE is both difficult and time-consuming. As a means to simplify the process, the Library offers many services:

1. South Asian Table of Contents: as mentioned above, the tables of contents of recent issues of significant South Asian journals are available off the South Asian Studies Guide (<http://www.library.wisc.edu/guides/SoAsia/>). Journals included in this listing include: the *Bulletin of the School of Oriental and African Studies*, *Contributions to Indian Sociology*, the *Indian Economic and Social History Review*, the *Journal of Indian Philosophy*, *South Asian Popular Culture*, and others. Email alerts are sent on a monthly basis to interested recipients.
2. New Monographic Additions: upon expression of interest in a particular area or language, interested parties can be notified of receipts from recent monographic shipments from South Asia. To express interest in such alerting, contact the South Asia Bibliographer.
3. General Email Alerting: many large indexing databases now offer periodic email alerts which notify you when new content has been added that meets criteria you define (such as subject content or new issues of a journal title, etc.). A small sample of databases that provide these services would include the ATLA Religion Database, Current Contents (through the Web of Knowledge), Index Islamicus, and Sociological Abstracts. For more information on these services and instructions for setting up alerts, please see <http://www.library.wisc.edu/alerts/> or contact the South Asia Bibliographer.

CITATION MANAGER: REFWORKS

REFWORKS is a software application accessed from the UW Library website that can format bibliographies and citations automatically while you conduct research and can create and organize a personal research database online. It allows you to access your information online from any computer anywhere and you can share your database with colleagues around the world. Any UW-Madison student, faculty or staff member can use RefWorks. For more on RefWorks, please see <http://www.library.wisc.edu/refworks/>.

REFERENCE AND INSTRUCTION SERVICES

THE SOUTH ASIA BIBLIOGRAPHER, Mary Rader, is available for reference consultations on South Asia related topics, either on a drop in basis or by appointment. All students, staff, faculty, and community members are welcome. In addition, she can conduct formal instructional sessions on library topics and tools (such as catalogs, article databases, subject indexes, etc.); these sessions can be held independently or as a part of a regularly scheduled class.

PLEASE ADDRESS QUESTIONS AND/OR CONCERNS TO:

Mary Rader
South Asia Bibliographer
412B Memorial Library
mrader@library.wisc.edu