

# Documentation in social science research-II

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It is a matter of joy for us that for scientific and technological researches we have got a national documentation centre namely, Bangladesh National Scientific and Technical Documentation Centre (BANSDOC). It has been performing very important role in the field of scientific and technological researches in the form of providing procurement services, translation services etc. But unfortunately we have no such national centre for our social scientists. Immediately we may not afford to establish a national Documentation Centre for Social Sciences but it should have been started long before. At the moment we may do one thing.

Our general university libraries and libraries attached to centres which coordinate and encourage social researches may start documentation work and services in the form of (i) compilation of bibliographies and indexes for social scientists; (ii) abstracting services: any article useful for higher studies and research will be abstracted and circulated to interested persons and centres: abstract help the user to gauge the real value of article; (iii) circulation of contents page bulletin of journals available in one's own centre; (iv) current awareness service; (v) literature analysis services and (vi) maintaining of close cooperation. Nowadays there is an increasing tendency of cooperation among libraries, specially in research ones in identifying areas of specialisation by individual library in order

to avoid duplication of expensive materials and maximum services with minimum means.

If we really feel the necessity to facilitate Social researches, we should have to appoint one Documentation Officer in each library with supporting staff under the direct control and supervision of the respective librarians. Though it will be an individual institutional effort, if we establish and maintain a close cooperation among libraries which coordinate and encourage social science researches we will be able to facilitate social researches effectively with our existing means. This is the immediate need of the country. But something must be done at national level. The establishment of National Documentation Centre for social sciences with full automation is essential.

The followings should be some of the basic functions of National Documentation Centre for social sciences:

1) To collect, organise, develop and serve the social science research libraries, centres and persons interes-

ted in social science researches; 2) to provide modern, quick and intensive literature analysis service for researchers, professors, social scientists and persons interested in social researches; 3) preparation and publication of bibliographies and indexes on social sciences useful at home and abroad; 4) to encourage cooperation and coordination among libraries and centres engaged in higher studies and researches in social sciences; 5) compilation and circulation of contents page bulletin of all Bangladeshi social science journals; 6) preparation and publication of social science abstract; 7) abstracting of useful articles on social sciences; 8) translation services; 9) reproduction services; 10) compilation of National union List of social science serials: it will be a list of all periodicals on social sciences available in different libraries in Bangladesh; 11) publication of National Directory of Research Projects on social science, and 12) National Union catalogue of holdings on social sciences in various libraries in Bangladesh.

The University of Rajshahi is going to have a post of Documentation officer with a view to providing better bibliographical and information services to its teachers and student community. Really it will be a good attempt.

In Bangladesh we have got a good number of Libraries and Centers which coordinate and encourage social researches. Some of them have been providing documentation and information services in the form of compilation and circulation of indexes and bibliographies etc. But these are not sufficient for the purpose. We need cooperation.

The main reason for establishing a National Library for social sciences with an attached Documentation unit is that a library is a complex where information and all that bring it nearer to documentation are only a part of its many sided activities. In short, all the activities involved in Documentation fall within the purview of Librarianship either directly or indirectly. The basic elements of both Librarianship and Documentation are similar if not identical.

Ours is a developing country and the profession of Librarianship is also growing. So everything should be planned economically. We may start both the activities under the same roof and the same administration. It will be a feasible and economic proposition for us.

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