

## EAP188: Rescuing text: retrieval and documentation of printed books and periodicals published prior to 1950 from public institutions in Eastern India

This project surveyed the collections of 18 libraries in the state of West Bengal and 2 libraries in the state of Assam, producing a database of 26,579 titles.

### Database key

The titles surveyed were checked against the [OCLC Worldcat](#) and British Library Catalogue data, and this information appears in the following spreadsheet columns:

K	L	M	N	O
OCLC	Remarks	BL	Remarks	Count
0		0		0
0		0		0

A count of 0 – no match

A count of 1 – match

The following libraries were surveyed, and are indicated in the spreadsheet by their acronyms:

Library Initial(s)	Name of Library
AL	Ariadaha Library
ASS	Assam Sahitya Sabha

BBGK	Bankim Bhaban Gabeshana Kendra
BPL	Bansberia Public Library
BPTL	Barisha Pustakagar O Town Library
BSG	Bali Sadharan Granthagar
BTL	Behala Town Library
CNL	Chetla Nityananda Library
CP	Chandannagar Pustakagar
DHAS	Department of Historical and Antiquarian Studies, Guwahati, Assam
HP	Hemchandra Pathagar
HPG	Harinavi Public Library
JSCHR	Jadunath Sarkar Centre for Historical Research
JUBL	Jaynagar Uttarpara Bandhab Library
MBP	Madarhat Bandhab Pathagar

ML	Mudiali Library
MPL	Mohiari Public Library
RML	Rammohan Library
RSP	Rajpur Sadharan Pathagar

### **Further Information**

You can contact the EAP team at [endangeredarchives@bl.uk](mailto:endangeredarchives@bl.uk)

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### **Report on Libraries surveyed:**

#### **☉ Jadunath Sarkar Resource Centre for Historical Research**

The Jadunath Sarkar Resource Centre for Historical Research, housed at 10, Lake Terrace, Kolkata – 700 029, is known widely for its unique and unconventional resources that are not easy to be found in other conventional libraries. An unmistakable storehouse for scholars interested in new historical research, this library boasts of numerous periodicals and books on social sciences and culture of eastern India, old newspapers and periodicals, as well as books and papers from personal collections of several eminent scholars. Apart from the 8000 odd books in Bengali, many of them rather rare, the library is also now building a considerable collection of books in Urdu, Assamese, Oriya and Hindi.

#### **☉ Jayakrishna Public Library, Uttarpara**

Established in 1854 with patronage of Jayakrishna Mukherjee, then the Zamindar of Uttarpara, about 20 kilometres northwest of Calcutta, it began with a collection of about 3,000 books. At present, the strength of the collection is about 25,000 with hundreds of unique titles of books including local publications from Hooghly district and also some rare volumes of Bengali periodicals not available anywhere else such as *Sangbad rasaraj*. The library is at present within the West Bengal State Government District Libraries system and is partially funded by the Government. The catalogue of the library is incomplete, the only entry point to the holding are some inventories of special collections and physical verification of the stack. The CSSSC has had an initial discussion with the Librarian who expressed her interest in collaborating in a cataloguing and/or preservation programme. Compared to Bangiya Sahitya Parishat, the holdings of the library are in better condition, since not many scholars use the library and the stacks are better maintained.

#### **☉ Chetla Nityananda Library**

Chetla Nityananda Library is located at 29/1/3 Chetla Central Road, Kolkata – 700027, and was established in the year 1910. Among special collections of this library are some “tal patara punthi” (hand-written books on palm-leaves), collections of eminent literary figures like Bimal Mitra, Tarapranab Brahmachari and Dinesh Das. There are around 7000 Bengali books and about 1500 books in English that dates back to 1950 or before. The Library remains open from Monday to Friday and on 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Saturdays. Working hours are from 1 pm to 8 pm.

#### **☉ Ariadaha Library**

Established in the year 1870, Ariadaha Library is presently situated at Ariadaha, Kolkata-57. Financial sources of this library is ad-hoc grant from the Government of West Bengal. This library has both reading and borrowing facilities and boast of unique collections such as several periodicals and books on regional history. The library has two posts-one of librarian and one assistant. The library remains open from Monday to Friday and on 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Saturday.

#### **☉ Bansberia Library**

Established in the year, 1891 under the auspices of the Bansberia Students' Association of which Raja Kshitindra Deb Rai Mahasaya was the secretary. It is situated at Bansberia, Hooghly. This library has both reading and borrowing facilities and boast of unique collections such as rare books and rare journals. The library remains open from Tuesday to Saturday. A considerable number of non-members use the library everyday to read newspapers.

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#### **☉ Joynagar Uttarpara Bandhab Library**

Joynagar Uttarpara Bandhab Library is located at Joynagar, South 24 Pargana. The collection of books on literature, religion, travelogue, popular science and general knowledge. The library also has a separate children's section, most of which are in Bengali.

#### **☉ Hemchandra Pathagar**

Hemchandra Pathagar, located at Khidirpur, Kolkata- 23. Financial Sources of this library is ad-hoc grant from the Government of West Bengal. This library has both reading and borrowing facilities and boast of unique collections such as several periodicals and rare books. The library remains open from Monday to Friday. Working hours are from 5 P.M. to 7 P.M.

#### **☉ Bankim Bhaban Gabeshana Kendra**

Located at Naihati in north 24 Parganas. Among the unique collections of the library are rare books and old journals. Among the unique collections of this library are rare books and journals. This library has both reading and borrowing facilities.

#### **☉ Behala Town Library**

Library is presently situated at Behala, Kolkata- 34. Financial sources of this library is ad-hoc grant from the Government of West Bengal. This library has both reading and borrowing facilities and boast of unique collections such as several periodicals and books on regional history. The library has two posts-one of librarian and one assistant. The library remains open from Monday to Friday and on 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Saturday.

#### **☉ Chandannagar Pustakagar, Chandannagar**

Established in 1873 in the French colony of Chandernagore about 40 kilometres north-west of Calcutta, the library now has about 20,000 books and journals with some unique titles. The condition of the books is better than in most other libraries. A printed catalogue of books and journals in English and Bengali in 10 volumes is available.

#### **☉ Mohiari Public Library**

Established in the year 1886, Mohiari Public Library is presently situated at Andul – Mouri, Howrah – 711302. Financial sources of this library are the Trust property and ad-hoc grant from the Government of West Bengal. This library has both reading and borrowing facilities and boasts of unique collections such as several periodicals and books on regional history and caste. Present collection strength of the library stands at around 22, 700 (books and periodicals included).

#### **☉ Mudialy Library**

Mudialy Library was established in the year 1876. The library was initially located at Fatehpur with the initiative of people like Nagendra Nath Mitra, Rasik Pal, Harischandra Pal, and Sarat Chandra Bandyopadhyay. It shifted to the present location in Mudialy in 1929 and today the collection strength of the library stands at around 30 thousand. Among the unique collections of this library are some rare journals like 'Shanibarar Chithi', 'Bangadarshan', and 'Prabasi'. Shri Satya Sau is the present secretary of the library committee and Shri Swapan Kumar Ghosh is the president.

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### ☉ Bally Sadharan Granthagar

Located at 383 G.T. Road, Bali, Howrah – 711201, Bally Sadharan Granthagar was established in the year 1885. It is a closed access library. The library remains open from Monday to Friday and 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Saturdays. Working hours are 1 pm to 8 pm and there are both reading and borrowing facilities. Among the unique collections of the library are several manuscripts, rare books and old journals.

### ☉ Barisha Town Public Library

Barisha Town Public Library, located on K.K. Chowdhury road, Kolkata 8. This library was established in the year 1904, and houses a collection of around 24,000 books, including about 3000 English titles. The library also subscribes to 9 Bengali and 2 English current periodicals, and 6 Bengali and 4 English daily newspapers. The collection comprises of books on literature, philosophy, religion, travel, popular science and general knowledge. The library also has a separate children's section with 2,700 books, most of which are in Bengali. The library hours are between 2 PM to 9 PM daily, except on 2nd and 4th Saturdays and Sundays. On an average, 55 adult members and 5 to 6 child members use the library daily. A considerable number of non-members (around 40) use the library everyday to read newspapers.

### ☉ Rajpur Sadharan Palli Granthagar

Rajpur Sadharan Palli Granthagar was established in the year 1877 and is located on the Rajpur-Sonarapur Road. The library remains open from 12:00 noon to 7 pm. There are both reading and borrowing facilities. Among the unique collections of this library are several issues of Bangashree, Udbodhan, Manasi, Sasthya Sambad and Bichitra.

### ☉ Madarat Bandhab Pathagar

It was primarily owing to the enterprise of Sri Debendranath Mishra that Madarat Bandhab Pathagar was established in the year 1913 at Mukherjee Para, Madarat, Baruipur. The library shifted to its present location at Madarat, 24 Parganas (South) after the famous Nandi family donated space for it. The library got Government sponsorship in the year 1962, though the present two-storey building as well as its maintenance depends on the local people's voluntary sponsorship to a great extent. There was an ad-hoc Zilla Parishad Grant of Rs.1 lakh and a grant from the MP-LAD in 2009. The library remains open from 2 pm to 8 pm (Monday to Friday, and 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> Saturdays). Total book strength of the library (as on June 1, 2009) is 13, 372. Apart from these, there are also several journals but no accession has yet been prepared for them. The library has a 12-Member committee headed by Sri Anil Kumar Das (President) and Sri Basudeb Das (Secretary). Present librarian is Sri Partha Pratim Sarkar. The library follows manual card cataloguing system.

### ☉ Belgharia Pearymohan Town Library

Belgharia Pearymohan library is located at Belgharia, Kolkata-57. Among the unique collections of this library are some rare journals like 'Bangadarshan', 'Bharati', 'Bharatbarsha'. This library has both reading and borrowing facilities.

### ☉ Harinavi Pragati Sangha Palli Granthagar

Established in 1938, Harinavi Palli Granthagar today is known by the name Harinavi Pragati Sangha Palli Granthagar and is located near Harinavi Mini Bus-stand, in the same compound that also houses the region's Post office. The library has two posts – one of librarian and one assistant – sanctioned and financed by the Government. Apart from that, the library has its own

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Managing Committee. The present committee has Sri Rabindranath Mitra and Sri Saroj Biswas respectively as the President and Secretary. The present Librarian is Sri Debasis Maiti and Sri Panchu Gopal Modak works as Assistant to the Librarian. Some of the illustrious names of Harinavi and nearby regions to have remained attached with this library are Sri Anil Kumar Ghosh, Sri Bilap Chakraborty, Sri Rathin Sarkar, Sri Illias Ali Molla and Sri Kalicharan Bose. Among the unique collections of this library are several years' minutes, sets of question papers, calendars, regulations, etc. of the University of Calcutta; books in English dealing in Indian Philosophy; communist literature; text books for Adult Education of early 19<sup>th</sup> century India; and so on. However, dilapidated condition of the two-storey library building and lack of funding are posing serious threat to the valuable collection of the Library.

### ☉ Assam Sahitya Sabha

The Assam Sahitya Sabha was founded in 1917 in Jorhat, an upper district of Assam to promote the culture of Assam and Assamese literature. Presently it has five branches all over Assam. The central office is at Jorhat, the last capital of Assom dynasty and a city of historical importance. Assam Sahitya Sabha, Jorhat has a collection of more than 20,000 books, largely unattended and most of the Assamese language books disappeared from the library over decades.

### ☉ Department of Historical and Antiquarian Studies, Assam, Guwahati (DHAS)

The department was established in 1919 as a statutory body of Government of India's "Historical Records Commission" of 1919. DHAS is located in Pan Bazar, Guwahati, in Assam. DHAS houses several rare documents including some Sanclipat and tulpat and other invaluable items collected from different parts of the State since 1919. It also has a rare collection of old newspaper.

### ☉ Rammohan Library

Located at Raja Rammohan Ray Sarani, Kolkata 70009 and established as a public institution in 1902. One of the oldest and leading public libraries in Eastern India. The library remains open from 12:00 noon to 7 P.M. There are both reading and borrowing facilities.