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ABSTRACT

Although numerous outstanding research collections as well as able professional librarians exist in South and West Asia, many people find Asian libraries difficult to use. Often researchers need specialized data which is hard for them to locate in the limited time available. This paper's purpose is to provide practical suggestions for scholars about overcoming the difficulties of using Asian libraries. It is intended to assist researchers in all fields, including those working on dissertations, and is written to help them change a frustrating and disappointing year into one more rewarding. These remarks are applicable for those parts of Asia which the author has visited: India, Pakistan, eleven more moslem, one Hebrew and one Christian country extending West to the U.A.R. and North to Turkey--and for those researchers whose material location problems are similar to the Asian reference problems with which the author has already dealt. (LI 004244 through 004262 and LI 004264 through 004267 are related.) (Author/NH)

LOCATING WEST AND SOUTH ASIAN RESEARCH MATERIAL

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Although numerous outstanding research collections as well as able professional librarians exist in South and West Asia, many people find Asian libraries difficult to use. Often researchers need specialized data which is hard for them to locate in the limited time available. This paper's purpose is to provide practical suggestions for scholars about overcoming the difficulties of using Asian libraries. It is intended to assist researchers in all fields, including those working on dissertations, and is written to help them change a frustrating and disappointing year into one more rewarding. These remarks are applicable for those parts of Asia which I have visited: India, Pakistan, eleven more moslem, one Hebrew and one Christian country extending West to the U.A.R. and North to Turkey-- and for those researchers whose material location problems are similar to the Asian reference problems with which I have already dealt.

Home Country Research Preparation.--In any project, the first major step is to work out with detail and clarity just what the researcher seeks to accomplish or to prove. Without a clear idea of the project's goal, the researcher will neither be able necessarily to recognize useful material nor to restudy it later. And eventually, he may find the goal impossible to reach. In such a situation the librarian's problems in locating useful material and guiding the researcher are increased.

LI 004 263

Of course, clarifying the goals of certain projects may prove impossible until the researcher has searched through the data to see what is there, so to speak, or until he has gained considerable familiarity with it. So, "a fishing expedition," as some researchers call it, may be a necessary preliminary to a clearcut problem statement. Such a survey may be made to help the researcher decide whether or not the data collection will support a dissertation. If it will, then he must choose the subject section easiest or most fruitful to research and concentrate on it. To avoid suggesting a lack of proper supervision, serious purpose, or subject focus, the "fishing expedition" should occur before the researcher writes his proposal or has it approved. On the other hand, before committing very much time and money to the project, the researcher must obtain approval from his dissertation committee, financial sponsor, or publisher. Not to do so would be foolish.

Some governments require their permission to live in the country, carry on research, or have a car there. Usually, this permission can be obtained from the Ministry of Culture or of Education. Certain governments are particularly concerned about having foreigners work among minority groups, tribes, or peasants. Obtaining these

permissions may be very difficult or at least very time-consuming and negotiations for them should be started in the researcher's home country. Help in obtaining such permits is available from any local embassy, the foreign study centres in such cities as Hyderabad, Damascus, Beirut, Delhi, Cairo, and Tehran, the Fulbright Commission and similar organizations.

Amherst, Istanbul,

Several other tasks ^{should} must be carried out before leaving the home country and starting data collection abroad. First is learning to speak and read fluently the language of the people to be met and the material to be used. Normally, such a project must be started several years before leaving the home university. Second, ability to use a library is a basic skill which every scholar must learn, usually from a reference librarian. Since few researchers are facile and resourceful library users, they must attempt to learn this skill before going abroad, where self sufficiency is necessary.

Finally, before leaving the home country, the researcher must exhaust its library facilities on his topic. There is no reason to travel to Asia for information which can be located at home. His own may be the last well organized, service-minded and comfortable library seen for several years, so its resources must be used to the fullest. It is important to search the relevant literature thoroughly before starting to work on the projects raw data. The topic's background can be researched, the context in which the events occurred and perhaps ^{20"} their more recent history, also. The researcher must engage the extended attention of a competent American or European reference librarian to show him little known special collections and indexes. Published and unpublished American, European, and local university dissertation and government document lists can be checked, as well as literature surveys assessing research progress. ¹⁰⁰ Other campuses may contain useful information, also. It is very difficult to locate absolutely all the material on any topic and a search on several campuses is recommended. Hopefully, this will enable the researcher to complete part of the project before leaving home.

Certainly the best place to do Asian research is in the United States or perhaps Europe where a surprising amount of useful Asian material now rests. Much of the best research on Asian countries has been carried out by foreigners, published abroad, and is not easily available in the country where the data was gathered. Many Asian dissertations are merely translations or summaries of existing literature. In other cases, Asian research material is available in London or Washington which

is not available here because foreign librarians are more aggressive collectors than Asians are. If you have not heard of the American Book Procurement Centers abroad and the Farmington Plan, you might be surprised at the Asian material pouring into American libraries these days. For instance, the Library of Congress has a good collection of recent Pakistan serials, the London University Institute of Oriental and African Studies a good collection on Iranian archeology, the Bibliotheque National a large Arabic collection, Harvard University a Turkish literature collection, etc., etc.

The researcher must spend some time with an American or European University Middle East or South Asian Bibliographer. Several dozen universities have such a person, a man with library and bibliographic education, probably a humanities or history background, ability to read certain of the area's languages, experienced in dealing with its literature and possessing a considerable interest in it. Often, he is the ideal librarian to see at home and is accustomed to helping researchers in his interest area. Such a bibliographer will have made buying trips to Asian countries and will know where to locate research material. If the material needed is not now on the campus, perhaps he can buy it for you. Probably he can provide the names of people whom the researcher should see at home or abroad and can guide him to useful libraries and publishers. If such a staff member is not available on your campus, then visit a nearby campus which does have one.

Several universities have departmental libraries for these geographic areas, also, such as the Near East Library of Durham University and the South Asian Library of the University of Pennsylvania. Many of them are strong in recent monographs, less thorough in covering recent serials, and weak in government documents, theses, and local research reports.

Modern

Locating Reference Librarians and Services.-- After he has exhausted the resources and facilities in his own country and has established himself abroad, the researcher is ready to start work in an Asian book collection. And this is the point at which he should seek out a skilled Asian reference librarian and beg for his assistance. Probably the ideal guide to collection use is either a skilled reference librarian or a capable scholar who has used it before, or both. Such a librarian should have worked closely with the literature of the subject field, should know thoroughly its

leading local book collections, should have acquired at least an elementary understanding of the subject field itself, and should have the time and energy required to search for useful material. In the appropriate library, the well trained reference librarian may produce one or more book trucks full of material on the topic with the pages of special interest marked.

Normally, the skilled and specialized reference librarian has a more comprehensive knowledge of subject area literature than does the researcher. The librarian has handled much more material in the subject field as a whole than has the researcher. For instance, the librarian may know several economic abstract journals while the researcher knows only the one he is accustomed to use. The professor who has specialized in nineteenth century Indian economic history can hardly be expected to know the current literature of Indian cotton industry finance as well as the skilled reference librarian who has seen and handled literature from the entire Indian economic field for several years. However, most skilled reference librarians will not know the subject field itself as well as the researcher does. Also, the smaller the topic within the general subject area, the greater the chance that the researcher knows more than the librarian about its literature.

Few first class reference librarians are available in Western countries and even fewer are available in Asian countries, however, since very few of them have the appropriate subject education. So, locating one may require a long search. Many Asian librarians will be quite useful when their service philosophies are fully developed. In the meantime, their interests still center around collection organization rather than user service.

Also, the researcher must try to identify the local libraries likely to be most useful. Sometimes this is quite clear, as for the graduate student of 19th century Iranian parliamentary affairs, for whom the Majlis Library was a daytime home. In other cases, many libraries, offices, and individuals must be seen before all possible information sources are exhausted.

Depending on the nature of the project, sometimes the researcher should be urged to begin in a well organized general library, such as a central university, USIS or British Council Library. Such a library will present the disadvantage of possessing very few materials of primary or even of secondary value, but, on the other hand, for placing the study in its theoretical or historical context, for keeping current with a few pertinent serials or for getting initial advice about local institutions,

such a well organized library has its uses. It is likely to have the best known reference books in the field, relatively good reference service, and material easy to locate on open shelves. The services of the American Cultural Officer or the British Council Representative can be useful, also. He can provide introductions to local professors in the researcher's field and help with residence permits and advice.

One of the functions of a skilled reference librarian is to direct the researcher to other organizations possessing helpful material or advice. The librarian should provide a comprehensive list of them and a prediction of the type of information likely to be available at each one. Such a list could include foreign libraries, ministries, departments, government libraries, local and foreign consulting agencies, local cultural institutes and foundations, university professors and libraries, churches, and statistical centers. Also, the researcher may wish to visit factories, labor leaders, youth leaders, foreign researchers, farmers, and politicians to collect interview data. The librarian should provide letters or at least make telephone calls introducing the researcher to these organizations. He should be able to provide tape recorder and transcription service to record these interviews, also.

The service just described is called referral service and forms an important part of the modern reference function. It is a particular characteristic of libraries which lack notable collections of their own, but possess a knowledgeable and helpful reference librarian. The national scientific documentation centers are well known for providing this service, usually thru catalogs of other libraries' holdings. Referral service can consist either of obtaining material or photocopies from other collections or of sending the researcher there himself.

Referral service should be supplemented by several other modern services. Interpreter and transportation service are two of them. The library should be able to send the researcher to visit a government office, for instance, equipped with an interpreter and a car. He needs the interpreter because he does not speak the local language and the car because he does not know how to locate the government office.

Also, the library should be capable of providing the researcher with translation service, or at the very least, with a national who can read important papers to him. Translation is difficult to provide well, since it requires a high competence level in three areas, the source language, the target language, and the subject field.

Generally, the last of these three skill areas is the most difficult to locate. However, in any large Asian city it should be possible to locate adequate translators, either thru a research library, a commercial translation agency, or a foreign embassy.

Two other types of service exist which can be useful to the researcher seeking specific book or serial titles. The Tehran Book Processing Centre has started the Iranian National Union Catalog which lists the books held by Iranian research libraries. The Union Catalog contains a card for each book and covers twelve Iranian and fifteen foreign research libraries with strong Iranian collections. After a book is located it can be obtained on inter-library loan. The data on the cards is being key punched and stored on magnetic tape in the Plan Organization Computer Centre. From the computer printout Tebroc will publish a quarterly periodical Union Catalog which will be available for subscription to any library in the world. *A copy of the only national union catalog in West Asia.* ~~The Egyptian National Library houses such a national union catalog on cards, also.~~

The second of these two services is similar, the Union List of Serials, perhaps best demonstrated by Indian examples. The Indian National Scientific Documentation Centre, Insdoc, is compiling a union list of the exact serial holdings of specific libraries in each Indian province. They are key punching this data and eventually will combine the lists into a master catalog to be sold to other libraries. Iran, the United Arab Republic, Pakistan, Turkey and Israel are compiling such lists or have published them already.

A few centers provide selective dissemination of information service. This, too, is a continuing service but one providing ~~very personal~~ assistance custom-tailored to each researcher's needs. A profile is made of the researcher's project interests and a list of subject headings compiled to represent them. Then, the newly arriving library material is checked each day for papers, pamphlets and books to which can be assigned these same subject headings. If any material fits his interest profile, it is listed and abstracted. The resulting bibliography is sent to him weekly for the duration of his project. He can request photocopies of those papers which seem most promising and thereby keep up with the subject literature.

Another valuable literature service is the state-of-the-art-study, but it is available in Asia only by special arrangement. In this service a literature searcher thoroughly familiar with both the subject matter and the literature of a small subject field is asked to write an extensive review paper critically evaluating the field's status. He will isolate those hypotheses already proven and ~~also~~ those yet to be

established and then write a paper which describes the literature and its value. Obviously, such a document in your own field would be extremely valuable, but also difficult and expensive to produce. Very few of them exist in these countries, but each national documentation center is preparing itself to give service at this level.

Supplementing the reference services described above, the researcher must be alert to the many Asian bibliographic and scholarly publication services available. The Iranian Documentation Centre publishes a monthly scanning or express service which places on the desk of each subscriber the tables of contents of leading Iranian science and social science journals. This enables him to keep current with local serial publications in his field. If he wishes to see a specific paper, he can request a photocopy of it from Irandoc.

Also, on a quarterly basis, Irandoc will place beside the contents pages bulletin on the researcher's desk an indexed alerting service containing abstracts of the more significant Iranian science and social science journal papers published recently. This bulletin enables interested researchers around the world to keep up with Iran.

Alerting services are available in India, Pakistan, Israel, Turkey, Iran and the U.A.R. Scanning services are available in Iran and Israel only. Their subject fields are limited to science and technology, except for Iran's coverage of social science. Of course, there are also hundreds of European and American alerting and scanning services as well as bibliographies covering journals published abroad. To mention just a small sampling, the reader should be familiar with the German Orient Institute in Hamburg and its Mitteilungen bibliographies on contemporary Asian affairs, The Farmington Plan News-Letter published by the Association of Research Libraries in Washington, the Unesco Bulletin of Documentation, Terminology, and Bibliography, and the Middle East Studies Association Bulletin.

A final bibliographic example is the Iran-Afghanistan literature project now being planned by ^{Kenneth} Alan Luther at the University of Michigan Middle East Center. It seeks to publish regularly a comprehensive index to current Iranian and Afghan humanities and social science publications. As soon as funding becomes available Luther will continue on a regular basis the pilot study begun in 1968.

There are many other bibliographic projects covering specific subjects and countries in this area. A very few libraries, such as the Indian Center for World Affairs Library in Delhi and the Palestine Liberation Organization Library in Beirut make

extensive and useful card indexes to newspaper clippings, serial articles, and pamphlets. However, most of the special bibliographic tools are available for the sciences only. Of all these services, some are provided free while others carry a modest fee. The documentation centers and foreign libraries in each country are best prepared to provide them.

Library Use Techniques.-- In using the typical Asian library, certain approaches will prove more rewarding than others. At home, the researcher may expect to create no problems by walking in "cold" and searching the card catalog for material under subject headings suggested by his own experience. While the card catalog search, assuming the Asian library has a card catalog, must be conducted eventually, certainly it is not the best way to approach the library initially. Instead, from as high-ranking an official as possible, preferably at least a university dean, a professor, or else an American studies center director, the researcher should obtain a letter of introduction to the chief librarian by name in the national language. Further, if possible, that person himself should take the researcher to the library and introduce him to the chief librarian. Upon arrival, they will sit down, have tea and a polite conversation. Eventually the talk will drift around to the piece of research being undertaken and certain arrangements will be agreed on for the researcher. ~~If this certain arrangements will be agreed on for the researcher~~ If this library contains much useful material, then early in his association with it, the researcher should present to the chief librarian a copy of one of his previous books or else a leaf from a Persian manuscript, or a small Persian rug for his office, or some other appropriate gift. If he is there for any length of time, on the occasion of his birthday or Christmas Day, or almost any other pretext, he will wish to circulate to the entire staff a large and expensive box of ~~foreign~~ candy, or pastry or something similar. In other words, his success in winning staff regard may have considerable bearing on their helpfulness.

When planning a weekly work schedule, each organization's hours of opening must be considered. In most West and South Asian countries, work begins about eight o'clock in the morning, extends to about one in the afternoon, then in the winter at least, may start again about four or five and last until seven or eight in the evening. Part or all of the researcher's afternoon hours must be spent somewhere else. However, in India and the UAR the morning starting time is one or two hours later. The work week totals five to ten hours a day for six days a week. Also, during certain weeks of the year the organization will be closed entirely, such as the New Years holidays and the late summer vacation period.

When conducting a literature search, a dictating machine is a useful device. With such a machine and the capable secretary who must accompany it, a search can be done in a fourth the time otherwise required. Probably, such secretaries are readily available at small cost in India and Pakistan and can be located in other Asian countries, also. They can learn to transcribe the machine tapes easily. The traditional method of literature searching is to make summary notes on cards or sheets, even to quote verbatim from the research material. However, notes can be dictated much faster than they can be written and typed cards are much more legible than handwritten cards a year later.

As a generalization, most research libraries have a staff member who can speak English or French and several who can read these languages. Also, most libraries have telephones, reading rooms, and some have a public rest room.

Often the book shelves will be closed if in a stack unit or else locked if located around reading room walls. So, normally, one of the first favors needed is that of being able to use the stacks directly, to browse in them. If the researcher can use the material directly, then he can search it more quickly and locate more useful pieces than he ever will by working thru a card catalog. Further, if he can secure a stack table with good light, where material may be left safely overnight, then he will have recreated the stack carrel so useful at home.

The researcher should explore every library room for material. The entire book collection must be given a careful survey. While he will be told that his subject is located in one room or one library only, exploration may lead to discovery of another pile of relevant material elsewhere in the same library or on the same campus. Subject classification ideas are not necessarily identical in Asia and in America, and Asian librarians do not necessarily value subject concentration of material anyhow.

When he believes a collection to contain useful material but cannot obtain permission to search it himself, as with Professor Ramazani at the Iranian Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1969, then he must go higher in the organization's hierarchy to obtain the needed permission. When the staff fails to locate a piece of material thought to be in the collection, ask them to trace it carefully in the various parts of the processing room, the sections of the charge file, on staff members and other researchers' desks, in the shelf list, on reserve, on a display rack, in the bindery, on a book truck, or almost anywhere else. If they still cannot locate it, try again a

week later. If they are still unsuccessful, then search these places yourself.

An unavailable library book can always be requested on inter-library loan from another library. However, many Asian libraries offer neither interlibrary loan, photocopy, nor microfilm service. Generally, faculty libraries on the same campus will not loan books to each other or to each other's students. So, the researcher must go to the book or else get the book to a photocopy machine at the USIS or British Council or another library offering such service. Material from other countries can be obtained in photocopy or microfilm form by the nearest documentation center or modern library.

Getting back to the card catalog, certain libraries will contain no such tool. Even when a card catalog exists, it may not necessarily bear any close relationship to the material on the shelves. In a fifty year old Asian library, for instance, the card catalog may never have been edited, and a third of the material may be lost or else not yet cataloged. In such a situation, and assuming the shelf list to be unreliable also, the researcher should try the library's accession record listing material in the order received, though the description given there will be very brief. Of course, some collections lack even an accession record, so he must go thru them systematically and directly, book by book. Incidentally, and for good reasons, in certain Asian libraries the public catalog is not located in the reading room, but in the processing room, or behind the charging desk, or in the librarian's office, or in his library apartment, or else in the ladies rest room.

Understanding Library Service Problems.-- There are many limitations on the activities of most South and West Asian libraries, and some of them have already been indicated. Certain academic and public libraries will have separate reading rooms for women, e.g., the Dacca University Library. ^{Some} Few microfilm readers are available, ^{but} almost no microfiche or microcard readers, and few typewriters are available to researchers, even fewer if we eliminate nineteenth century models. Until very recently, for instance, the Iranian National Library's only typewriter was a dustcovered antique. So, researchers should bring their own typewriters. Very few libraries ^{will} have audio-visual equipment.

Most Asian libraries have quite small collections, and in some cases, useful material may be there but hard to locate. Book collections are likely to be more useful to the historian than to the scientist, because they are never weeded, their historical material is much more interesting to local scholars than current and practical

material, and only a little new material can be added each year. Usually these collections are strong in duplicate copies of older editions of college textbooks and weak in other types of material. In many Asian countries, few people can understand the advanced publications in any field, so they are not purchased. The library may have a fair collection of local material but probably a poorer sampling of foreign titles even though the latter may outnumber the former and be of higher quality. Few libraries have anything approaching complete collections of local material because learning about newly published material and obtaining copies of it are difficult. Furthermore, use is small, so pressure to obtain material is slight. And besides, there is little money and even less foreign currency with which to purchase. Even allowing for the cost of living difference, the per student budgets of most Asian academic libraries are well below those in the U.K. and the U.S.A.

Generally, serial collections are small, runs are very short, material recent and full of gaps. Probably, the publisher does not have copies of the older volumes, either. Except in the United Arab Republic and Iran, government documents are not indexed or even collected conscientiously. Nor do the government agencies issuing them necessarily keep a copy, either. Most Asian countries have no indexes to local periodical material or to published books, and most of the existing indexes and bibliographies are neither current nor complete. India has useful periodical indexes, but they are incomplete and poorly known. For India, Nepal, Ceylon, Pakistan, Israel, East Africa and the UAR, the most complete and current national book and serial bibliographies are published by the U.S. Library of Congress Branches there. While India, Iran, the United Arab Republic and Turkey publish national book bibliographies, none is complete and only Turkey's is published less than two years after the books are published.

Many Asian libraries have subject focus problems. For example, the Isfahan University medical library in Iran has also a fiction collection. This has happened when the library has attempted to become completely self-sufficient and when nothing has been weeded out. To find more pharmacy books in the medical than in the pharmacy library should not be surprising. Nor to find an expensive and little used title in three campus libraries while many other useful titles cannot be afforded. Pahlavi University in Shiraz, Iran, provides in example of the latter with Chemical Abstracts (\$2000 per copy per year). In Asia, there are always logical reasons for such situations.

campus since certain courses are duplicated in these faculties. For instance, at the University of Tehran, the Faculties of Pharmacy, Dentistry, Agriculture, Science, Technology and Medicine teach chemistry. Hence, their chemistry book collections can be expected to overlap considerably.

University central libraries are not necessarily larger or stronger than individual faculty libraries, or even central to anything in particular. At Alexandria University, for instance, the Central Library is surely the least well organized and one of the smaller campus collections. Some libraries do not circulate books. Others will require the researcher to become a member before he can become a user. To do this, he ^{may need to} must make a deposit equal to the value of the one or two books which can be checked out a one time. Reading rooms are not necessarily well heated or cooled in the appropriate season and stack areas even less so. Often the physical appearance, cleanliness, and orderliness of these libraries are far below Western standards. The book collection will need dusting, so the researcher should wear old clothes since he will surely get them dirty. He may need to bring along his own dust cloth, also.

With the librarian who is not service-minded, obtaining any ^{service factory} level of service may be difficult. Unskilled library assistants should be avoided and more skilled ones located. Trying out several staff members is advisable. Patience and repetition of the question with different wordings over a period of weeks may be necessary. Being rather insistant may bring results, too.

Other Information Sources .-- The researcher should ask many people for help in locating information, especially persons who have compiled original data on the topic, researchers who have studied it previously, and professors who teach it. Often, a conference with a foreign consultant who has studied a situation can be very useful. He should know the location of pertinent data and its reliability. When little printed information exists, then extensive interviewing will be necessary.

It should be realized that several types of data collections existing in Western countries do not yet exist here because no one has assembled them. For instance, retail sales totals city by city and product by product constitute confidential information which ^{suspicious} Asians will not reveal. This makes it very difficult to collect. In other cases, the information can be collected but no one has seen a need to do so.

Government agencies can supply three types of information to social researchers: printed government documents on the subject of concern, unprinted data recently collected, and unprinted opinions, plans, and facts known by a specific staff member. Much social data can be obtained from a government agency's statistical section or the government census bureau, both in published and unpublished form. Certain studies can be carried out almost entirely in such offices. Printed documents may be obtained from the office compiling the data, from the ministry information or publication office. In other cases, copies may be available only from the independent consulting company which wrote it. In any case, probably the document will be obtainable free but not without a government official's letter requesting a copy. It may even be available in English, so locating the supply of copies may be more difficult than reading it. Once obtained, however, another problem is its reliability. Cross checking the data of several reports may simply be discouraging, but ideally should permit comparisons leading to more accurate estimates of the true figures.

Usually, several government offices must be visited in each of several ministries, so careful attention to their working hours and locations is desirable. One young American student of Iranian cotton industry economics visited the Ministry of Economy Statistics Department, its Cotton Section, its library, the Faculty of Agriculture Library and several professors there, the Ministry of Agriculture's Cotton Center, its Library, its Cotton Crop Office, and its Cotton Sales Office, an agricultural cooperative called Omran, the Census Bureau, and three processing factories, in addition to the Iranian Documentation Centre.

Private libraries should not be ignored. Certain local scholars will have collected books because university and ministry libraries are unsatisfactory. These collections may consist of locally published books, or of diaries, photographs, and manuscripts relating to a particular person, tribe, city, historical era, or social movement, or of material published abroad, or in still other cases, of a mixture. Of course, the researcher in this geographical area should not expect to locate many people or large amounts of material hostile to the central government, except perhaps in India. Sometimes, the researcher can locate the publications of an author by asking him directly or those of a deceased individual by asking his family for copies.

Useful Research Libraries.-- A number of South and West Asian research libraries deserve to be mentioned in this paper. They have been singled out for superior reference service and sizeable collections. Of course, many more useful libraries exist in these countries but lack of space and limited travel have shortened the

In India, very good reference assistance can be expected in several libraries. In the social sciences generally, the new National Documentation Center in the Social Sciences, N.M. Ketkar, Director, part of the Indian Council of Social Science Research, will be increasingly helpful as a referral center to other collections, but now it possesses no books and few staff members. At Sapru House Center for World Affairs, in Delhi, Girja Kamar and his staff can provide expert reference service, particularly relating to India. The Delhi USIS Reference Librarian, Miss Hera Kapasi, is very capable and eager to be helpful. Within the limited book collection with which she works, you can depend on her. Also in New Delhi, Insdoc is prepared to locate science material all over India, or the world for that matter, and should be the first stop for anyone researching the sciences. Delhi University has many good collections, but the School of Economics Library is particularly noted for service.

Bombay University has the largest book collection in Bombay, although the Asiatic Society and Petit Libraries can be useful to many researchers, also. All three libraries have 100000 or more volumes, large for Asia. T.N. Marshall is head of the University Library and Shri Daboo of the Petit Library. Bombay's best service may be given in the American Library Centre, W.P. Ganapathy, Librarian, the Thackersey Women's University, Miss Vidyut Khandwala, Director, and the Tata Institute of Fundamental Scientific Research, S.N. Havanor, Librarian. All three of these libraries have very western service approaches.

In Karachi, the Pakistan National Scientific Documentation Center provides the most modern service in the sciences. Pansdoc has branches in Dacca and Lahore, and ^{its} the director is A.R. Mohajir. The Karachi University Library, A. Moid, Director, has a useful reference staff and a good approach to service. The Punjab University Library in Lahore and the Dacca University Library in Dacca have capable reference librarians serving large collections. A special library must be mentioned here, also, the State Bank in Karachi which has a serviceminded librarian, Seyd Riauddin, and a large collection.

In Iran, modern service can be obtained at the national science and social science documentation centre, Irandoc. This center will secure material from abroad if it cannot locate the material in Iran. Scholars working in the humanities are well advised to take their literature problems to Iraj Afshar of the University of Tehran Central Library. Computerized engineering reference service is available at the National Iranian Oil Company. *The best medical reference service is found at Pahlavi University in Shiraz.*

In Beirut, the fine reference service of the American University Library must be mentioned first, both the service in Jaffet Library and in the medical, engineering and agricultural branches. However, in certain special fields, these libraries will direct you to other useful collections, e.g., the French Institute of Archeology and St. Joseph's University's Oriental Library. In Damascus, certain researchers will find the French Institute for Arabic Study useful, and others will wish to know the specialized faculty collections of the University of Damascus.

Cairo has many service-minded special and university libraries. The National Library under Dr. E. Sheniti has Egypt's largest book collection and largest professional staff. NIDOC, the National Information and Documentation Centre under Dr. S. Kabesh is worth consulting for its 50000 science volumes and its service orientation. Useful archeology collections and helpful reference staff members can be found at the French and German Institutes of Archeological Research. The Dominican Institute of Oriental Studies has a useful philosophy and religion collection, Father Anawaty, Librarian. The Arab League Library provides good service for its social science collection, and the Unesco-sponsored Ministry of Education Documentation Centre has produced many useful Arab world bibliographic and statistical collections. The Institute for National Planning, Mr. A. Eli, Director, has a useful statistical collection and strong interest in service, also.

In Tel-Aviv, the national Center for Scientific and Technical Information gives American style referral service. The Hebrew University Library in Jerusalem and its branches, especially in medicine, law and agriculture, contain some of the area's largest collections and most capable reference librarians. In addition, many other Israeli science and technology libraries give good service.

Turdoc, the Turkish documentation centre in the Pansdoc and Insdoc tradition, is preparing to give good service in scientific fields. In the meantime, it has started publishing its Key to Turkish Science, an abstract bulletin series. Also in Ankara, the Middle East Technical University Library has a hard-working reference department. In Nicosia, the Cyprus Museum provides good service for its archeological collection in an attractive setting.

Finally, and in conclusion, several West and South Asian capital cities, Delhi, Cairo, Beirut, Tehran and Karachi, contain well organized United Nations document

collections which can be helpful to social scientists seeking research material.

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