

The Digital South Asia Library

The Digital South Asia Library (DSAL) is developing an Internet-based infrastructure for electronic document delivery between North American and selected South Asian libraries. The project is indexing journals and creating finding aids and other reference materials to improve access to scholarly resources, first in English, Tamil, and Urdu. Direct delivery of scanned articles will allow scholars to consult these rare publications without traveling to the South Asian subcontinent. Indexing and scanning are currently taking place in partner libraries in Madras and Hyderabad, India.

The AAU/ARL Global Resources Program provided initial funding for the DSAL. The project recently received additional funding of \$540,000 for three years from the U.S. Department of Education's Section 606 program.

Project activities include:

- electronic indexing of 38,000 articles in Tamil journals, 38,000 articles in Urdu journals, and 4,750 English-language journal articles—all from the nineteenth and twentieth centuries;
- creating electronic full-text versions of three classic nineteenth-century South Asia reference books printed in roman characters;
- creating electronic full-text versions of five titles selected from the Official Publications of India;
- providing global access to the project's new electronic resources via the Web; and
- furnishing online information about contemporary and historical South Asia, including full-text documents, statistics, digital images, maps, and pedagogical resources for language instruction, all funded by the U.S. Department of Education.

In the future, the project will expand to include a library in Nepal.

Building on earlier support from the Global Resources Program, the University of Chicago, Columbia University, and the Triangle South Asia Consortium in North Carolina (Tri-SAC) received an additional grant from the U.S. Department of Education for a three-year project to create and disseminate electronic dictionaries. At least one multilingual dictionary will be selected for each of the 26 modern literary languages of South Asia. The dictionaries will be digitized and made available to readers by means of a searchable website, file transfer protocol, or compact disc.

Additionally, the University of Chicago, Columbia University, and the Center for Research Libraries have agreed to incorporate a tax-exempt overseas center for South Asian libraries. This center will facilitate scholarly research on South Asia in all academic disciplines through improved preservation of and access to the manuscript, print, and electronic heritage of India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, and Sri Lanka.

Lead institutions in the Digital South Asia Library are the University of Chicago Library, Columbia University Libraries, and the Center for Research Libraries, in partnership with the Roja Muthiah Research Library (Madras) and the Sundarayya Vignana Kendram (Hyderabad). Other participating libraries are the members of the South Asia Microform Project (SAMP), and—a subset of SAMP members—the members of the Urdu Research Library Consortium (indicated with an asterisk below).

Project participants:

University of British Columbia
University of California–Berkeley*
University of California–Los Angeles

University of Chicago*
University of Colorado
Columbia University*
Cornell University
Duke University
Florida State University
Harvard University*
University of Hawaii
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
University of Iowa
Kansas State University
Library of Congress
University of Michigan*
University of Minnesota*
University of Missouri
New York Public Library
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
North Carolina State University
Ohio State University
University of Pennsylvania*
Syracuse University
University of Texas at Austin*
University of Toronto
University of Virginia
University of Washington*
University of Wisconsin*

For more information about the DSAL, see <http://www.lib.uchicago.edu/e/su/southasia/dsal.html>, or contact:

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