

NATIONAL
LIBRARY
OF
BANGLADESH
Retrospect and Prospect

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NURUN NAHAR

NATIONAL LIBRARY
OF BANGLADESH

RETROSPECT AND PROSPECT



Nurun Nahar



BANGLA ACADEMY
DHAKA

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Dedicated to my
Beloved Children
Nafis, Niaz
and
Nasmin
who are living abroad

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FOREWORD

According to Natalia Tyulina, an Expert on National Libraries (Encyclopaedia of Library and Information Science, 1976. Marcel Dekker, New York-P107) "A Library is called a National one when it is the official depository of printed works, a general access Library, an information-bibliographic centre and a centre of co-ordination, planning and stimulation of the entire Library system of the nation".

Everywhere a National Library serves as a cultural bridge with the rest of world. It has the responsibility of bringing out the National Bibliography of that country's publications. This makes it assume the role of the highest centre for the whole Library system of a country. National Library as the depository of all publications has a comprehensive collection of them since they are listed in the Bibliography.

National Library of each and every country is the principal means for the development, improvement and planning of Library and information services.

Dr. Nahar has reviewed the economic, academic, research, intellectual and cultural environment of Bangladesh for the assessment of the existing state of other Library resources and services in the country. She investigated the origin, concept and function of the different National Libraries of the world to prepare a model plan for the organisational structure and functions of the National Library of Bangladesh.

The author has described nicely the National Information System (NATIS) and the role of National Library in the National and International information system. She gives a highly analytical and valuable review of the International

seminars and final reports of the experts on the planning for National Library Services. Dr. Nahar examines all these in a unique way and gives comprehensive scholarly account, thoughts and ideas about the new model plan and its educational research value in National Library development of Bangladesh in the context of other National Libraries of the world.

The book contains many untold and highly useful data and information for those who are interested in Library services, bibliographical control and planning of Library systems in a new state such as Bangladesh.

Bangla Academy is at the forefront of research publications in Bangladesh. Although it has volumes of such works to its credit in areas of pure science, arts etc., Library Science had so far been an unexplored terrain. The publication of Dr. Nahar's pioneering book will go a long way in filling the existing void in the related field.

Academic exercise of the kind undertaken by Dr. Nahar will be a valuable reference for Library professionals and researchers at home and abroad.

M. Harunur Rashid
Director General,
Bangla Academy, Dhaka

PREFACE

Frequent intervention and increased role expansion of the Library Movements in the whole world have introduced a new question in Library Systems in many Third World countries such as Bangladesh.

This study traces the origin, social background, functions and developments in library systems in the developed and developing countries and suggests different opinions, action plans, model plans for a well organised National Library. National Library is a store house of Cultural heritage of a country. The present age is often called the age of 'knowledge explosion', because an enormous increase in the output of knowledge was witnessed during the past three decades.

The present study is a sequel to my Ph. D. thesis at the University of Kerala, Trivandrum, India during March, 1982 to March, 1985. I am very much indebted to Professor K.A. Isaac, Head of the Department of Library and Information Science, University of Kerala, Trivandrum for the interest he showed in my research work and the valuable advice, support and encouragement he gave me. I am immensely grateful to Mr. C.A. Augustine, Reader in the Department and Mrs. Lalita Bai, Lecturer for their academic advice and hospitality.

I am also thankful to Dr. A.V. Varghese, former Vice-Chancellor, Mr. P.S. Habib Mohammed, Vice-Chancellor, Dr. N.A. Karim, Pro. Vice-Chancellor, Mr. C.K. Devassy, former Registrar, Prof. S.K. Rajagopal, Registrar, Mr. K.C. John, University Librarian and his colleagues for their administrative assistance. I am grateful to Late Mr. K.M. Karnanpilly, Honorary Representative of Indian Council of Cultural Relationship, Trivandrum for his paternal care and affection throughout my study in Trivandrum.

I am most grateful to the Ministry of Education, Delhi, Govt. of India for granting me post-graduate Scholarship to undertake this study. I also express my sincere thanks and gratitude to the Govt. of Bangladesh for giving me facilities to pursue this work. I am

grateful to the Heads of different National Libraries, other professionals and individuals for their prompt response to my questionnaire which greatly facilitated my study.

I am very much indebted to Dr. K.M. Karim, the then Director, Directorate of Archives and Libraries, Govt. of Bangladesh for providing me access to the relevant important papers, particularly the official records of the National Library and Archives.

I also extend my thanks to Mr. Abu Bakr Siddique, Librarian, Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology and Late Mr. A.S.S.M. Khorassani, the then Asstt. Director, Bangladesh Public Library for rendering valuable advice.

I would also like to thank my colleagues, the professionals and the educationists of Bangladesh who took pains in replying to my questionnaires and for showing great patience during personal interviews.

This study would not have been possible without the loving support and understanding of my husband Prof. N. Rahman and two sons Nafis, Niaz and only daughter Nasmin who stood by me like pillars of support and inspiration since the beginning of my study.

The study meant my staying away from my family for a long period of time. I cannot express my gratitude adequately to all those who helped in reducing my sense of loneliness and in boosting up my morale during this period. I am particularly grateful to Mrs. Chechamma Isaac for the regard and affection she has always shown me.

Finally I extend my thanks to Professor M. Harunur Rashid, Director General of Bangla Academy and Mr. Shamsuzzaman Khan, Director of Bangla Academy for their care and assistance in the publication of the book from Bangla Academy.

I owe definitely a great deal to all these intellectuals but the opinion expressed in this book are mine alone.

Above all, I thank Almighty Allah for his blessings and for bestowing on me courage and confidence which enabled me to complete this research-work in time.

Nurun Nahar

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Historical background

1.1.1 International

The Third International Congress of Libraries and Documentation Centres held in Brussels in 1955, emphasised the need for each country developing and maintaining a central library, generally a national library, as an institution capable of preserving for the future the whole of the country's literary output and of ensuring that bibliographical work proceeds on uniform lines¹. The Regional Seminar on the Development of National Libraries in Asia and the Pacific Area, held in Manila, Philippines, in 1964, under the sponsorship of UNESCO also stressed the need for the establishment of a national library in each member state where one did not exist, at the earliest possible time².

There has been an unprecedented proliferation of literature in each branch of knowledge in almost all countries of the world since the second World War and this posed the serious problem of their control and accessibility. The UNESCO, in co-operation with the International Federation for Documentations (FID), the International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA) and the International Council on Archives (ICA) initiated steps to ensure the universal availability of world literature through projects like Universal Bibliographic Control (UBC), National Information Systems (NATIS) and Universal Availability of Publications (UAP). The establishment of a national library in each country which can exercise effective bibliographic control of indigenous literature and provide access to literature held by the libraries in the country with the help of a National Union Catalogue was considered a necessary step for the realisation of these objectives. Bangladesh, like other countries, has been influenced by these recommendations and guidelines.

1.1.2 National

Independent of these international developments, the need for a National Library found patronage within the country in no less a forceful manner. Bangladesh existed as East Pakistan (a part of Pakistan) between August 14, 1947, the date of independence of Pakistan and March 26, 1971, the date of creation of Bangladesh. During this period and later, professional and public opinion expressed itself on several occasions through the mass media and professional forums like Seminars, Conferences etc. for the establishment of a national library.

Prior to December 16, 1971, when Bangladesh did not have its independent identity, there was a move for the establishment of a national library in West Pakistan and of a Central Library in East Pakistan as a subordinate unit.

1.1.2.1 Pakistan Library Association

At the Fourth Annual Conference of the Pakistan Library Association held at Lahore from December 26-29, 1961, Dr. Mahamud Husain, Vice Chancellor of the Dhaka University and President of Pakistan Library Association in his presidential address observed :

"It is indeed regrettable that we have yet not been able to possess a national library and the National Bibliography. In the Peshwar Conference of this Association held in the year 1959, the then Education Minister referred to a scheme of a national library in Pakistan, but to this date nothing worth noting seems to have been done at the government level to materialise this"³.

The same concern was expressed by Dr. Mahamud Husain at the Fifth Annual Conference of PLA held at Dhaka from January 5-8, 1963 in the following words :

"On the national level, the plans for the national library do not appear to have advanced much further since I last addressed the Lahore Conference of the Pakistan Library Association in 1961. If an auxiliary national library is not created for East Pakistan other measures must be adopted"⁴.

This situation of stalemate seems to have continued and Dr. Mahamud Husain as President of PLA, again referred to this in a tone

of despair in his presidential address at the Eighth Annual Conference of PLA held at Karachi from January 22-24, 1971, which was the last conference to be held in United Pakistan. To quote him again :

"The national library which should have been the fountain of the library system of the country is still in the stage of extremely slow development. In fact we do not have a national library as of today since the Liaquat National Library (now Liaquat Memorial Library at Karachi) is no longer a national library and two national libraries at Islamabad and Dhaka are yet to be built up"⁵.

1.1.2.2 Professional Journals and News papers

The need for a national library also found advocacy in the form of articles in the professional journals and editorials in the daily news papers.

1.1.2.3 Education Commission

The Government of Bangladesh, soon after the birth of Bangladesh in 1971, appointed an Education Commission to make recommendations for the development of education in the country on sound lines. The Report of this commission published in 1974 contains observations and recommendations relating to the establishment of a national library. The English version of these observations and recommendations contained in Chapter 30 of the report is given below.

'National Library

30.45: The National library should be the greatest research centre of the country and a cultural bridge between this country and the world outside. It must be invested with the right to receive free copies of the publications under the copyright Act. It must be charged with compilation and publication of the National Bibliography and with the duty of publication of bibliographies in different branches of knowledge. It will therefore require legislation and will have to be built up as an autonomous body. Incidentally we also recommend that the three Government Public Libraries at Divisional Head Quarters will also have to be given copyright privilege.

30.46 : The present Central Public Library may be converted into the proposed National Library. The National Library

branch of the present Directorate of Archives and Libraries should merge in the National Library.

- 30.47 : The first step towards the establishment of the National Library should be the creation of the post of the Chief Librarian thereof, filling the post and entrusting him with organisation work"⁶

1.1.2.4 Seminar on Libraries in National Development

Following the founding of Bangladesh the East Pakistan Library Association was renamed as Library Association of Bangladesh. A Seminar on "Libraries in National Development" was held under the auspices of the Library Association from July 22-25, 1976. Two papers viz. (1) National Library — Its role in national development by Ahmad Husain and (2) National Library for Bangladesh, by Dr. A.M. Abdul Huq were presented at the seminar. The seminar supporting the views expressed in the Report of the Education Commission, 1975, adopted the following resolution:

"Highest priority should be accorded, as recommended by the Commission, to the conversion of the Bangladesh Central Public Library (loosely termed in some instances as Bangladesh Central Library) into the National Library of Bangladesh which will minimise much cost, both capital and establishment, and eliminate wastage of time. Bangladesh has suffered tremendously due to the absence of a national library in-so-far as, for instance, no comprehensive collection on the nation's history specially its struggle for independence is available at one place, nor has a representative collection on a world basis available to the public has grown.

Immediate creation of the following posts of the National Library with the status indicated against them and filling the posts is necessary so that incumbents may begin work including planning of expansion, legislation etc.

Post	Number	Rank, status
Director General	One	Additional Secretary to the Government
Director (in charge of four basic division)	Four	Dputy Secretary to the Government" ⁷

1.2 Birth of the National Library

Thanks to the overwhelming opinion in favour of a national library prevailing at the time of the birth of the Peoples' Republic of Bangladesh as a Sovereign Independent State in December 1971, there was an atmosphere that was conducive to the Government taking steps for the establishment of a national library. This it did, as per declaration vide Gazette Notifications No. LB/IL-13/75/386 dated 29-8-1975. LB/KL-13/75/387 dated 29-8-1975 and LB/IL-13/75/546 dated 8-11-1975⁸, establishing the national library and empowering the Directorate of Archives and Libraries to serve the dual purposes of (i) the National Library and (ii) the National Archives. Both were installed on rented premises.

The National Library under the Directorate of Archives and Libraries is functioning as the Bangladesh National Library from 1972 after the emergence of Bangladesh in a hired house. The National Library shifted its materials to its own new building at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Agargaon at the end of 1985. The total space of the New National Library Building is 105,000 square feet, with a stack block of seven stories; the East, West and South blocks are three stories high. The total cost of the building is 792.30 lakhs.

Under the copyright (Amendment Act 1974/LIV of 1974), all the Publishers, departments, institutions (Govt. and private) of Bangladesh are depositing their publications to the National Library of Bangladesh.

Organization:

The National Library branch has the following sections; such as, Acquisition, Processing, Reference, Reading Room, stocks, compilation of Bibliography, other Documentary works, Book exchange, Exhibition, Library Training and Administration.

Acquisition :

The National Library of Bangladesh started its acquisition role from zero. It has acquired about 90,000 books, 2000 bound volumes of newspapers and periodicals, 600 maps and nearly 5000 titles of local newspapers and periodicals are coming to the library.

The sources of its acquisition are as follows: (a) Copyright Act, (b) Purchase, (c) Donation and (f) Exchange. The Library collections currently divided into the following sections :

(a) Books in mother languages; (b) Books in other languages other than mother languages; (c) Science and Technology; (d) Newspaper and periodicals in other languages other than mother languages; (e) Newspapers and periodicals in Bangali language; (f) Special collections, such as maps, private collections; (g) Liberation struggle records and oriental manuscripts.

Functions and Objectives :

The present functions of the National Library are: to collect, disseminate and preserve all kinds of books, Govt. Publications, serials etc. published in Bangladesh; to compile and publish Bangladesh National Bibliography. It has compiled and published National Bibliographies from 1972 to 1979. Bibliographies for 1980 to 1982 are in print and Bibliographies for 1983 to 1985 (Combined) are being compiled. From 1986 it has set to work for monthly bibliographical list. It is compiling and publishing the article index of daily national Bengali and English newspapers regularly. It has compiled, edited and published the Directory of publishers (1972-1985) and the Directory of Bangladesh Public Libraries. Other planned documentation works are also in progress.

The National Library of Bangladesh has the following objectives such as, it should be the premier library of the nation playing the key role of leadership in over all library and information system of Bangladesh; it must be the medium for all cooperative and coordinating efforts in the library and information science field and so on.

In short the National Library of Bangladesh wants to be the channel for the nation to discharge its library obligations and responsibilities both to the citizens of the country and the international community. It also wants to play a pivotal role in social education and to be an indispensable one in modern information oriented society.

The National Library of Bangladesh is a member of the IFLA (International Federation of Library Association).

1.3 Present Study

It is in this context that the present study has been undertaken with the following objectives:

(1) to review the economic, academic, research, intellectual and cultural environment of Bangladesh;

(2) to assess the existing state of other library resources and services in the country;

(3) to study and investigate the concept and functions of national libraries in the world as revealed by the current literature available;

(4) to trace the origin and development of national libraries of the developed and developing countries;

(5) to investigate the present set up of Bangladesh National Library under the Directorate of Archives and Libraries;

(6) to prepare a model plan for the organisational structure and functions of the National Library of Bangladesh in the context of the current concept of the National Library and its services taking into account the views expressed by library professionals and scholars both at home and abroad and by the general public as ascertained through questionnaires and personal interviews;

(7) to determine priorities for the implementation of the different functions of the National Library;

(8) to prepare an action plan for implementation of Bangladesh National Library Project.

1.4 Procedure

The author elicited the views of different sections of people like educationists, research workers, Heads of National libraries and other library professionals on the desirable organisational pattern and the functions of the national library and their priority, through personal interviews and questionnaires circulated both at home and abroad. The personal interviews were naturally confined to Bangladesh and a few cities in India including Calcutta, where the National Library of India is located. The responses were satisfactory and helpful.

To study the historical background of the National Library and the library resources and services in Bangladesh the author perused all the available literature, data books, government documents and official files and met the officials of the Ministry of Education, Cultural Division and Director, Directorate of Archives and Libraries, Government of Bangladesh.

On the basis of the opinions collected on the functions of the national library and their priority the author has attempted to suggest a

model plan of the organisational and functional structure for the Bangladesh National Library taking into account the modern trends of information storage and retrieval.

1.5 Methodology

1.5.1. Historical Method

Although this is not essentially a historical study, the historical method was used in part to trace the earlier library movement and the efforts for the establishment of a national library during the British and Pakistani rule.

A comprehensive bibliography listing books and articles on the national libraries of different developed and developing countries was prepared with the help of secondary sources like "Library Literature" and "Library and Information Science Abstracts" and items to which access could be gained were perused. The bibliography is given at the end of the thesis.

The citation of references is generally in accordance with the rules laid down by the Indian Standards Institution.

The general concepts, functions and bibliographical and documentation services of national libraries are neither the same nor detailed enough to serve as guidelines for the establishment of a new functional national library.

Literature such as Encyclopaedia of librarianship, Encyclopaedia of Library and Information Science, Ranganathan's Library Development Plan, Librarian's Glossary, available Government documents and files etc. gave some relevant ideas. The investigator also examined relevant literature in the National Library of India, Calcutta, DRTC Library and other institutional Libraries in Bangalore, University Library of Mysore and the Kerala University Library, Trivandrum.

1.5.2 Personal contacts and interviews

The investigator interviewed several library professionals and others, associated with libraries and potential users of the National Library in Bangladesh and ascertained their views regarding the desirable organisational structure, functions and services of the National Library of Bangladesh. Among those contacted in this connection were the Librarian, Deputy Librarians and other senior

officers of the National Library of India, Calcutta and other senior professionals in India.

1.5.3 Questionnaire Method

Three questionnaires were prepared, one for eliciting the views of the Heads of National Libraries, University Librarians, Heads of Library Schools etc. in India and abroad. A chart showing the organisational structure and functions of the proposed National Library was prepared and comments on the same were invited (See Appendix A I).

Another questionnaire to elicit the views of professionals, planners, educationists etc. of Bangladesh was also prepared regarding the functions of National Library. (See Appendix A II).

A third questionnaire regarding the priorities to be observed in the National Library taking up the functions was also prepared (Appendix A III). The details as per this questionnaire were collected through personal interviews.

1.5.4 Examination of Files and Records

The investigator collected information from the files and records relevant to this study available in the offices of the Ministry of Education and Culture, Directorate of Archives and Libraries, Directorate of Public Instruction, Higher Secondary Education Board, Library Association and the major libraries of Dhaka.

The author has also drawn on her own experience of working in the National Library of Bangladesh.

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CHAPTER 2

BANGLADESH : BASIC DATA

2.1 Brief History

When the British Rule came to an end in 1947 in the Sub-continent of India, the eastern part of the province of Bengal became one of the five provinces making up the new Islamic state of Pakistan. Pakistan consisted of two wings, East and West. East Pakistan, as the new province was known, was separated from the four other provinces in West Pakistan by one thousand miles of Indian territory as well as by differences of culture, race and language which led to increasing friction between the two wings of Pakistan¹

East Pakistan which now constitutes Bangladesh was oppressed and suppressed by West Pakistan politically, economically and administratively. There was a clear imbalance between the two in the matter of their development with East Pakistan lagging far behind. This caused wide-spread resentment and discontent and led to a popular movement for autonomy for East Pakistan. Matters came to a head in 1971 when Pakistan tried to suppress the movement by army intervention. This led to the war of liberation resulting in the founding of Bangladesh as a sovereign independent state in 16 December 1971.

2.2 Economy

Bangladesh is one of the poorest and most densely populated countries in the world. Although very fertile and largely dependent on agriculture, its high population places extreme demands on available food resources. Almost all the indicators of the level of living point to a very low standard for the majority of its population. Industry is of much less importance to the national economy than agriculture, and is based mainly on indigenous raw materials. Natural gas from Sylhet is used as an industrial energy source, particularly for the manufacture of fertilisers. The per capita income is one of the lowest having been below \$ 156 in 1980 and \$ 166 in 1981.²

2.3 Geographical factors

Bangladesh lies in the north eastern part of the South Asian Sub-continent. It is between 20°34' and 26°38' north Latitude, 88°01' and 92°41' east Longitude.³ The country is bounded by India on the West and North; India and Burma on the East, and the Bay of Bengal on the South.

In Bangladesh, there are three main seasons. These are, Winter, Summer and Monsoon. The Winter covers four months from November to February. The Summer covers four months from March to June. The Monsoon covers four months i.e. July to October.

The climate is tropical. On the whole, the climate is moderate. It is neither too cold nor too hot.

The temperature varies from 40°F in winter to 100°F in Summer, and with high humidity during the Monsoon. Average rainfall during the Monsoon varies from 47 inches to 136 inches⁴ and the country is periodically subjected to the ravages of several cyclonic storms sweeping overland from the Bay of Bengal.

2.4 Area

Riverain area	.....	3,521 sq. miles
Forest area	.....	7,920 "
Urban area	.....	2,505 "
Rural area	.....	41,652 "
Total	.....	55,598 " ⁵

2.5 Principal Crops

Bangladesh is mainly an agricultural country. Almost 90 per cent of the people live in the villages. Their main occupation is cultivation. The main crops are Rice, Wheat, Jute, Tea, Tobacco, Sugarcane, Pulses, Oilseeds, Spices, Potatoes, Vegetables, Banana, Mango, Coconut and Jackfruit.

2.6 Population

The first population census of Bangladesh was undertaken in 1872 when it was a part of British India. The 2nd was in 1881; and thereafter it was taken about every 10 years. After the birth of Bangladesh the first census of the country was due in 1971 but was delayed due to the war of liberation. It was done in 1974. In thirty years from the beginning of the twentieth century, the population of Bangladesh increased by about 7 million, from 28.9 million in 1901 to 35.6 million in 1931. (See Table 1).

Table 1
Enumerated population of Bangladesh and growth rates, 1901-1981

Census Year		Population	Variation		Growth rates (Exponential)	
			Number	Percent		
1901	March	1	2,89,27,785	-	-	-
1911	March	10	3,15,55,056	26,27,270	9.08	0.94
1921	March	18	3,32,54,096	16,99,040	5.38	0.60
1931	Feb.	26	3,56,04,170	23,50,074	7.07	0.74
1941	March	1	4,19,97,297	63,93,127	17.96	1.70
1951	March	1	4,41,65,740 (4,20,62,610)	21,68,443	5.16	0.50
1961	Feb.	1	5,52,22,663 (5,08,40,235)	1,10,56,923	25.04	2.26
1974	March	1	7,63,98,000 (7,14,79,071)	2,11,75,337	38.35	2.48
1981	March	5	8,99,12,000 (8,71,20,119)	1,35,14,000	17.69	2.32

Source : Bangladesh Population, Census Report, 1981.

Again in 13 years between 1961 and 1974, more than 20 million people were added. In 1981 the growth rate of the population of Bangladesh was estimated as 2.32 per cent per annum.

a) Population and labour force participation rate

The population census in 1974 conducted under several constraints, revealed a population estimate of 76.4 million which is estimated to have increased to 90.25 million in 1979-80. Table 2 gives the projection of population and labour force according to the Second Five Year Plan.

Table 2
Population and labour force 1979-80

(in millions)									
Population					Labour Force				
	Male	Female	Total	%	Male	Female	Total	Participation rate	Unemployment rate %
Rural	40.76	39.10	79.86	88.49	22.57	2.39	24.96	31.2	N.A.
Urban	5.77	4.62	10.39	11.51	3.28	0.19	3.47	33.4	N.A.
Total	46.53	43.72	90.25	100.00	25.85	2.58	28.43	31.5	11.1

Source : Second Five Year Plan 1980-35.

N.A. — Not available

The labour force in 1974 was lower than that according to the 1961 census. The drop is partly due to rigorous definition of labour force adopted in the 1974 census which resulted in substantial decline in the women's participation rate. However, this is an under-estimate and in fact female participation is not as low as the census reveals.

b) Distribution of population, density and literacy rate by region

So far as the density of population in different districts is concerned, there is a wide range - from 100 per square mile in Chittagong Hill Tracts to 2,643 in Dhaka⁶. There are six districts out of 19 (Chittagong Hill Tracts, Sylhet, Khulna, Patuakhali, Dinajpur and Rajshahi) whose share of the total country area is more than that of the rest but whose share of population is less with a consequent lower density of population (See Table 4). There are also considerable variations in the rates of literacy between different districts. The range is 14.77 (Pabna) to 27.21 (Khulna).

As regards age distribution of the population, nearly half the total population of the country is in the age-group 0-14 years (See Table 3). This proportion is roughly similar for both males and females.

Table 3
Age distribution of Bangladesh population 1974

Age-groups	Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)
Under 5 years	16.9	16.2	17.6
5 - 9 ..	18.4	17.8	18.9
10 - 14 ..	12.4	13.5	12.2
15 - 19 ..	8.3	8.5	8.0
20 - 24 ..	6.9	8.5	7.3
25 - 29 ..	6.8	6.3	7.3
30 - 34 ..	5.7	5.5	5.9
35 - 39 ..	5.3	5.5	5.2
40 - 44 ..	4.6	4.7	4.4
45 - 49 ..	3.5	3.7	3.2
50 - 54 ..	3.3	3.5	3.2
55 - 59 ..	1.0	1.2	0.9
60 - 64 ..	2.4	2.5	2.2
65 - 69 ..	1.0	1.2	0.9
70 - 74 ..	1.2	1.3	1.1
75 + ..	1.1	1.3	1.0

Source : Bangladesh Population Census Report, 1974

Table 4
Distribution of population, area, density and literacy rate in Bangladesh, 1974

Districts	Population			% of country total			Density (per sq. mile)	Literate		Literacy rate (%)	
	Male ('000)	Female ('000)	Total ('000)	total	area (sq. mile)	% of total area		Male ('000)	Female ('000)		Total ('000)
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Chittagong	2,309	2,007	4,315	6.04	2,786	5.01	1,549	757	261	1,036	24.00
Chittagong-Hill Tracts	272	236	508	0.71	5,089	9.15	100	66	18	83	16.39
Comilla	3,012	2,807	5,819	8.14	2,592	4.66	2,245	857	344	1,202	20.65
Noakhali	1,658	1,576	3,234	4.52	2,033	3.66	1,591	511	206	717	21.16
Sylhet	2,458	2,301	4,759	5.66	4,783	8.60	995	622	239	862	18.10
Dhaka	4,066	3,546	7,612	10.65	2,880	5.18	2,643	134	582	1,916	25.17
Faridpur	2,087	1,973	4,060	5.68	2,669	4.80	1,521	523	206	729	17.96
Mymensingh	3,911	3,656	7,567	10.59	5,064	9.11	1,494	780	339	1,119	14.79
Tangail	1,070	1,008	2,078	2.91	1,309	2.35	1,587	249	99	348	16.75
Bakergonj	2,022	1,907	3,928	5.50	2,792	5.02	1,407	683	379	1,062	27.04
Jessore	1,711	1,616	3,327	4.65	2,584	4.65	1,287	496	205	700	21.05
Khulna	1,854	1,703	3,557	4.98	4,630	8.33	768	667	301	968	27.21
Kushia	971	913	1,884	2.64	1,342	2.41	1,404	201	90	291	15.45
Patuakhali	763	736	1,499	2.10	1,675	3.01	895	252	119	372	24.80
Bogra	1,137	1,094	2,231	3.12	1,501	2.70	1,486	325	136	460	20.64
Dinajpur	1,334	1,236	2,571	3.60	2,609	4.69	985	404	122	527	20.50
Pabna	1,453	1,362	2,815	3.94	1,906	3.43	1,477	294	121	416	14.77
Rajshahi	2,176	2,093	4,268	5.97	3,653	6.57	1,168	552	223	775	18.15
Rangpur	2,810	2,637	5,447	7.62	3,701	6.66	1,472	630	207	837	15.37

Source : Bangladesh Population Census Report, 1974

Note : Population Col. 1-3 refers to population of ages, Literate population given in Col. 8-10 refers to people over 5 years.

Table 5
Distribution of Economically active population
by sex and Major occupation groups

Year	Sex	Major Occupations		
		Total	Agriculture	Non-agriculture
				(Number in thousand)
	Both Sex	17442	15000	2442
1961	Male	14801	12577	2224
	Female	2641	2423	218
	Both Sex	20521	15838	4683
1974	Male	9850	15229	4421
	Female	871	609	262
	Both Sex	23618	14472	1946
1981	Male	22430	14139	8291
	Female	1188	333	855
			Percent	
	Both Sex	100.0	86.0	14.0
1961	Male	100.0	85.0	15.0
	Female	100.0	91.8	8.2
	Both Sex	100.0	61.3	38.7
1981	Male	100.0	63.0	37.0
	Female	100.0	28.0	72.0

* 1961 (Corrected)- 1974 Census volume. p 40.

Table 6
Percentage Distribution of Employed Persons By Sex
And Major Occupation, 1980

	Bangladesh		Urban		Rural	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Professional and technical	2.23	2.44	9.8	4.5	1.7	2.1
Administration and managerial	0.25	-	1.6	-	0.1	-
Clerical	1.76	1.52	8.8	7.7	1.0	0.5
Sales	5.50	4.23	21.2	5.8	3.8	2.9
Service	3.66	19.55	15.2	74.4	2.5	11.6
Agriculture	74.03	47.61	10.8	4.5	80.5	54.7
Manufacturing, Transport and others	12.55	24.64	32.6	3.2	10.4	28.2
Total	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.0	100.0

Source : Manpower Survey, BHS, 1980.

Table 7
Percentage Distribution of Employed Persons
By Sex And Employment Status, 1980

Employment Status	Bangladesh		Urban		Rural	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Agri-self employed	25.4	9.6	3.9	1.0	27.7	11.1
Agri-labour	26.5	26.5	4.9	3.5	28.8	30.3
Non-agri. self employed	9.8	4.0	27.9	2.6	7.9	4.2
Non-agri. labour	14.0	6.0	53.6	26.9	9.8	2.6
Unpaid family helper	19.5	26.4	7.3	4.5	20.8	30.0
Domestic servant	4.7	27.4	2.4	61.5	5.0	21.8
Total	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

Source : Manpower Survey, BBS, 1980.



Table 8
Population Distribution By Districts in Census Years 1911-1981

	1911	1921	1931	1941	1951	1961	1974	1981
Bangladesh	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Bandarban	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.20
Chittagong Hill Tracts	0.49	0.52	0.60	0.59	0.69	0.75	0.71	0.67
Chittagong	4.78	4.84	5.05	5.13	5.51	5.87	6.04	6.30
Comilla	7.78	8.11	8.58	9.19	9.04	8.63	8.14	7.90
Noakhali	4.19	4.43	4.79	5.28	5.42	4.69	4.52	4.38
Sylhet	7.10	6.91	6.93	6.74	7.29	6.86	6.66	6.49
Dhaka	9.28	9.54	9.69	10.05	9.71	10.02	10.65	11.50
Faridpur	6.20	6.10	6.08	6.31	6.46	6.25	5.68	5.47
Jamainpur	-	-	-	-	-	-	2.88	2.81
Mymensingh	14.36	14.56	14.42	14.36	10.87	10.88	7.70	7.54
Tangail	-	-	-	-	2.93	2.92	2.91	2.81
Barisal	8.28	8.55	8.97	9.07	6.29	6.03	5.50	5.36
Jessore	5.06	4.78	4.36	4.04	4.06	4.31	4.65	4.61
Khulna	4.37	4.43	4.57	4.63	4.95	4.82	4.98	4.97
Kushitia	2.69	2.36	2.27	2.20	2.11	2.29	2.64	2.63
Patuakhali	-	-	-	-	2.40	2.35	2.10	2.11
Bogra	3.22	3.26	3.15	3.00	3.05	3.10	3.12	3.13
Dinajpur	3.70	3.67	3.47	3.18	3.23	3.36	3.60	3.67
Pabna	4.51	4.16	4.04	4.04	3.78	3.85	3.94	3.93
Rajshahi	6.34	6.10	5.60	5.23	5.26	5.53	5.97	6.05
Rangpur	7.71	7.68	7.43	6.96	6.95	7.47	7.62	7.47

Table 9
Economically Active Population by sex and Districts

Region/District	1981		
	Both Sex	Male	Female
Bangladesh	23619	22430	1189
Bandarban	66	56	10
Chittagong H.T.	197	178	19
Chittagong	1437	1374	63
Comilla	1708	1632	76
Noakhali	871	841	30
Sylhet	1603	1494	109
Dhaka	2959	2814	145
Faridpur	1220	1182	38
Jamalpur	728	677	51
Mymensingh	1926	1779	147
Tangail	654	620	34
Barisal	1183	1139	44
Jessore	1077	1049	28
Khulna	1158	1124	34
Kushtia	628	606	22
Patuakhali	417	406	11
Bogra	758	721	37
Dinajpur	927	873	54
Pabna	928	894	34
Rajshahi	1304	1222	82
Rangpur	1870	1749	121

Source : Man-power Survey, BBS, 1980

2.7. Government and Administration

The constitution of Bangladesh provides for a unicameral Legislature which is called Jatiya Sengsad or Parliament. It consists of 300 members directly elected by adult franchise. The members of Jatiya Sangsad elect another 30 female members. As such the total number of members of the Jatiya Sangsad comes to 330. Election to the

Fifth Jatiya Sangsad was held on Feb 22, 1991. The Jatiya Sangsad elected a President and the country regained Parliamentary Democracy.

Bangladesh is governed by a parliamentary form of Government. The Prime Minister is the Chief Executive of the country. He/She is elected by the President from the majority/party Leader. He/She has a council of minister who assist him/her in the discharge of his/her duties.

The country is divided into 4 administrative divisions, each headed by a Divisional Commissioner. A division has a number of Districts, administered by a Deputy Commissioner.

Each District is divided into several thanas. A thana consists of several unions. In each union, there is an Union Parisad responsible and accountable to the local people and acts as the local government at the lowest tier. All the tiers of the local governments is administered by the representatives of the people in order to ensure people's participation in local administration and development. There are other local government institutions in the urban and rural areas. In the urban areas there are City Corporations and Municipalities headed by Mayors and Chairman.

The President is a titular head. He is elected by the members of the Parliament for 5 years. The President is the head of the state and the Prime Minister is the head of the Government. There are now 36 Ministries and 50 Divisions. On recommendation of the Prime Minister the President appoints Ministers, State Ministers and Deputy Ministers.

The permanent officer in charge of the Ministries/ Divisions is designated as Secretary who belongs to Civil Service. The administrative structure of Bangladesh is given below:

2.7.1. Administrative Structure

At the top of the Administrative structure, there is the President's Secretariat with Public Division, Personal Division, Cabinet Division, Election Commission Secretariat, Parliament Secretariat, Supreme Command Head Quarters Division, Bangladesh Public Service Commission Secretariat and Special Officers (Welfare) Division, as part of it.

There is Prime Minister's Secretariat also. The Prime Minister concurrently holds charge of the Ministry of Defence, Establishment and Cabinet Division (Postition as on. 20.09.91).

The names of the Ministries are given below:

Ministry	of	Establishment .
"	"	Defence.
"	"	Civil Aviation and Tourism.
"	"	Home Affairs.
"	"	Foreign Affairs.
"	"	Finance.
"	"	Planning.
"	"	Agriculture.
"	"	Fisheries and Live Stock.
"	"	Irrigation, Water Development and Flood Control.
"	"	Environment and Forest.
"	"	Food.
"	"	Relief.
"	"	Communication.
"	"	Posts and Tele-communication.
"	"	Shipping.
"	"	Local Govt. Rural Development and Co-operatives.
"	"	Law and Justice.
"	"	Energy and Mineral Resources.
"	"	Industry.
"	"	Jute.
"	"	Textile.
"	"	Commerce.
"	"	Education.
"	"	Cultural Affairs.
"	"	Land.
"	"	Works.
"	"	Information.
"	"	Health and Family Planning.
"	"	Social Welfare.
"	"	Labour and Manpower.
"	"	Youth and Sports.
"	"	Religions Affairs.
"	"	Womens Affairs.

Some of the Ministries are divided into Divisions and some of the Divisions into Departments. Usually a Division is headed by a Secretary and sometimes by a Joint Secretary or Additional Secretary.

The National Library of Bangladesh is a part of the Directorate of Archives and Libraries which falls under the Ministry of Cultural Affairs.

2.7.2. Secretariat

The Secretariat is the centre of all activities of the Government of Bangladesh. It is here that all administrative policies are conceived, take their final shape and are communicated to the Heads of attached departments for implementation and execution. The Secretariat is composed of all Ministries.

2.7.3 Directorate/Departments

Under each Ministry of the Secretariat there are one or more attached offices. These are not in the Secretariat proper. These are called attached offices or directorates or departments. These are usually headed by specialists. The National Library of Bangladesh is under one of the Directorates viz. The "Directorate of Archives & Libraries."

2.8 Education

Education is a pre-requisite for successful implementation of national development programme. But the progress of education is still poor. The percentage of literacy in the country is only 24⁸. However, our Government have been trying to improve the situation in the field of education. Priority has been given to education through increased allocation of resources which are to be utilized for achieving the following objectives set up by the government recently:

- i. Introduction of Universal Primary Education with particular emphasis on the development of cognitive skills.
- ii. Launching of National Mass Education Programme.
- iii. Narrowing the rural urban gap of educational facilities and providing more financial support to rural institutions and individual rural talents.
- iv. Introduction of vocational courses in secondary schools.
- v. Accelerated expansion of facilities for Women's education to reduce the educational gap between the sexes;

- vi. Introduction of selectivity in higher education;
- vii. Pronounced bias in favour of science and technology at all levels of education and introduction of professional courses at higher level.
- viii. Removal of existing imbalances at various levels of education.
- ix. Decentralization and re-organization of educational administration.
- x. Provision of adequate funds for completion of ongoing projects.⁹

In order to achieve the above objectives, the policy of decentralization has been adopted by our government. The responsibility of managing the primary schools has been vested in the local authority. Efforts are being made to locate the Local Education Authority at the Upa-zilla level as the same is the basic unit of the administration.

2.8.1 Primary Education—5 years (Grades 1-5)

Total number of primary schools rose to 44,927 in 1982-83 from 43,937 in 1981-82. Out of 44,927 schools, number of government run schools is 36,666. Comparative figures of schools and teachers and students for the years 1980-81 to 1982-83 are shown below:¹⁰

Table 10
Comparative Figure on Primary Education during the year 1980-81 to 1982-83

Year	Number of Schools	Number of Teachers	Number of Students
1980-81	43,936	1,88,234	82,36,526
1981-82	43,937	1,88,243	82,40,169
1982-83	44,927	1,76,478	86,33,824

Teacher-student ratio is found to be 1:49 during the year 1982-83.

Source : Bangladesh Economic Survey 1982-83.

Although tuition is free, primary education is yet to be made universal and compulsory, one-third of the school age children still remaining outside the schools. The major problems in this area are:

- a. Low enrolment ratio, particularly of girls which is around 36.58 per cent.
- b. Inadequate physical facilities.¹¹

2.8.2 Secondary Educations

Secondary Education consists of three phases:

(Classes VI-X)

- a. Junior Secondary (Grades 6-8)
- b. Secondary (Grades 9-10)
- c. Higher Secondary (Grades 11-12)

"Secondary education is of five years' duration followed by two years of higher secondary education. Students of the age group 11-16 years fall under this group. Though the medium of education is Bangla, English is a compulsory subject of study. At the end of class X, Secondary School Certificate examination is conducted by the four Boards of Secondary and Higher Secondary Education at Dhaka, Comilla, Jessore and Rajshahi. In 1973 the number of high schools was roughly 6,000 which increased to 8,327 in 1980. The schools which cater to the needs of the students of only Classes VI to VII are known as junior high schools. The primary function of these schools is to prepare pupils for admission into Class IX or vocational institutions. In 1975-76 there were 2,562 junior high schools."¹²

Education at the higher secondary stage is imparted in classes XI and XII of the intermediate colleges and intermediate sections of degree colleges. This stage is treated as a part of secondary education and its control is entrusted with the four Boards of Secondary Education mentioned previously. In 1978 there were 277 intermediate colleges. In the same year 315 degree colleges had intermediate sections.¹³

After passing Higher Secondary Certificate (H.S.C) examination at the end of class XII one group of students enters the general universities and the other group enters technical and professional colleges and technical universities.

Comparative figures of the number of institutions, teachers and students for the three successive years are shown in the Table 11.

Table 11
Comparative Statements of Data in Respect of Junior Secondary, Secondary and Higher Secondary Education Regarding Teachers and Students

Type	Number of Institutions			Number of Teachers			Number of Students		
	1980	1981	1982	1980	1981	1982	1980	1981	1982
	1981	1982	1983	1981	1982	1983	1981	1982	1983
Junior Secondary	2133	2269	2009	11732	15883	12314	223966	238245	223984
Secondary	6352	6691	6653	69872	82505	81527	1669092	1722171	1931257
Higher Secondary	291	266	213	3463	3155	2125	59064	53990	53857

* Data for 1982-83 provisional.

Teacher-Student ratio for secondary education is found to be 1:23

2.8.3 Enrolment in Primary and Secondary levels of Education

In the primary stage the slow growth of enrolment generally accounts for the slow progress of literacy in the country. On the basis of official statistics enrolment at the primary stage from 1947 till the independence of Bangladesh grew at a compound rate of a little over 4 per cent per annum. Enrolment between 1965-66 and 1979-80 grew at a compound rate of only 3.6 per cent per annum (See Table 12). As against this, enrolment at the secondary stage grew at a compound rate of 6.8 per cent per annum. On the basis of Planning Commission data, the projected enrolment at the primary stage in 1981 is only 63.84 per cent of the relevant age-group (6-10), the proportion of enrolment of boys and girls of the relevant age groups being 76.72 per cent and 50.53 per cent respectively.¹⁴

Table 12
Enrolment at Different Levels of Education
in Bangladesh
(Primary and Secondary Education)

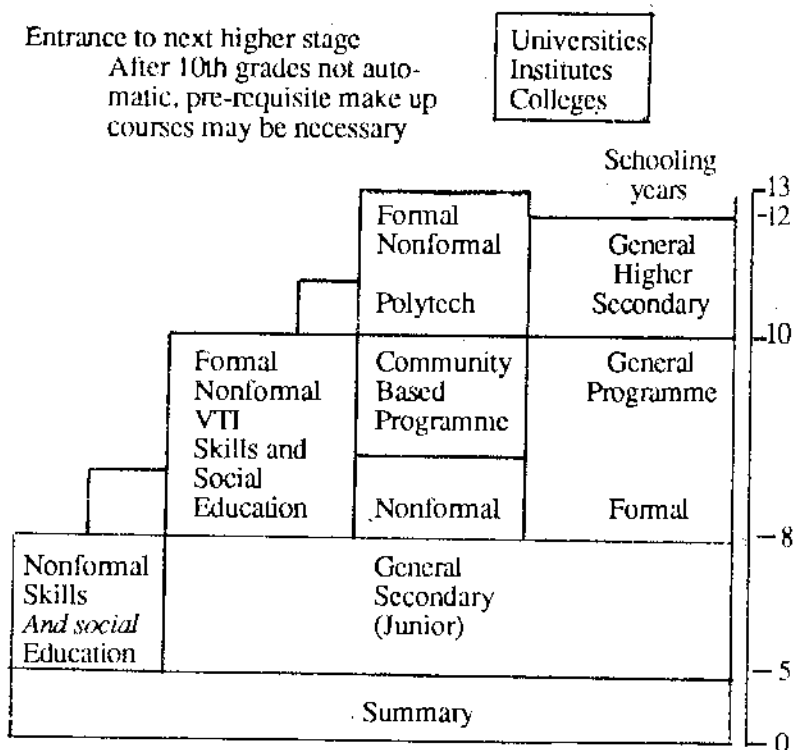
(Figures in thousand)

	1965-1966	1972-1973	1977-1978	1979-1980
Primary (Class I-V)				
Boys	2,975	4,000	—	4,760
Girls	<u>1,309</u>	<u>2,000</u>	—	<u>2,240</u>
Total	4,284	6,000	6,800	7,000
Secondary (Class VI-X)				
Boys	739	1,428	—	1,480
Girls	<u>108</u>	<u>272</u>	—	<u>420</u>
Total	847	1,700	1,943	2,000

- Source: i) For enrolments in 1965-66, "Statistical Information on Education in East Pakistan". The East Pakistan Education Week, 1970, published by DPL, Government of former East Pakistan.
- ii) For enrolments in 1973, 1978 and 1980, Planning Commission, Government of Bangladesh, Second Five Year Plan, Planning Commission estimates are significantly lower than those of the Ministry of Education, which are generally regarded as inflated at any rate for the primary stage.

Fig. I

Diagram showing the educational structure



2.8.4 Higher Education

Higher education includes education at post HSC level (after grade 12) comprising the following courses of studies:

- 2- year ordinary first degree (B.A., B. Com., B.Sc.);
- 3- year specialised degree in Arts, Science and Commerce;
- 4 and 5 year professional first degree in Engineering; Architecture, Medicine, etc.;
- Master's Degree (Duration : 1-2 years depending on prequalifications);
- M. Phil. and Ph. D degree (Duration : 2 years for M. Phil. and 3 years for Ph. D.)

The courses of higher education are offered by degree colleges, professional colleges and universities. Of the six universities four offer general courses, one offer courses in agriculture and the other offers courses in engineering and technology. A seventh university, viz. the Islamic University has been established in the neighbourhood of Dhaka. Although the universities are self governing institutions, a good percentage of their expenditure is provided by the Government as block grants.

One of the most serious problems in the field of higher education is that its expansion during the past decades has been completely unrelated to the manpower needs of the country and that its enormous growth has been possible at the expense of primary, secondary and technical sectors. Recently a feeling has grown that a university is a place to keep the young people off the labour market. Second, within the higher education system there is a serious imbalance, nearly 70 per cent of all enrolments being in the arts and humanities. Third, in spite of the high cost of university and college education the overall performance in terms of quality and output of this sector is extremely poor. The dropout and failure rates in B. Sc., B.A. and B. Com. Hons. and Pass Courses are very high. In the outlying rural colleges the failure and dropout rate in B.Sc. Hons. has been recorded as high as 87 per cent.¹⁵

2.8.5 Technical Education

Technical education is organized in three tiers—certificate, diploma and degree. While certificate courses preparing skilled workers are provided in 54 vocational training institutes 3-year diploma courses in various branches of engineering and technology are offered by 17 polytechnics and 4 monotechnics. Degree courses however are provided by 4 engineering colleges under a University of Engineering and Technology. The major deficiencies in the field of technical education are: (a) inadequate linkage of technical institutions with industries (b) lack of relevance of the curricula to the socio-economic conditions of the country (c) shortage of teachers in the engineering colleges due to brain drain at the high level of technical manpower and (d) shortage of skilled workers; the ratio between engineers technicians and skilled workers being 1:3:2 as against the international guidelines of 1:5:15

2.8.6 Teacher Education

A one year Certificate in Education for primary teachers is currently offered by 48 Primary Training Institutions (PTIs).¹⁶ The minimum qualification for admission is HSC for men and SSC for women.

For the primary teachers of secondary schools 10 Teachers Training Colleges offer the B. Ed. course (the entry requirement being a bachelor's degree) and two of them also provide a Master's course in Education. The Institute of Education and Research of the University of Dhaka offers a one-year Diploma in Education, a two-year M. Ed course (two years after bachelor's degree and one year after Diploma) and a Ph. D programme in Education.

Attracting the right kind of persons to the teaching profession has been a basic problem. Also the course of studies need to be up dated, modernised and improved. The duration of the Certificate in Education course for primary teachers has to be extended so that the quality of teachers at this level may be improved.

Table 13
Number of Students by University

University	Student 1979-80		
	Male	Female	Total
Dhaka University	10555	4021	14576
Rajshahi University	8318	1679	9997
Chittagong University	4402	868	5370
Jahangirnagar University	1060	198	1258
Engineering University	2302	81	2383
Agricultural University	2935	111	3046
Total	29572	6958	36530

Student

1980-81			1981-82		
Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
10093	3577	14570	11448	3884	15332
8470	1767	10237	9322	1942	11264
4198	876	5074	4248	985	5233
941	175	1116	1252	254	1506
2553	88	2641	2667	99	2766
3316	154	3470	3414	184	3598
30471	6637	37108	32351	7348	39699

- Source: i. Registrars of Six Universities
ii. University Grants Commission.

Table 14
Number of Teachers by University

University	Teacher 1979-80		
	Male	Female	Total
Dhaka University	714	135	849
Rajshahi University	406	19	425
Chittagong University	332	22	354
Jahangirnagar University	135	15	150
Engineering University	246	8	254
Agricultural University	347	7	354
Total	2180	206	2388

Teacher

1980-81			1981-82		
Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
670	133	803	710	135	845
435	21	456	436	21	457
336	20	356	373	22	395
138	14	152	137	18	155
254	13	67	259	15	274
358	8	66	352	6	358
2191	209	2267	217	217	2484

Source: 1. Registrars of Six Universities
2. University Grants Commission.

2.8.7 Enrolment in higher levels of education

It may be interesting to analyse the rates of growth of enrolment in higher levels of education. Table 15 provides the data.

It may be seen that the combined enrolment at the higher secondary stage and the general colleges show a compound rate of growth of 8.4 per cent per annum between 1965-66 and 1979-80

which is substantially higher than those at the primary and the secondary stages.

Enrolment in the general universities grew at a compound rate of 10.3 per cent per annum between 1965-66 and 1979-80, although if we consider a more recent period viz. 1972-73 to the first year of independence there was a phenomenal expansion of enrolment in the general universities which was sharply reduced in the following year.

Enrolment in the Engineering University grew at a compound rate of 3.3 per cent per annum during 1965-66 to 1979-80. Enrolment in the Agricultural University over the same period increased at a compound rate of 9.8 per cent per annum over the same period. The enrolment in the Medical colleges increased at a compound rate of 13 per cent per annum over the twelve years 1965-66 to 1977-1978. During the same period Polytechnics increased their enrolment at a compound rate of over 12 per cent per annum, while enrolment in college level teacher education expanded by 9.3 per cent per annum.¹⁷

Table 15
Enrolment at Different Levels of Education

	(Higher Levels of Education)			
	1965-66	1972-73	1977-78	1979-80
Higher Secondary				
General College	124,657	328,000	381,000	386,000
University				
A. General	7,853	25,227	24,930	31,061
B. Professional				
i. Engineering	1,509	1,726	1,890	2,383
ii. Agricultural	823	2,581	2,408	3,046
Technical and Professional (College Level)				
Engineering	216	1,293	2,080	
Agriculture	212	456	248	
Medical	1,920	3,304	8,137	
Teacher Education	1,130	2,223	3,268	-
Polytechnic	3,534*	9,877	13,588	

* Enrolment in Polytechnics shown under 1965-66 actually refers to 1964-65.

Source: For data relating to 1965-66 "Statistical Information of Education in East Pakistan", the East Pakistan Education Week, 1970 published by DPI Government of former East Pakistan. For data relating to 1972-73, except for universities, Planning Commission, The First Five Year Plan (1973-78), Dhaka, 1973. For data relating to Universities except 1965-66, and 1979-

2.8.8 Religious Education

Besides the general system of education, there is a traditional system known as Madrasah education which imparts religious instructions to the Muslim Students. In 1978 the number of madrasahs stood at 2,388. These madrasahs are of different types varying from Dakhil (equivalent to Matriculation) to Kamil (Master's degree). There are 142 Pali and Sanskrit institutions for imparting religious education to Hindus and other minority communities of Bangladesh.¹⁸

The stages of the Madrasah education are as follows:

- a) Ebtedayee (Primary)
- b) Dakhil (Secondary)
6 years after Ebtedayee.
- c) Alim (Higher Secondary)
2 years after Dakhil.
- d) Fazil (First Degree)
2 years after Alim.
- e) Kamil (Master Degree)
2 years after Fazil.¹⁹

A comparative study of Madrasah education with teachers and students therein for the three successive years are shown below.

80, Reports of the University Grants Commission; for 1979-80 estimates of the University Grants Commission.

For data relating to 1977-78, 1979-80 for higher secondary and general colleges, Planning Commission, Draft Second Five Year Plan, Dhaka, 1980; for technical and professional education, "Statistical Profile of Education in Bangladesh", "Bangladesh Bureau of Education Statistics of Bangladesh", Bangladesh Bureau of Education Information and Statistics, December 1979.

Table 16
Number of madrasahs (1980-81 to 1982-83)

Type of Madrasah	Number of Madrasahs		
	1980-81	1981-82	1982-83
Dakul	1426	1682	1645
Alim	477	530	508
Fazil	896	594	591
Kamil	63	58	59
Total	2562	2864	2803

Number of teachers			Number of students ('000)		
1980-81	1981-82	1982-83	1980-81	1981-82	1982-83
10797	11016	13909	131	150	253
6001	8532	5719	82	83	102
8748	8748	8001	132	136	149
1312	1312	1124	18	19	24
26858	29608	28753	363	388	528

Source : (i) Bangladesh Economic Survey
(ii) Madrasah Education Board (1981-82)

The most serious problem in this field of study is that the Madrasahs stay beyond the pole of modernising influences and there is no serious attempt to make them upto date about their academic programmes. Till now no science and technical subjects have been introduced in their courses of studies.

2.8.9 Non-formal education

Further, there are non-formal education programmes which are gaining more and more importance, especially for adults who have never had an opportunity to enter the regular school system. Literacy training (organized both by Government and voluntary organizations) and family planning courses are expanding parts of the non-formal education sector.

2.8.10 Educational finance

Subsector Development 2nd Plan

	Expenditure during 1973-80 (%)	Allocation (%)
	In crores	
Primary Education	13.30	47.49
Secondary Education	11.64	12.37
Technical Education	18.19	12.28
Universities	26.39	7.25 ²⁰

* Including mass Education

Table 17

Expenditure on Education by Types of Institution

(Taka in crores)

Type of institution	1980-81	1981-82	1982-83 (R.E)	1983-84 (B.E.)
Non-government secondary schools	35.53	36.19	43.14	43.14
Primary schools	95.02	98.64	142.00	157.00
Government special schools	6.72	6.84	9.27	11.07
Non-government special schools	12.73	14.58	17.29	17.29
Others	5.13	6.44	8.73	5.99
Total Revenue Expenditure	229.83	247.20	294.75	313.17
Development Expenditure	96.69	107.06	88.37	117.00
Grand Total	326.52	354.26	383.12	430.17
Universities	26.00	30.00	36.00	39.00
Government colleges (men)	8.92	14.79	11.44	14.60
Government colleges (women)	2.67	2.05	2.56	2.62
Total colleges	11.59	13.84	17.00	17.22
Non-government colleges (men)	8.59	8.94	10.61	10.61
Non-government colleges (women)	-	-	-	-
Total non-government colleges	8.59	8.94	10.61	10.61
Government Professional colleges	1.99	1.74	2.16	2.53
Government Secondary schools	6.30	7.20	8.55	9.32

Source: Ministry of Finance

Compiled by Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics

Table 18
Average Monthly Private Tuition Charges in
Dhaka S.M.A

Level of Education	(In Taka)				
	1971	1974	1977	1980	1983
1. Primary level					
Minimum	75	100	125	175	225
Maximum	100	125	200	250	350
2. Secondary level					
A. Class vi to viii					
Minimum	100	125	175	225	250
Maximum	200	225	300	350	400
B. Class ix and x					
Minimum	200	225	275	325	400
Maximum	300	350	400	550	650
3. Intermediate level					
Minimum	200	225	275	325	400
Maximum	300	350	450	525	600
4. Higher level					
Minimum	400	450	500	600	700
Maximum	500	550	650	750	850

Source: BBS (Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics)
SMA (Statistical Metropolitan Area)

2.9 Culture

Bangladesh has a rich cultural heritage extending over centuries. It has a rich language (Bangla) which belongs to the Indo-Aryan family of languages and is the mother tongue of nearly 150 million people in the world.²¹ Bangla is the mother tongue of Bangladeshes. There are dialectical differences from region to region.

The country also inherited a rich tradition of painting. Episodes from legends, love lore and nature's beauty find expression in terra cotta, pottery, clay models, handicraft and embroidery. Modern Bangladesh paintings found their finest expression in figurative works that drew inspiration from the soil and toiling masses. The works of various pioneers display appearance of boatmen, fishermen, peasants, tribal women, snake charmers, herds of cattle etc.

Equally varied is the tradition of music that can be broadly divided into three categories viz. classical, folk and modern.

Throughout the history of Bangladesh its architecture found expression in monasteries, temples, mosques, churches and tombs depicting distinctive styles and cultural influences.

Although one of the least developed countries, Bangladesh has a rich cultural heritage and a long history in which its indigenous institutions played a significant role. Neglected over the years, the indigenous institutions disappeared and an educational system implanted by colonial rulers took shape. Today the country is engaged in developing, consolidating and redesigning the system left by the colonial rulers. The basis for redesigning as enunciated by Dr. Abdul Majeed Khan, is as follows:

- a) developing the Bangla Language and literature with emphasis on production and publication of Bangla Text books for higher education;
- b) expansion of Public Library services throughout the country, the National Library forming the apex of the Library system.
- c) developing and promoting fine arts, and
- d) preserving national history and heritage.²²

2.10 Research

Bangladesh as a developing country of the third world has to depend on effective use of science and technology for alleviating the poverty and misery of the overwhelming population. The basic needs like food, clothing, housing, medicine, fuel, etc. ensure adequate opportunities of employment. It will also improve the standard of economic development. But it cannot be solved without the help of science and technology. So, research in every field is absolutely necessary. The research institutions of the country including Universities have their libraries and those libraries constitute the main sources of information for them. Besides, Bangladesh National Scientific and Technical Documentation Centre (BANSDOC) is playing a vital role to meet the information requirement of Scientific and Technical Researches of the country in all the fields of Science and Technology including medicine and agriculture.

"According to the latest figures available in the Unesco statistical year book, the total economically active scientific and technical

manpower of Bangladesh in 1973/74 amounted to 63,500 persons, of whom 23,500 were scientists and Engineers and the remainder were technicians. The number of Scientists and engineers engaged in full-time research and development in the natural Sciences and Engineering was 1649".²³

It is needless to emphasise that the economic, social and educational development, of the people cannot be made without proper research in Science and Technology. And research cannot be carried on without well organised libraries.

Now-a-days we find "Majority of the research works are located in the Universities which employ nearly 60 percent of all the research workers with Ph.D. qualification. Many of those employed in Universities are not engaged full-time in research but also have teaching responsibilities. Most of the research workers have access to specialized libraries dealing with their fields of research."²⁴

There are, however, several research institutions such as Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institutions, Bangladesh Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (BCSIR), Medical Research Institutions, Nuclear Research Institutions, Marine Biological Laboratory and Aquarium, Defence Science Organization, Road Research Laboratory, Housing and Building Research Centre etc.

2.11 Library Support

These research institutions have their own Libraries. But all the libraries of Bangladesh are extremely poor in respect of materials and trained manpower. The situation has been further worsened by the unprecedented increase of cost of books, periodicals etc. Most of the libraries are lacking the back volumes of periodicals which are very important to support research. And there is no immediate proposal for improvement of information system in the country. This is essential for carrying on research on the problems of basic necessities of life.

Scientific and technological information is undoubtedly an essential ingredient for the success of any programme of Scientific research and experimental development. It is a fact that economic development of any country depends on proper utilization of its natural resources through systematic research.

For doing this the researchers must utilize the existing knowledge and information available anywhere on earth in their respective fields. The quality of any research becomes substandard if there is any information gap. Every researcher must be abreast of the results of the latest investigations in his field of interest as a basis upon which to build up his concept and contribution. The researcher will have to compare his results with published information and data for proper evaluation of this work. For collecting proper information from the published sources in every country there must be a national library, because it preserves all the rare publications and also the current ones published both at home and abroad. Bangladesh is a poor country and every library cannot afford to buy all the essential foreign publications due to lack of foreign currency. The national library can play a co-ordinating role in the resource sharing programmes.

The educational, cultural and research activities which have given Bangladesh a great momentum in its development after liberation, will receive a further fillip by the establishment of a full-fledged National Library. On account of the high cost of books and periodicals the National Library must function as co-ordinator of all the libraries. In all the developing countries of the Third World where resources are meagre and scanty, there is a great need for co-ordination in overall planning process in the Information System as it will largely eliminate overlapping of functions and duplication of efforts in their documents. So in the case of a newly emerged third world developing country like Bangladesh the National Library should be the co-ordinating, centre of public, special and educational libraries. Close co-operation and co-ordination will eliminate duplication of functions and overlapping, lower administrative overheads and make small organisations viable through merger whenever it is necessary.

Today, Bangladesh as a developing country of the Third World, is wholeheartedly engaged in developing, consolidating and redesigning the systems left by the colonial rulers. And as such the setting up of a National Library is of utmost necessity so that it may preserve the cultural heritage of Bangladesh for our future generations and be an instrument for adequate library support to the educational and research programmes of the country for the overall development of the people and the enrichment of their life.

Table 19
Number of Research Projects Sponsored by the UGC and Expenditure
Year-Wise Between 1978 and 1980

Sl. No.	Section	1978		1979		1980	
		No. of projects	Amount in Taka	No. of projects	Amount in Taka	No. of projects	Amount in Taka
1.	Arts and Humanities	9	73,500.00	11	84,100.00	6	40,500.00
2.	Social Science	16	1,70,000.00	16	1,86,200.00	7	1,19,200.00
3.	Physical Science	6	52,100.00	1	12,000.00	8	1,12,100.00
4.	Chemical Sciences	7	80,900.00	2	45,200.00	2	40,000.00
5.	Biological Sciences	13	1,55,300.00	5	76,700.00	7	1,16,100.00
6.	Engineering Sciences	3	45,600.00	2	31,000.00	1	15,000.00
7.	Agricultural Science	10	1,33,700.00	6	1,20,450.00	5	99,200.00
Total		64	7,11,400.00	43	5,55,650.00	36	5,42,100.00
8. Ford Foundation		30	2,78,000.00	-	-	-	-
Grand Total :		94	9,89,400.00	43	5,55,650.00	36	5,42,100.00

Table 20
Number of Research Projects Sponsored by the UGC and Expenditure Involved
Year-Wise Between 1980-1982

Sl. No.	Section	1980		1981		1982	
		No. of projects	Amount in Taka	No. of projects	Amount in Taka	No. of projects	Amount in Taka
1.	Arts and Humanities	6	40,500.00	3	47,550.00	4	41,000.00
2.	Social Science	7	1,19,200.00	16	2,05,100.00	4	53,500.00
3.	Physical Sciences	8	1,12,100.00	7	1,54,000.00	3	65,000.00
4.	Chemical Sciences	2	40,000.00	2	38,000.00	4	69,000.00
5.	Biological Science	7	1,16,100.00	14	1,77,800.00	4	50,000.00
6.	Engineering Sciences	1	15,000.00	-	-	-	-
7.	Agricultural Science	5	99,200.00	12	2,08,380.00	2	43,000.00
	Grand Total	36	5,42,100.00	54	8,30,830.00	21	3,21,500.00

Source : University Grants Commission, Dhaka.

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CHAPTER 3

LIBRARY SCENE IN BANGLADESH

3.1 Introduction

The National Library of a country is the apex of its library system and should be in a position to play a leading and coordinating role in respect of all other libraries of the country. Therefore it is pertinent that in a study relating to the functional and organisational structure of the national library the existing library situation is described and evaluated. This chapter, therefore, attempts to give an overview of the general library situation in Bangladesh. The author has been handicapped in this effort by the dearth of published literature on the subject. This account is therefore based on whatever limited literature the author was able to gain access to and on her own personal observations.

Prior to independence and partition of the subcontinent in 1947, Bangladesh was part of the Province of Bengal and was generally referred to as East Bengal. It was backward in the matter of education and library development. The western part of the province which now constitutes the State of West Bengal, a part of India, was more fortunate in this regard and many libraries in the urban and rural areas including the Imperial Library which later became the National Library of India were functioning there.

Even during the Pakistani period after 1947, Bangladesh which was then called East Pakistan suffered neglect in library development as in the development of various other agencies meant for promoting social, educational and economic progress. There were no libraries in the region worth the name except the library of the University of Dhaka, which could be used by scholars and the general public. The only significant development worth mentioning was the establishment of the Dhaka Central Public Library (now called Bangladesh Central Public Library). However, the progress of this library was slow and tardy and it was not available for use by the public for a long time.

The libraries of Bangladesh now fall under the three broad categories of Public Libraries, Academic Libraries and Special Libraries (no account is given here of the National Library as it will be dealt with separately).

3.2 Public Libraries

Reference has already been made to the Bangladesh Central Public Library (CPL). The foundation stone of this library was laid in 1953 but it took five years for the building to be completed and used. The following is a brief account of this library:

"In 1958, after completion of the building, the library was opened to the public. In 1962, this building was turned over to the University of Dhaka. The Public Library however, remained in the building. This has caused some administrative problems, as well as some confusion as far as the general public is concerned. Since 1962, the library has had no librarian. Day to day work is carried out by three able assistant librarians under the direction of the University Librarian and the Officer of Special Duty There is some danger of this library losing its identity as a public library due to its present location on University property. Although the collection is processed for lending services, books are not yet actually loaned to the public. The officials of the library are still waiting for the official permission of the government to start the lending services of the library"¹.

L.C. Key the first and only library consultant to the Government of Pakistan, observed: ". . . . the East Pakistan Government has recently taken a commendable step in setting up under the Social Uplift Scheme the East Pakistan Central Public Library with a progressive statement of functions"². Two decades later the Bangladesh Education Commission had nothing to report about it except to state that "A very feeble effort at establishment of public libraries in this part was made during the fifties"³.

According to the Directory published by the Pakistan Bibliographical Working Group⁴, there were only twelve public libraries in 1957 in the then East Pakistan. However, by 1966 the number of public libraries rose to 108⁵.

During the next five years, the number remained more or less the same, for in 1970 it was 112⁶. The total number of public libraries

since then may have decreased because of the ravages brought by the liberation war of 1971. There are no official statistics available for 1977 or 1978, but we may assume that there were about one hundred public libraries in Bangladesh⁷. According to the official record of the Directorate of Public Instruction the total number of aided non-Government Public Libraries in Bangladesh in 1982 was 145. The district-wise distribution of the libraries is as given in table 1.

Three Government public libraries were founded in recent years in Chittagong, Jessore and Khulna. The Education Commission set up in 1972 recommended in its report of 1974 that the Central Public Library be converted into Bangladesh National Library. According to many librarians of Bangladesh this would be a step in the wrong direction. In January 1981 the Parker Report (J.S. Parker, UNESCO expert) stated that: "It will be impossible to promote the development of public libraries in Bangladesh without first establishing an organisational structure through which plans for library development can be put into effect"⁸.

According to Parker, the Central Public Library (CPL) would be the focus and the nucleus of the National Library. The CPL had no Director for a long time. Parker was categorical in stating that the Director be fully qualified academically and professionally and well experienced⁹. But this was not to be. When the present Government came to power, it decided to abolish the Bangladesh Parishad and to have the CPL take over its resources. It became a creation which is neither the library nor the Parishad but worst of both with Parishad People on top and CPL and Parishad employees under one umbrella called the Department of Library. A library that was hardly capable of performing its regular functions now being burdened with the extraneous functions of the Parishad could perform neither of them satisfactorily. For all practical purpose, public library service in the country has been uprooted with its fountainhead disrupted. It is indeed a sad episode in the history of librarianship in Bangladesh¹⁰.

Table 1
District-Wise Distribution of Public Libraries in 1982

District	No. of Libraries
Dhaka	29
Mymensingh	12
Faridpur	8
Tangail	1
Rajshahi	11
Rangpur	7
Dinajpur	3
Bogra	5
Pabna	3
Barisal	9
Patuakhali	1
Jessore	7
Kushtra	8
Khulna	2
Chittagong	12
Chittagong Hill tracts	3
Noakhali	4
Comilla	13
Sylhet	7

The holdings of the libraries range from as low as 375 volumes to 26202 volumes.

3.3 Academic Libraries

3.3.1 University Libraries

Dhaka University Library is the oldest and largest among the University Libraries. It was established in 1921. It is the largest library in the country with over 402,582 volumes. It is equal in size to the combined resources of all the other Universities. Rajshahi University established in 1953 in the northern part of the country has the second largest University library with 180,137 volumes.

There are six University libraries which constitute the most important group of libraries in the country in terms of resources and financial allocation. All the universities are financed by the

Government. The total annual book budget of the six universities is in excess of 4 million taka¹¹.

The chief librarians of the University libraries are given the status and salary of professors but they lack full authority to administer the library, for they have to turn to the university authorities for any policy or budget decisions. The librarians are not always consulted before the library budget is finalised.

Though Dhaka University is the premier University of the country, and its library is considered the leading library and looked upto for setting trends, standards and even leadership, since July 1972, the library has been without a librarian, and has been managed by University Professors in turn. Even prior to 1972 it had a librarian for over two decades who did not have a degree in Library Science¹².

Finally it is to be pointed out that co-operation between University libraries does not yet exist. There is neither any inter library lending programmes, nor a resource sharing agreement to help the libraries overcome the perennial problem of inadequacy of individual library holdings and services.

Growth rate of University Libraries in Bangladesh, 1950-1983

	1950 ^a	1957 ^b	1963 ^c	1970 ^d	1977 ^d &	1983 ^d
Dhaka	93,355	120,000	165,000	285,000	318,000	402,582
Rajshahi		17,000	40,000	105,000	163,210	180,737
Chittagong				36,000	57,000	106,178
Agricultural (Mymensingh)						92,914
Engineering and Technical (Dhaka)			16,000		58,000	70,000
Jalangi Nagar					30,000	42,000

a. The World of Learning (corresponding year)

b. Unesco Bulletin for Librarians II (May-June 1957) III.

c. International Library Directory (1963)

d. Common Wealth Universities Year Book (1983)

3.3.2 College Libraries

According to the Pakistan Bibliographical Working Group directory there were sixty seven college libraries in 1957 in East Pakistan¹³. The largest of these libraries had over thirty thousand volumes, and the smallest three hundred volumes. In 1963, there were reported to be seventy eight college libraries¹⁴. Of these two had collections over thirty thousand, ten over ten thousand; and nine had less than one thousand each. In 1974 according to the Education Commission there were 510 intermediate and degree colleges with an estimated student enrolment of 500,000. By 1978, the number of colleges increased to six hundred. Educational authorities claim that each college has a library¹⁵.

The college library situation in Bangladesh has left much to be desired. The college libraries lack most of the basic ingredients of a sound and effective library programme. Inadequate book budget and consequent ill-equipped book stocks, lack of proper technical organisation of the libraries, absence of a sound policy of book selection, closed access, want of trained personnel inadequate strength and poor physical facilities are the common features of most of the college libraries. Worse than all these is the lack of awareness on the part of the teachers and students, of the important educational role of college libraries. They are not viewed as essential ancillaries of college education which the teachers and students have necessarily to depend on for their academic pursuit.

Unless teaching methods and evaluation of the performance of students are changed, the need for good libraries in colleges is not likely to be felt. The present reliance on a single text book or a few text books must be abandoned and the library must be integrated more closely with the educational process.

At the postgraduate level, however, students are showing a desire to use library resources other than text books. The large number of University faculty members who received their postgraduate training abroad were exposed to organize library services. Naturally they want their students to draw on library resources. Moreover faculty members themselves have begun to demand better services from the library after observing what their counterparts in foreign countries get. Whatever development has occurred in librarianship in Bangladesh is traceable largely to assistance from foreign agencies. Besides helping to

establish the Bangladesh National Medical Library and Documentation Centre, the Asia Foundation has helped the Dhaka University Department of Library Science by making American Experts available to it and by making scholarships available to its faculty to study abroad¹⁶. The Services of the libraries of the British Council and the USIS (Now called the International Communication Agency) demonstrate the usefulness of libraries to the public.

3.3.3 School Libraries

According to the Education Commission Report, there are no libraries in the primary schools (thirty eight thousand institutions, with an estimated enrolment of 72 million). Nor is there any possibility of their being set up in the near future¹⁷.

Libraries in the high schools (eight thousand institutions, with an estimated enrolment of 8 million) are generally described as either nonexistent or inoperative¹⁸. The Education Commission observes:

In a majority of the schools, the library is scattered, most of the books being in the Headmaster's room and the Teacher's sitting room and the rest in nooks and corners—all locked in book cases. New books are mixed up with heaps of worm-eaten, and out of use books, getting spoiled in no time for want of space, which cannot be segregated. To write off obsolete books is not free from complications arising out of rules and procedures In such unfavourable circumstances the question simply does not arise of any organisation or adoption of modern technique. The uncouth appearance of the scattered school library fails to arouse any interest in teachers and pupils.¹⁹

Most of the libraries of the High Schools and Jr. High Schools cannot be called libraries in the strict sense of the term. Lack of space, inadequacy of books, absence of a regular book budget and want of a trained fulltime librarian combine to present a very sad picture of most school libraries in Bangladesh.

3.4 Special Libraries

In the area of special libraries, the situation is relatively brighter. The largest of the special libraries is the Bangla Academy Library with over 102,000 volumes.²⁰ The Academy was formed in 1972 upon the amalgamation of the former Bengali Academy and Central Board for

Development of Bengali. The objectives of the academy are to promote the development of the Bengali language and literature in particular and educationists and intellectuals in general. The collection of the former Central Board for Development of Bengali (ten thousand volumes) is considered a national treasure.²¹

The second largest special library is the Bangladesh Secretariat Library which serves Government Officers in particular. It has 85,500 volumes and answers about 4,000 questions annually.²²

The third largest special library is that of the Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies with over fifty thousand volumes. This collection encompasses backruns of socio-economic journals, government publications of the United Nations and its specialized agencies²³.

The Bangladesh Parliament Library is estimated to be the fourth largest special library. There is no published statistics. Besides these libraries, other important special libraries are the Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development Library (32,832 volumes), Bangladesh Bank Library (18,161 volumes), Dhaka Museum (16,377 volumes), National Institute of Public Administration (over 10,000 volumes), Varendra Research Museum which has been under the control of Rajshahi University since 1961 (10,000 volumes, 4,500 ancient manuscripts), Bangladesh College of Arts and Crafts Library (4,250 volumes).²⁴ Other notable special libraries are the Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission Library, Institute of Statistical Research and Training Library, Bangladesh Small Industries Corporation Library, Asiatic Society of Bangladesh Library and Libraries attached to the various government ministries.

In health sciences, some progress was made in the establishment of the National Health Library and Documentation Centre in 1974 with assistance from the Asia Foundation. The centre is under the Ministry of Health and Family Planning and provides information and documentation services to the health science and related professionals who are directly or indirectly engaged in biomedical teaching, research and health care delivery programmes. While the centre has a modest collection of seven thousand volumes and fifteen thousand bound volumes of periodicals it also has the advantage of free access to the collection of the Cholera Research Laboratory (a collection of over five thousand volumes and a current subscription of about two hundred

periodicals) which is presently adjacent to it. The centre also avails itself of the MEDLINE and MEDLARS services by mail.²⁵

Besides the National Health Library and Cholera Research Laboratory, there is another reasonably good medical library at the Institute for Post-Graduate Medicine. It has a collection of eleven thousand volumes. University libraries also hold health science literature. Dhaka University Science Library is particularly strong in health sciences, and it receives about one hundred periodicals in health and related fields. However, these resources are not available outside the University community.²⁶

The Health Library and Documentation Centre (NHLDC) has a collection of 11,000 books and 15,000 bound volumes of periodicals and subscribes for 250 journals (annually).

The National Council for Science and Technology has prepared a project proposal for a National Science Library for incorporation in the 2nd Five Year Plan (1980-85)²⁷. This is a massive project aiming to meet the long felt requirements of educationists, scientists, technologists, researchers and students of all levels. Until this library has its building the premises of Bangladesh Scientific and Technical Documentation Centre (BANSDOC) will be utilized for this purpose.

The National Science Library has nothing to be proud of yet. It does not have a single periodical and one wonders how it can disseminate scientific and technical information without the basic primary sources of information.²⁸

The libraries which are attached to some of the government ministries are nothing more than small storage places for the publications of those ministries. Some Organisations have established special libraries to support their needs. Such libraries are those of the Institute of Diabetic Association, Local Government Institute, House Building Corporation, Bangladesh Administrative Staff Complex, Small Cottage Industries, Bangladesh Industrial Development Corporation which have been noted for their important role in the performance of their respective institutions.

3.5. Bangladesh National Scientific and Technical Documentation Centre (BANSDOC)

In the Scientific and Technical field, the work of Bangladesh National Scientific and Technical Documentation Centre (BANSDOC)

under the Bangladesh Council of Scientific and Industrial Research has to be reckoned with. Founded in 1963, it provides services such as document procurement, document reproduction, bibliography compilation and translation.

BANSDOC maintains a union list of scientific and technical periodical holdings of the libraries in Dhaka. Work is in progress for the compilation of a comprehensive list covering all the scientific and technical collections in the country. But it has not made much headway and attained a national stature yet. The Education Commission has dwelt on the importance of BANSDOC and has urged the government to consider raising its status to that of a national documentation centre. The Commission observes:

This (i.e. BANSDOC) must be the main information centre for researchers in scientific, industrial and technological fields and it will have liaison with all noted research centres of the world. Its duty should be to meet the information needs of scientific and technological research by collecting such journals, yearbooks, etc. wherever they may be published, or their reproductions, which comprise results of researches done in any part of the world. There is a great national need of such a documentation centre as proposed by us. Whether it is a University or the Atomic Energy Commission or the Jute or Cholera Research Institutes for instance, it is not possible for any institution to collect unilaterally all such needed publications and periodicals as are brought out here and elsewhere, it is difficult even to keep their track. This clearly indicates the necessity of national documentation centre. Experts should be consulted and a scheme prepared for the establishment of the national documentation centre. This should be treated as an emergency.²⁹

3.6 Library Education

After the partition of India there was a vacuum in the field of trained manpower. This condition remained up to 1952. The first break-through however small, happened in 1952 when the first three months' Certificate Course in Librarianship was instituted at the Dhaka University Library by the late Mr. Fazal Elahi, F.L.A the then Librarian of Dhaka University.³⁰

But this course was short-lived.

"In the year 1955 higher training facilities were made, under the Technical Assistance Programme of the Colombo Plan to two practising librarians (1) Mr. Abdur Rahman Mirdah for training in New Zealand and (2) Mr. A. E. M. Shamsul Hoque for training in Australia. The year 1954 was indeed a landmark in the history of library development when two eminent scholars viz. (1) Mr. Ahmad Husain was sent for training in U.S.A (2) Mr. M.S. Khan for training in U.K."³¹. In the year 1955-56 "Miss Mildered L. Methvan, a Fulbright Lecturer in Library Science was deputed to Dhaka University Library by the United States Educational Foundation in Pakistan. Miss Methvan held a course of three months' duration on general library work in the Dhaka University."³²

During 1956-57, the United States Educational Foundation (U.S.E.F.) in Pakistan organised a short course (of five months duration from November 1956 to March 1957) in basic cataloguing conducted by Miss Vivian Prince, Associate Professor in Library Science, University of Florida, and a good number of librarians were deputed to take this course.....³³. This course was open to Librarians and Library workers of affiliated colleges, government institutions and departments and also to a limited number of outsiders. Classes were held twice a week after office hours.

In 1957-58, the U.S.E.F. in Pakistan deputed Mrs. Willa Boysworth, Head Librarian, Huntington College, Montgomery, Alabama, USA. Mrs. Boysworth conducted a short course in Reference work in co-operation with the Dhaka University Library.³⁴

A sub-professional training course in librarianship in the province began with the institution in 1958 of a six month certificate course in library science sponsored by the then East Pakistan Library Association. This course is being continued under the auspices of the Library Association of Bangladesh.

Immediately after the institution of the Certificate Course in Library Science in 1958 by the East Pakistan Library Association, it was felt necessary for a longer Academic course in the subject in order to raise the standard of Librarians. M. S. Khan, Librarian, Dhaka University, who was the Director of Certificate Course in Library Science, made a proposal for the institution of a Post-graduate Diploma

Course in Library Science of one academic year's duration in the University of Dhaka. His efforts met with success when the University established the course in 1959 with financial assistance from the US Education Foundation.³⁵

In 1962, a Master's Degree programme was introduced in the University of Dhaka and those who passed the Post graduate Diploma were eligible for admission to the course. With the starting of this course, a full-fledged Department of Library Science also was instituted in the University.

The present courses offered by the University of Dhaka are; (a) the Diploma course; (b) M.A. Preliminary course and (c) the M.A. Final Course. The Diploma and the M.A. Preliminary courses are feeder courses for the M.A. Final. But the Diploma Course is also a terminal course in that those who pass the course can seek employment. The number of the students admitted to the three courses are 100, 30 and 100 respectively. The Department of Library Science belongs to the Faculty of Arts of the University.

The Education Commission (1972-74) has in its Report recommended the establishment of a net-work of public libraries right from the lowest administrative set up mainly the Thana. Such a Public Library System will have to be sustained by trained personnel for its efficient functioning. Furthermore the numerous high schools and intermediate colleges where trained library personnel are not available now will have also to remove this serious deficiency. These possibilities point to the need for the development and expansion of library science education in Bangladesh on sound lines.

3.7 Library Association

The East Pakistan Library Association, the predecessor of the present Library Association of Bangladesh, was started in 1956 by a few librarians of Dhaka with head-quarters in Dhaka. After the liberation of Bangladesh the association was rechristened as Library Association of Bangladesh (LAB) with its headquarters continuing in Dhaka.

The First Annual Conference of the Association was held in Dhaka in 1960, jointly with the Third Annual Conference of the then Pakistan Library Association. In 1962, Dhaka became the headquarters of the Pakistan Library Association for a two-year term under the new

arrangement of rotating head-quarters every few years. The result was increasing participation of local librarians in the activities of the national association. The Fifth Annual Conference of Pakistan Library Association was again held in Dhaka in 1963.³⁶

The objectives of LAB are to promote library service for Bangladesh; to provide library training facilities and research in library science; to improve the status and conditions of service of library personnel; and to co-operate with library organisations and associations that have similar aims in and outside the country, with a view to furthering the cause of library service.³⁷

The LAB has no control over library education and training in the country except over the Certificate Course that it offers. However, it has attempted to improve the quality of teaching by requiring teachers of library science to be experienced librarians.

3.8 Book Production

3.8.1 Books

The official statistics in Bangladesh, for 1976, indicate that 768 books were published in that year, but informed estimate put the current level of production as high as 2,500 titles of all types a year. The majority of the new titles are text books.³⁸

The year 1980 witnessed a dramatic growth in the volume of works published by the Bangladeshi book industry. A comparison between publishing activities from 1978 to 1983 shows the variation of book production in 5 years. The publishing activity has not shown a steady upward trend, but has been haphazard with intermittent increase and decrease (See Table 2 and graph) It is impossible to make a precise assessment of the number of books published as not all of them are received by the National Library under the Copy Right Act and listed.



Table 2
Number of books published by language

Year	Bengali	English	Others	Total
1978	628	137	54	817
1980	798	171	214	1183
1981	415	57	70	542
1982	710	92	128	930
1983	446	61	109	616

Source: Registrar of Publications

3.8.2 Periodicals

Table 3 shows the number of current periodicals in Bangladesh and its frequency of publication. In 1981, 200 periodicals were published by various Government and private agencies. In 1982 the figure decreased to 183. The annuals are issued principally by academic institutions. These published periodicals and annuals are not readily available to readers in a Library and some of them even not deposited or preserved regularly. Periodicals being the vehicles of current information and knowledge must be treated as one of the most forceful media for the acquisition of knowledge by the researchers, scientists etc. As it is difficult to have access to published periodicals at various sources, they should be preserved for bibliographical control in a well organized National Library.

Table 3
Medialisted* Newspapers and periodicals
with their gross circulation

Frequency Language	Number of newspapers and periodicals			Gross circulation (1000 copies)		
	1981	1982	1983	1981	1982	1983
1. Daily:						
Bengali	36	33	38	446	435	470
English	7	7	9	101	93	119
2. Weekly:						
Bengali	118	111	112	526	406	410
English	14	12	10	31	35	40
3. Monthly:						
Bengali	23	18	19	46	29	31
English	-	-	-	-	-	-
4. Quarterly:						
Bengali	2	2	2	3	3	3
English	-	-	-	-	-	-

Notes: * Medialisted newspapers and periodicals are those which fulfil the minimum requirement of circulation as fixed by the government and are entitled to receive and publish government advertisements.

Source: Ministry of information (Audit Bureau of Circulation)

3.9 Problems

The problems facing Bangladesh Librarianship are numerous. Abdul Huq, former Bangladeshi Librarian who is now Associate Professor at St. John's University, New York, U.S.A., sent a questionnaire to the Libraries and the Institutions about the current problems of librarianship. On the basis of the replies to the questionnaires, the following list of problems has been compiled. The list is in the order of number of responses, starting with the highest number and going down in decreasing order.

1. Book famine— at all levels for all types of books.
2. Lack of proper training facilities and lack of trained personnel.

3. Lack of recognition of the importance of libraries and library services.
4. Poor status of librarians.
5. Lack of proper library planning and lack of commitment by the government.
6. Lack of reading habit among the literate public and lack of use of information in the decision-making process.
7. Lack of a strong national library association.
8. Untrained and unsympathetic (towards library profession) personnel employed in libraries.
9. Insufficient budget and budgeting practices.
10. Shortage of space and equipment.
11. Lack of co-operation among libraries and lack of co-operative spirit among librarians.
12. Lack of leadership in the profession.
13. Lack of standards for libraries.
14. Lack of library legislation and vesting of library authority in one single government agency.
15. Lack of uniformity in pay scales, poor gradation, and irrational structure.
16. Limited scope for advancement by librarians, including limited scope for higher education.
17. Lack of liberal import policy and irrational customs regulations for books and periodicals.
18. Inadequacy and uncertainty in allocation of foreign exchange for purchase of library materials, especially serials.
19. Illiteracy.
20. Unsound practices and unnecessary restrictions placed on library in purchase of library materials.
21. Lack of availability of bibliographic tools for selection, cataloguing, and reference purposes.
22. Poor public relations by libraries.
23. Lack of appreciation of library's needs and problems by administration and lack of co-operation by library users.
24. Unreliable and irregular postal service.³⁹

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CHAPTER 4

CONCEPT, DEFINITION AND FUNCTIONS OF NATIONAL LIBRARIES

4.1 Concept and definitions

National libraries have been in existence since the 17th century. Although in practice there has been a definite growth of national libraries all over the world ever since their inception in the early days. In the theoretical field it has been heretofore of a clearly defined and a cogent concept. The concept of national library today, therefore, remains largely undefined and vague.

Arundell Esdaile¹ attempts no definition in his basic descriptive work on national libraries of the world (1934), nor does F.J. Hill² in his 1957 revision of that work. This, however, should not be construed to mean that no attempts have been made in defining a national library. Attempts have, in fact, been made from time to time. Some of these definitions cited from the literature on library science are enumerated below.

M. Line in the Introduction to his book *National Libraries* mentions that national libraries "in essence, if not in name, have existed since at least the 18th century, and some claim much earlier beginnings, usually as royal libraries, which some are still called"³.

Esdaile describes national libraries as a "modern product" and adds, uniformity is not to be expected; the political and social traditions of one country will produce a quite different type of library service from that of another.⁴

Esdaile indicates that the idea and concept of national library "has been over a century, and for longer still, if we consider it right, been expanding".⁵ But before discussing the expansion of the concept of

National Library the question "what is a national library?" ought to be answered. David Mearns in the Summary Chapter of *Library Trends* issue on national libraries raises the same question when he says, "the world needs to know what a national library is, where they come from, what seem to be their basic functions".⁶

Pierre Bourgeois restated the question at the Symposium of National Libraries in Europe, held in Vienna, in 1958:

His forwarding report is as follows:

We still do not know what a national library really is, nor we can name with certainty the qualities a library must possess or the functions it must fulfil in order to be called 'national'.⁷

Although the question of the origin and development of a national library has been asked in different forms, time and again, by different authors, scholars and practitioners of Library Science, it is not altogether unanswerable. Attempts have been made, both individually and collectively, to define what a national library really is. Although each of these definitions may not, by itself, provide a complete picture of a national library, put together they present a fairly clear idea as to the definition and the characteristics of a national library.

In the Summary of the discussions of Group I at the Vienna Symposium it is stated thus:

"In general, it may be said that the national library of a country is the one responsible for collecting and conserving the whole of that country's book production for the benefit of future generations".⁸

Natalia Tyulina presents a definition of National Library:

A Library is called a national one when it is the official depository of printed works; a general access library; an information bibliographic centre and a centre of coordination, planning, and stimulation of the entire library system of the nation.⁹

This statement clearly adds new factors and responsibilities to those in the UNESCO definition. UNESCO adopted the following definition of national libraries.

National Libraries: Libraries which, irrespective of their titles, are responsible for acquiring and conserving copies of all significant publications published in the country and functioning as a

"deposit" library, whether by law or under other arrangements. They will also normally perform some of the following functions : produce a national bibliography ; hold and keep up to date a large and representative collection of foreign literature, including books about the country; act as a national bibliographical information centre; compile union catalogues, publish the retrospective national bibliography. Libraries which may be called "national" but whose functions do not correspond to the above definition should not be placed in the "National Libraries" category.¹⁰

A.K. Gheddar defines national library as:

a library or a network of libraries that collects and conserves all national documents and also significant and useful non-national documents produced in other countries and executes the use of collections to meet the national information needs.¹¹

H. Liebaers notes that:

The main characteristic of a national library is, without any doubt, the leading place it occupies compared with other libraries in the country.

This position is due to the extent and encyclopaedic character of its collections, the variety of material held and the diversity of specialized departments and services. It thus has a general and national responsibility; within the profession in all cases; outside it, more often than not.¹²

Dr. Ranganathan also emphasised the objectives of the National Central Library:

The National Central Library should be national in every sense of the word and not merely the symbolic representation of the library personality of the nation. It must be a channel through which all the library obligations of the nation to the international world are discharged. It should be national in the sense of being the ultimate book tank of the nation, capable of supplementing the library resources of every locality, by being open for use by any citizen whenever he might like and whether in the present or in the future. It should also be national in the sense of having representative copies of every reading and kindred material published within or on our country and by or on all the nationals of our country. It

should also procure practically every reading material published anywhere in the world for which there is likely to be a reasonable demand from our people.¹³

The ideas of national libraries spread widely after the IFLA Section on National and University Libraries was established in 1952. The focus of the world's concern for national libraries has now shifted from the definition and problems of national libraries in general to the problems of establishing and operating national libraries within individual countries and to the problems of international co-operation among such libraries. The literature has shifted also to the discussion of appropriate national library functions and to national libraries' contributions to worldwide programmes such as Universal Bibliographic Control (UBC), Universal Availability of Publications (UAP) and National Information System (NATIS).

4. 2 Functions

After the Vienna Symposium in 1958, UNESCO organized a series of seminars and meetings on the development of national libraries in different parts of the world. The first seminar was a regional seminar on the Development of National Libraries in Asia and the Pacific Area and it took place in Manila in 1964.¹⁴

But before the Manila seminar, a conference of the University and Research Section of the British Library Association was held in Bangor in 1963, in which Magnussen, Librarian of Statsbiblioteket, Arhus, summarized a national library's functions under seven heads:

1. Collecting national literature;
2. Collecting foreign literature;
3. Serving as a book museum;
4. Giving the public access to the collections;
5. Carrying out information service and bibliographical activity;
6. Functioning as a training center;
7. Participating in national library planning.¹⁵

In a paper delivered at the IFLA Meeting held in Rome in 1964, K.W. Humphreys identified fifteen functions which a national library should perform and divided these functions into three categories; fundamental, desirable and optional¹⁶. In 1966, Humphreys expanded this paper to make it generally more applicable, taking into account the

discussions held in Manila in 1964 and at the IFLA Conference of 1965 in Helsinki. In this paper Humphreys again divided the national library activities into three categories: *essential, desirable and non-essential*.

The essential functions are:

1. Establishing an outstanding and central collection of a nation's literature;
2. Serving as a legal depository for the national's publications;
3. Providing coverage of foreign literature;
4. Publishing the national bibliography,
5. Serving as the national bibliographic information centre; and
6. Publishing of catalogues and arrangement of exhibitions.

The desirable functions are:

1. Interlibrary lending;
2. Preserving all types of manuscripts in the country; and
3. Undertaking research on library techniques.

The non-essential functions are:

1. International exchange of services;
2. Distribution of duplicates;
3. Provision of books for the blind;
4. Professional training and
5. Assistance in library techniques.

Humphreys concluded by defining the place of a national library in the library structure of any country. According to Humphreys, "the national library should be the prime mover in library matters and should be expected to be the leading library in all fields."¹⁷

In 1969, Heinz Gittig developed a list of nine functions of a national library, six of which had been listed by Humphreys. The following are the three functions which are not in Humphreys' list.

1. Compilation of indexes to articles in periodicals and newspapers;
2. Maintenance of Union catalogues;
3. Centralised cataloguing.¹⁸

The various regional meetings held at different times and in different regions adopted statements on the functions of national libraries. These statements can be summarized as follows:

1. The Manila Regional Seminar on the Development of National Libraries in Asia and the Pacific Area suggested the following functions of a national library:
 - a. To provide leadership among the nations' libraries;
 - b. To serve as a permanent depository for all the publications issued in the country;
 - c. To acquire other types of materials;
 - d. To provide bibliographic services;
 - e. To serve as a co-ordinating centre for co-operative activities.
 - f. To provide services to the government.¹⁹
2. The 1966 Meeting of Experts on National Planning of Library Services in Latin America suggested the following functions of a national library:
 - a. To collect and ensure the conservation of national book productions for which, in addition to other resources, it will receive copies of publications deposited under the Copyright laws; it should further more ensure that Copyright laws are enforced.
 - b. To provide the national and the foreign readers and research workers with an adequate and an efficient information services, for which it will assemble the necessary general collections and collection of reference works, prepare a union catalogue of all the libraries of the country and compile the national bibliography and any other bibliographies necessary for the performance of its functions.
 - c. To organize the national and international exchange of publications.
 - d. To centralize interlibrary loans with libraries abroad.
 - e. To rationalize the acquisition of publications, including periodicals, among the libraries covered by the plan for the development of library services.
 - f. To centralize the cataloguing and classification of publications and to ensure the distribution of catalogue cards; and

- g. To cooperate, whenever its organization and the development of planning render it advisable, in the extension and improvement of school and public library services.²⁰
3. The Meeting of Experts on the National Planning of Library Services in Asia, held in Colombo, Sri Lanka, in 1967, emphasized the role of the national library in planning for library development. The meeting described the national library as "... an active organization with dynamic leadership geared to a triple purpose." These purpose are:
 - a. To preserve the national culture ;
 - b. To develop through appropriate means the systems and procedures which will make the total library resources of the national available for the benefit of the whole national community; and
 - c. To establish relations with the libraries of other countries.²¹
4. In 1970, the Meeting of Experts on National Planning of Documentation and Library Services in Africa, held in Kampala, Uganda, formulated the following basic functions of the national library:
 - a. To serve as the primary instrument for the achievement of coordinated library development ;
 - b. To serve as a permanent depository for all the publications issued in the country and to collect printed materials concerning the country, wherever published;
 - c. To publish the national bibliography;
 - d. To organize the national and international exchange of publications and information".²²

Many articles on national libraries have been written and published since 1966, which relate to or rely solely on the two papers published by Humphreys in 1964 and in 1966.

The only article that called for a reassessment of Humphreys' papers was that by Maurice Line, published in 1980.

In it he states that " an examination of the traditional role of national information needs suggests a radically revised categorization of function."²³.

Line suggests the following revision of Humphreys' statements:

1. Fundamental Functions

- a. Establishing the central collection of a nation's information media, built up by legal deposit and in other ways, and include duplicates for the purpose of loan and photocopy. Manuscripts of major national relevance and importance are also to be included.
- b. Establishing the central loan/photocopy collection of foreign literature, designed to satisfy a high proportion of more vital and urgent document needs of the population efficiently and speedily.
- c. Planning and coordination of interlibrary lending as a supporting system to the duplicate national collection and the foreign collections.
- d. Publication of the national bibliography, current and retrospective.
- e. Serving as the national bibliographic centre and planning and coordinating access to data-bases and the use of bibliographic information resources.
- f. Serving as the national depository for the receipt, storage and preservation of items withdrawn from other libraries and to supply these items through loan or photocopy. This function is linked closely with (b) and(c).
- g. Serving as an exchange center, both national and international. This is essential for duplicate and other surplus materials as it is intimately connected with (f); optional for new publications.

2. By-Product Functions

- a. Publication of catalogues of large or specially important national libraries.
- b. Arrangement of exhibitions when necessary.
- c. Undertaking research on library techniques as and when necessary.
- d. Professional training for the staff of the national library itself, including perhaps some trainees who will be employed subsequently in other libraries.

- e. Providing expertise on library techniques, which may be called upon when required by other libraries.

Other possible Functions

- a. Collection of information media relating to the country but issued elsewhere.
- b. Collection of books for the blind.
- c. Collection of manuscripts other than those of national relevance and importance.²⁴

This revision of the national library functions is by no means an indication of the development of national library services throughout the world. It only gives a broad outline of the needs of the users at the present time. It has been found that Line relies heavily on the reorganization of Humphreys' lists in preparing this revision. It also expands the role of the national library in the modern library and information services.

A.K. Ohdedar has also referred to the functions of a national library. According to him:

The functions and duties of a national library as indicated and implied by our proposed definition, lead to a two-tier organization of the national library. The first tier will function as the deposit unit or unit-complex, where every national document will be perfectly preserved. The other tier will function as the service unit or unit complex of the national library.²⁵

In connection with the concept of this two-tier organization of the national library, reference may be made to the three-tier organization of the national library as formulated by Ranganathan. According to him, a national library system should consist of:

- i. National Copyright Library, the collection of which will comprise one copy each of the reading materials collected or received from their respective publishers.
- ii. National Dormitory Library, the collection of which will comprise one sound copy each of the reading materials needed out by any library in the country including the National Service Libraries, and these are to be maintained as deposit of the intellectual and cultural output of the country.

- iii A system of National Service Libraries pertaining to different subject fields; National Sea-farers Libraries and National contact Libraries.²⁶

4.3 Summary

The concept and functions of National Libraries defined by various authorities explained in the foregoing sections are summarised below:

1. The National library of a country is the one responsible for collecting and conserving the whole of that country's book production for the benefit of future generations.
2. A national library should be the official depository of printed works. It will be a general access library, an information-bibliographic centre of co-ordination, planning and stimulation of the entire library system of the nation.
3. A national library may be called a net work of libraries which can collect and conserve all significant and usefull national and non-national documents of own country and other countries and can execute the use of collections to meet the national information needs.
4. A National library should occupy the leading place as compared to other libraries in the country. The collections of national library are encyclopaedic in character in their range and coverage.
5. A National library should be national in the sense of being the ultimate book tank of the nation, and having representative copies of every reading and kindered material published within or on our country and by or on all the nationals of our country. It should also procure practically every reading material published anywhere in the world for which there is likely to be a reasonable demand from the people.

Functions

1. To serve as a permanent depository for all the publications issued in the country :
 - a. to collect national literature ;
 - b. to collect foreign literature ;
 - c. to acquire other types of materials ;
 - d. to serve as a book museum ;

- d. to serve as a book museum ;
2. to provide leadership among the nations' libraries ;
3. to publish the National Bibliography ;
4. to serve as a national bibliographic centre ;
5. to maintain union catalogues ;
6. to compile articles in periodicals and newspapers ;
7. to undertake centralized cataloguing ;
8. to serve as a co-ordinating centre for co-operative activities ;
9. to provide services to the Government ;
10. to serve as the national agency for International exchange of services ;
11. to provide books for the blind ;
12. to function as a training centre ;
13. to participate in national library planning ;
14. to function as the centre for inter library lending ;
15. to arrange exhibitions when necessary.

According to UNESCO; National libraries are those which irrespective of their titles, are responsible for acquiring and conserving copies of all significant publications published in the country and functioning as a 'deposit' library, whether by law or under other arrangements.

It will also normally perform some of the following functions:

- a. produce national bibliography;
- b. hold and keep up to date a large and representative collection of foreign literature, including books about the country;
- c. act as a national bibliographical information centre;
- d. compile union catalogues;
- e. publish retrospective national bibliography.

4.4 Role of National Library in the National and International information system

National libraries have an important role in both National and international information systems (NATIS).

"The concept of a National Information System (NATIS) was promoted by UNESCO and accepted by the 1974 Inter-governmental Conference on the planning of National Documentation, Library and Archives Infrastructures and by the UNESCO General Conference, eighteenth session.²⁷

The main roles of national library in NATIS (National Information System) have been identified by R.M. Duchesne. These are:

- a. to provide necessary central library services;
- b. to provide leadership within the library component of NATIS;
- c. to participate actively in the planning and overall development of NATIS.²⁸

H. Arntz notes that national libraries, in addition to this important place in NATIS, generally occupy an important place in international co-operation.²⁹

According to the UNESCO's programme, the concept of National Information System (NATIS) "implies that the government—national, state, or local— should maximize the availability of all relevant information through documentation, library and archives services just as in principle it takes responsibility for the basic education, at primary and secondary levels, of its citizens."³⁰

According to Duchesne, "National Libraries have special responsibility for what may be termed 'national bibliographic control:' "national arrangements for the recording of library materials and for the distribution of these records within the nation."³¹

IFLA's programme, Universal Bibliographic Control (UBC), has as its purpose, "to make universally and promptly available, in a form which is internationally acceptable, basic bibliographic data on all publications issued in all countries."³²

The concept of Universal Availability of Publications (UAP) "implies both availability of all the world's publications and availability of publications to all the world."³³

The national library, as described by Dorothy Anderson, functions as the national component of Universal Bibliographic Control (UBC)³⁴ by receiving "all types of published documentary material by legal deposit and hence maintaining the national collection."³⁵

National libraries are concerned with other projects related to UBC such as International Serials Data System (ISDS); International Standard Book Number (ISBN) scheme; national Machine Readable Cataloguing (MARC) projects; and the implementation of existing International Standard Bibliographic Descriptions for monographs and serials, ISBD (M) and ISBD (S).³⁶ Universal Availability of Publications or UAP is, like Universal Bibliographic Control (UBC), 'a concept, a system and an objective, which derives naturally from work that has been carried on for a long time in individual countries, in IFLA Committees and elsewhere, and which brings together in one concept a great variety of activities and plans'.³⁷

Universal Availability of publications (UAP) is a new concept in international cooperation among national libraries. UAP is described by Line as;

Affecting legal deposit and other methods of acquisition, the co-ordination of libraries by such means as union catalogues, the organization of library systems to offer ready availability, interlibrary lending and photocopying, the exchange of publications and the role of national libraries or national centres."³⁸

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CHAPTER 5

COMPARISON OF DIFFERENT NATIONAL LIBRARIES IN TYPES AND FUNCTIONS

5.1 Introduction

Dr. S.R. Ranganathan defined a national library as one which has the duty of collecting and preserving for posterity, the written production of that country. It is the central station for the assembling and service of thought energy¹.

National libraries are the only type of libraries which grew rapidly throughout the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries in Europe².

"In the 19th century, several countries mainly in Europe, consciously created national libraries, but more often they developed them from pre-eminent existing collections, or labelled such collections as national libraries and gave them national status"³.

Some national libraries perform dual roles. G. Burston mentions three types of national libraries with dual purposes : national academic, national-public, and national parliamentary⁴. The national-public and national-academic are the most common types of dual purpose national libraries. M. Rojnic indicates that there are historical and economic reasons why University libraries in some countries were given the function of a national library⁵.

"In many European countries the former libraries of the sovereigns have been transformed in course of time into national libraries. In other countries, national libraries were founded as completely new institutions. In some countries, however, the duty of collecting and preserving the books of the country concerned was undertaken by national museums. But there has been another solution

to the problem of national libraries. This was particularly the case with those small countries which have achieved their independence relatively late and also with those nationalities which developed in a nationally heterogeneous country. As a rule in these countries the most important university libraries were given the functions of national libraries"⁶.

5.2 National University Libraries

The economic reason "played a decisive role in promoting a national or regional library to extend its services to the university and a university library to become exceptionally important for a country or a province"⁷.

S.B. Bandera lists some national libraries which have functioned as university libraries and vice versa.⁸ These libraries are the university libraries of Oslo (for Norway), Helsinki (for Finland), Goettingen (which became the state library of lower Saxony with the creation of that state), Strasbourg, Zagreb and Ljubljana (in Yugoslavia).

In general as C. Wormann notes, it is advisable for newly developing countries to have the national library serve as the university library and vice versa "because it enables them to make the best use of the usually meagre library resources and limited number of professional librarians"⁹.

In Sweden, in addition to the national services provided by the Royal Library, Stockholm, three university libraries have the right of legal deposit and consequent obligations to the nation at large¹⁰. It may be pointed out here that mere legal deposit right does not, by itself, confer the title of national library on a university library. The Bodleian Library of Oxford University and Cambridge University both have this right but have no reciprocal duties. In South Africa, in addition to the two national libraries, two public libraries and the Library of Parliament have the right of legal deposit.¹¹

5.3 National Public Libraries

National public libraries, as described by Burston, are "a feature of developing countries"¹².

In a survey of national libraries in the developing countries, published by S. Aje, it is found that almost all of the national libraries participating in the survey also act as public libraries.¹³

5.4 National Parliamentary Libraries

Another form of dual-function, national library is the National Parliamentary Library. As an eloquent example of this kind of library, one may mention the Library of Congress, the National Diet Library of Japan and the National Library of Australia.

5.5 Other types

In the United Kingdom there is a separate institution, the National library for the Blind. The Library of Congress has division for the blind and for the physically handicapped.

H. Panofsky suggests that "it should be possible to have one effective multipurpose library in each country. This one library could be labelled 'National Library' at one entrance, 'Public Library' at another 'University Library' at the third, and perhaps 'Government Archives' on a fourth side"¹⁴.

C. Penna cautions against doing so, mentioning that there is "a risk in such cases that one function may be performed to the detriment of the other, and this must be guarded against"¹⁵.

5.6 The British Library

In the United Kingdom a new development is the British Library. It was established in 1973. The 1971 white paper opens with the statement:

"For many years librarians and users of libraries have recognised that we have in this country the resources to create a national library service without-rival in the world".¹⁶

S. Green gives an idea of the main objectives of its creators:

"to weld into a coherent and flexible entity a variety of national or para national institutions which had previously functioned independently, in a way which would yield the maximum benefit to the communities they served"¹⁷

H. Hookway goes into detail on the activities of the British Library.

The activities are grouped into three operational divisions:

"Reference, Lending and Bibliographic Services. Of these the Reference Division is formed from the former British Museum Library and the National Reference Library of Science and

invention; the Lending Division combines the functions of the National Central Library and the National Lending Library for Science and Technology, and the Bibliographic Services Division is based essentially on the functions of the former British National Bibliography together with the Copyright Receipt Office"¹⁸.

"In general, the British Library, according to its establishing act, is responsible for reference, study, bibliographical and other information services in both science and technology and the humanities. The Library's activities cover all kinds of information services in all subject fields. The British Library should be well equipped to provide central services for other British Libraries and has the legal power to act as a government agent in promoting more efficient and cost effective library and information systems. The new library is the principal national depository for British Copyright publications, and produces the national bibliography, serves as the central loan library, the main source of support for library and information science, research, and as a major developer or operator of computer-based bibliographic and other information services. It is expected to be the hub of the nation's library services"¹⁹

5.7 The Library of Congress

The Library of Congress, Washington, is the largest library in the United States and is among the largest in the world. It performs to some degree nearly all of the functions that have been identified with national libraries.

The Library of Congress is recognised at home and abroad as the "de facto" national library of the United States. J. Cole quotes the Librarian of Congress report for 1962, *The Library of Congress as the National Library*. In that report Librarian Mumford states that:

While each of the other national libraries of the world carried out some of the following functions of national library that Library of Congress was engaged in all of them:

1. Maintains comprehensive collections, especially evidence of the national heritage, for the use of the Government, the scholarly world, and the public thereby making it a national centre for research.
2. Benefits from official, intergovernmental exchange of publications.

3. Receives through Copyright or legal deposit materials for the enrichment of its collections.
4. Receives gifts on behalf of the National in the form of collections of personal papers, rare books and other valuable materials and in the form of trust funds and bequests; arranges cultural programmes in such fields as literature, art and music.
5. Develops a comprehensive classification system, which is widely used by other research institutions, and cataloging codes, which are nationally accepted standards.
6. Serves as a centre for cooperative cataloging of books and other forms of material by the Nation's libraries.
7. Provides a national catalog card distribution service.
8. Maintains national union catalogs on cards, which serves as guides to the Nation's research resources in various forms (such as books and manuscripts) and in various fields (such as Hebraica and Slavica) and furnishes information about the location of needed materials to those who cannot personally consult these tools.
9. Publishes in book form a national bibliography, or a major contribution thereto, such as the Library's National Union Catalog.
10. Gives reference services on its premises and provides extensive information from and about its collections by mail.
11. Participates in a nation wide interlibrary loan system, which enables it to share collection responsibilities with other libraries and to make research materials generally available, thereby strengthening smaller libraries throughout the country by supplementing their research resources through those of the national library.
12. Has an active bibliographic programme and makes the results of it widely available through publication.
13. Administers the national books for the blind program.
14. Presents exhibits selected from the national collections for the education and enjoyment of the general public, and circulates exhibits at home and abroad as evidence of the national history and culture.

15. Experiments and conducts research in the area of library technology.
16. Engages in national international co-operative bibliographic projects, and works with other national libraries and international organisations to achieve standardization of rules in order to increase the accessibility of the materials of knowledge without regard to national boundaries and language barriers.²⁰

5.8 The Lenin State Library

The Lenin State Library of the USSR, the national library of the Soviet Union, was founded in 1862 as a constituent of the Moscow Public Rumiantsev Museum. From the moment of its conception it began to obtain deposit copies of national publications. In February 1925, it was changed into the national library of the country and was given its present name.²¹

The library performs the following functions:

1. Receives and serves as a depository for all national literature;
2. Collects foreign publications;
3. Offers Reprographic and Translation Services;
4. Renders interlibrary loan at national and international level;
5. Compiles bibliographies of recommended readings;
6. Conducts research in the fields of library science and bibliography etc.
7. Helps in the exchange of publications; and
8. Provides guidance and assistance on the problems of library science and on library techniques to other libraries.²²

The library has in its possession the most complete collection of national publications and the largest collection of foreign publications in the USSR. In its holdings there are manuscripts from the 6th century to the 20th century, including the richest collection of old Russian manuscripts, books, as well as manuscripts of writers, academic and public workers.²³

5.9 The Bibliotheque National, Paris

The National Library in Paris is a universally recognized "great grandmother" of the type. It was founded as the Royal Library in 1480

and it has been receiving deposit copies, with some interceptions, since 1537. In 1795 it was declared the national library of the country by the National Convention.²⁴

The functions performed by this library are as follows:

- 1) Receives and serves as a depository for all national literature;
- 2) Collects representative literature on all subjects in all languages produced outside the country;
- 3) Offers bibliographic service through the preparation of national bibliography;
- 4) Prepares catalogue;
- 5) Renders inter-library loan service at national and international level; and
- 6) Helps in foreign exchange of materials.

This Library conducts broad information - bibliographic activity. It publishes **The General Catalog of National Library Publications and Inventory of French Collections of Prints**. Participates in compiling the **French National Bibliography and union** catalogs, and publishes the monthly information on new accessions - **Bulletin of French Libraries**.

5.10 The National Library of Singapore

The National Library of Singapore traces its development back to 1823 when Sir Stamford Raffles founded the Singapore institution, now called the Raffles Institution. The small school library grew into a subscription library, known as Singapore Library, in 1844. In 1873 the collections totalled 3,000 books, which were merged into the Raffles Library and Museum in September 1874.²⁵

In 1957, the Raffles National Library ordinance was enacted and on 1st April 1958 it became the National Library, moving to its present quarters in November 1960.²⁶

The National Library of Singapore is considered to be the National and Public library of that small island of only 2,075,000 inhabitants.²⁷

The functions of the Singapore National Library as cited in the National Library Act are as follows:

1. To promote and to encourage the use of library materials and information by the establishment of lending and reference libraries and mobile library services;

2. To acquire library materials generally, and in particular, to acquire a comprehensive collection of library materials both current and retrospective, relating to Singapore.
3. To collect and receive all books required to be deposited in the National Library under the provisions of the printers and publishers Act and to preserve such books;
4. To make library materials available for reference and for loan subject to proper safeguard against loss or damages;
5. To provide reference, bibliographic and interlibrary loan services to Government departments and to parliament;
6. To advise and to co-ordinate the resources and services of Government department libraries and other libraries with those of the National Library;
7. To obtain and provide central information on the resources and services of libraries in Singapore;
8. To participate in national planning for all types of library service in Singapore, and to conduct research to determine library needs and possibilities;
9. To compile current national bibliography and retrospective national bibliographies;
10. To compile and maintain a union catalogue of libraries of all kinds;
11. To act as the organizing agency for the national and international lending of library materials;
12. To act as the organizing agency for the national and international exchange of library materials;
13. To initiate and promote co-operation between the National Library and the other libraries in the discharge of the above functions.²⁸

5.11 The National Library of India

The National Library of India in Calcutta is famous for its rich collection of books, manuscripts, maps etc.

The Library has its origin in the establishment in 1836 of a public library in Calcutta, which the Municipality of Calcutta agreed to maintain in 1890. In 1903 Lord Curzon effected the amalgamation of

the Calcutta Public Library and the Official Imperial Library to form the new Imperial Library, with its first location in the Metcalfe Hall.²⁹

Soon after independence, the Government of India decided to change the name and functions of the Imperial Library. It became the National Library in 1948. It is at present housed at Belveders, the Viceroy's residence before the capital was shifted to Delhi.

Under an executive order of the Government of India, 1953-54, this library became entitled to receive one copy each of all the publications published in the country under the provision of the Press and Registration of Books Act, 1867. This Act was replaced by the enactment of the Delivery of Books (Public Libraries) Act, 1954, which came into effect from 20th May, 1954.³⁰

A Reviewing Committee was appointed by the Ministry of Education in 1968 to review the working of the National Library, Calcutta, and to suggest measures for its efficient functioning and future development.³¹

The basic features of the National Library as envisaged by the Reviewing Committee are as follows:

- i) Acquisition and conservation of all significant national production of printed materials to the exclusion only of ephemera;
- ii) Collection of printed materials concerning the country, no matter where these are published, and, as a corollary, the acquisition of a photographic record of such materials that are not available within the country;
- iii) Acquisition and conservation of manuscripts of national importance;
- iv) Planned acquisition of foreign material required by the country;
- v) Rendering of bibliographical and documentation services of current and retrospective materials, both general and specialised;
- vi) Acting as a referral centre purveying full and accurate knowledge of all sources of bibliographical information and participation in international bibliographical activities;
- vii) Provision of Photo-copying and reprographic services; and

- viii) Acting as the centre for international book exchange and international loan.³²

The basic functions of the National Library, Calcutta are the following:

- i) To act as a depository of all the publications under the Delivery of Books Act (1954);
- ii) To provide inter-library loan facility;
- iii) To be the centre for the exchange of publications between India and other countries;
- iv) To serve as a public library for Calcutta; and
- v) To publish the Indian National Bibliography.³³

This National Library has in its possession a number of donated rare and valuable collections. It also has a Reprography Division which is concerned with the photocopying and microfilming of the documents whenever there is such demand. This division has very sophisticated reprographic equipments. Reading lists or select bibliographies are compiled for outstation scholars on request. Microfilms, photocopies and Xerox Prints are made available at cost.³⁴

Perhaps for historical and cultural reasons it is this library that should serve as a model in the planning of the Bangladesh National Library.

5.12 The National Library of Nigeria

The National Library of Nigeria was established by law in 1964.³⁵ It is recognised as a institutional instrument in national development and in the context of the objectives of library service to society. This objectives of the National Library of Nigeria are as follows:

- i) The provision of necessary support for intellectual efforts in all activities directed at progress and developments;
- ii) Ensuring the availability of a comprehensive and as near complete a collection of resources as possible materials of knowledge in existence in the world, and ensuring full access to such resources both within and out-side the nation's boundaries; and
- iii) Ensuring a free flow of knowledge between this nation and others, thereby securing a place for the nation in the

community of nations that depends on recorded-knowledge and information for survival in a world of rapid advancement based on competition of ideas.³⁶

The National Library of Nigeria is essentially for reference and is open to all residents except children. The library collects library statistics for the country. It is also the National bibliographic centre.³⁷

5.13 The National Library of Sri Lanka

Enactment of the legislation for the establishment of the National Library of Sri Lanka is only 12 years old. Nevertheless, the basic concepts of a National Library had been conceived over a century ago and some aspects of National Library Services had begun and been in operation since then. The National Library of Sri Lanka came into being through an evolutionary process and in this process a number of other libraries have contributed to the development of the basic functions of a National Library.³⁸

The Ceylon National Library Services Board was set up in 1970 by an Act of parliament as a statutory agency under the Ministry of Education. The Board consists of 11 members 2 of whom are appointed by the Minister of Housing and Research and the rest are appointed by the Minister of Education from among prominent men in various walks of life. The Chairman of the Board is appointed by the Minister of Education, and the Director, National Library Service, is the Secretary to the Board. The Board operates on its own fund to which money is voted by Parliament, besides donations, gifts and grants received from local and overseas sources.³⁹

"The establishment of a National Library to be considered as Legal deposit library for the purpose of:

- a) preserving the national culture;
- b) developing by all appropriate means, systems and procedures which will make available the total library resources of the nation for the benefit of the whole country;
- c) establishing relations with the libraries of other countries, since no country today can be self-sufficient;

and more particularly to maintain and develop a national collection of library materials, compile the Ceylon National bibliography, provide other bibliographical services, co-ordinate and assist all Government

Departmental libraries, and to serve as a National Documentation Centre.⁴⁰

A Committee on National Library Resources Development made recommendations regarding the scope of materials to be obtained in the National Library and the method of their procurement. The scope of materials according to the committee should be: Manuscripts, books and non book materials, periodicals, newspapers, published reports, audio-visual materials (gramophone records, tapes, cassettes audio-vedeo, films, photographs, prints, slides, paintings, maps, recordings of written literature, history etc., Postage stamps, currency notes, materials relating to heraldry, honours, grants etc. , those related to life and culture of Sri Lanka and such other materials as deemed necessary for the achievement of objectives of the National Library.

Methods of procurement

- a) Legal deposit
- b) Copyright
- c) Gifts and exchange
- d) Purchases.

a) Legal deposit

- i) The Committee observed that current legislation on legal deposit is inadequate in respect of the coverage of library materials.
- ii) The Committee recommended that the facility of legal Deposit should be transferred to the National Library from the National Archives Department and the provisions of the Act be amended to suit the needs of a modern National Library.
- iii) Until such time as (i) & (ii) above is effected, material not procured under Legal Deposit should be purchased.

b) Copyright material

As the copyright office will obtain all materials relevant to a National Library, the Board might profitably negotiate co-ordinating the work of the copyright office with the Acquisition Department of the National Library. It is suggested that the Copyright Office be persuaded to obtain all materials in duplicate and transfer the duplicates to the National Library.

c) Gifts & Exchange:

The Committee recommends that the National Library should have a programme of obtaining foreign materials on Gifts and Exchange as far as practicable, through National Libraries, Embassies etc.

d) Purchase:

Materials that cannot be obtained under (a), (b) and (c) above need to be purchased. All materials purchased should preferably be in triplicate (Deposit copy, Reference copy and Inter-library loan copy).⁴¹

The National Library Service Committee lays particular emphasis on 'recording' of traditional art and literary forms —oral traditions, music, dance, paintings, architecture including important buildings of artistic or historic value, in view of the fact that what remains is fast disappearing or dying. It is recommended that the basic equipment necessary be purchased for this purpose and work commenced early.⁴²

5.14 Conclusion

All the national libraries of the world are not the same in nature. They differ in the manner in which they started functioning. They also differ in varying degrees in their specific functions which are related to the overall structures of each country and the Government. Organizational charts of selected National Libraries, representing the developed and developing countries given in appendix I also illustrate this difference.

According to Dorothy Anderson: "At the apex of the library structure in many countries of the world stands a national library, distinguished by the dignity of the building, the richness of its collections, the wealth of its resources and the quality of its scholarships."⁴³

In every developed country all the national libraries are well organized and functioning well for the service of the people. But no definition of a national library could be formulated which would encompass and represent all the national libraries of the world.

The literature about the types and functions of national libraries reflects the world's movement towards the promotion of library and information services with the national libraries playing a keyrole in the process.

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CHAPTER 6

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF BANGLADESH NATIONAL LIBRARY

6.1 Pre-Independence Period (before 1947)

As the present Bangladesh was part of the sub-continent of India prior to Independence in 1947, it is pertinent and useful to make a brief survey of the attempts for the establishment of a National Library in India.

A connection can be traced between the freedom movement and library movement as evidenced by the fact that at the time of the 39th session of the Indian National Congress held at Belgaon in 1924, the third All India Library Conference was also held there on the 26th December 1924. The importance of setting up libraries throughout the country as centres for providing education and information to the people and making them more politically conscious was realised by the leaders. As a means towards this end the question of establishing a library association in every province and state was also discussed and the delegates from the then Bengal under the leadership of Deshbandhu Chittaranjan Das got a resolution passed for the establishment of a Library Association in Bengal. A general committee for this purpose was constituted in the same session and poet Rabindranath Tagore and Sushilkumar Ghosh were elected Chairman and Secretary respectively of the committee. Thus the Bengal Library Association was founded in 1925.

6.1.1 Calcutta Public Library

The history of the gradual development of the National Library will be incomplete without a brief survey of the Calcutta Public Library which was established in the first half of the nineteenth century.

The Calcutta Public Library owes its origin to Mr. J.H. Stocqueler (Pseudonym Joachim Heyward Siddons), the editor of *Englishman*¹.

In his Memoirs he writes: "Finding, by my letters from Bombay, that the 'General Library' has taken firm root and was flourishing, I was determined to attain introduction of a similar establishment in Calcutta, for that city was equally destitute of a public library. The endeavour had been made some years previously and had failed. Receiving a good deal of countenance from the upper classes, my project was now submitted to a public meeting (1835) over which Sir John Peter Grant, one of the judges of the Supreme Court, presided and was so well received that subscriptions rapidly poured in and books were presented. I was appointed Honorary Secretary to the library, and received very gratifying public tributes to my humble endeavours to supply a real want"².

The resolution passed at the public meeting was most significantly worded and mentioned the necessity for establishing a public library of reference and circulation in Calcutta which would be open to all ranks and classes without distinction. Prince Dwarkanath Tagore became the first proprietor of the Calcutta Public Library. In grateful remembrance of his patronage the citizens of Calcutta installed his marble bust in the premises of the Calcutta Public Library. The bust still adorns the entrance of the National Library, Belvedere, Calcutta.

The generosity of Dr. F.P. Strong, Civil Surgeon of the 24 Parganas, gave the Calcutta Public Library its first housing. The library was kept open to the public on the ground floor of his residence in 1863. After a temporary shifting to Fort William in July 1841, the library was finally shifted to the first floor of Metcalfe Hall on the Strand Road³.

The Calcutta Public Library was declared open to the public on 21st March 1836.

One Mr. Stacy was put in charge of the library and Mr Peary Chand Mitra, the acknowledged father of Bengali Novel was appointed Sub-librarian.

Sir John Peter Grant, Curator of that Institution rendered prominent services to the Calcutta Public Library. He took an active part in the management of the Institution, specially when it was at its very initial stage.

Mr. Stacy, the librarian resigned in 1884 and Peary Chand Mitra was promoted to the post⁴.

The first Council of the Calcutta Public Library was formed in 1873 and was composed of 14 members and Raja Ramanath Tagore was one of its Vice Presidents. The other Indian members of the council were Jogananda Mookherjee, Joygopal Sen and Jadunath Ghosh. For the first time an Indian namely Maharaja Narendra Krishna became President of the Council of the Library in 1877.⁵

The success of the Calcutta Public Library was due to the united efforts of the European and Indian citizens of Calcutta. In the 1830s and 1840s this was the only public library in the city worth the name.

Mr. A. Mackenzie, one of the proprietors of the library and a high official of the Government of Bengal, submitted a plan for the reorganization of the library on the 15th December, 1885.⁶ He suggested that the library should be converted into a Municipal Library and should be kept open to the public free of any charge. His proposals were accepted by the Council of the Calcutta Public Library and after prolonged correspondence with the Bengal Government the Management of the library was transferred to a new Council dominated by the nominees of the Municipality.

The formal transfer was effected on 20th April, 1890 and the library was opened to the public in July 1890.

This re-organization of the library did not improve matters much. The chief reason was that the Municipality did not take up the full responsibility of running the library. But the Calcutta Public Library had a unique position as the first public library in this part of the country. In those days during the first half of the nineteenth century such a well-organized and efficient library was rare even in Europe. The Bengal Social Science Association was also founded in its premises in 1867 and Peary Chand Mitra became its Secretary. Many banned papers were read under its auspices in the Metacalfe Hall. The Calcutta Public Library was also instrumental in enacting the Societies Registration Act of 1860.

6.1.2 Imperial Library

Lord Curzon first conceived the idea of opening a library for the use of the public. One of his first undertakings after his arrival in Calcutta was to visit the Government offices and public buildings of the city. He noticed that two libraries which had rich collections of books

were not being properly used by the scholars and students for want of necessary facilities. One of these was the Imperial Library which was formed in 1891 by combining a number of Secretariat libraries.⁷ The use of the Imperial Library was restricted to the superior officers of the Government, both central and local. Non-officials could borrow books provided they obtained permission of the Government of India.

Lord Curzon also visited the Calcutta Public Library and was shocked to find the miserable condition the valuable books of the Institution. He decided to amalgamate the rich collections of both these libraries and make them available to the readers.

A preliminary preparation was made which involved the transfer of the books of the Imperial Library from Esplanade to Metcalfe Hall, for proper shelving of books and their cataloguing. In establishing this library, the Government of India had to pay a sum of Rs. 28,000 to the Council of the Calcutta Public Library as the purchase value of existing shares. Similarly to obtain Metcalfe Hall as a part of the amalgamated library, the Imperial Library, the Government paid Rs. 25,000 as compensation to the Agri. Horticultural Society and agreed to pay an annual grant of Rs. 6,000 to the Society in the future.

Lord Curzon, promulgated the Imperial Library Act 1902 (1 of 1902), and opened the library on 31st January 1903 and stated that the library had been organized on the same lines as the Reading Rooms of the British Museum.⁸

John Macfarlane, from the British Museum, was appointed its first librarian (1901-6).⁹ He introduced the British Museum methods of cataloguing and classification in the organization of the Imperial Library. His untimely death in 1906 was a great loss to the library. His successor Harinath DC, scholar and linguist was in charge of the library from 1907-1911.¹⁰

It was left to Mr. J.A. Chapman to shape the library and give it status during his period of Librarianship (1911-30). He made many experiments in how books may be preserved in a tropical climate.

Mr. Chapman mentioned in his Report for 1915-16 that the proposal to the Imperial Library for a Copyright Library was already before the Council. This proposal stressed that one copy of every book published in India should be preserved in the Imperial Library, that the

privilege enjoyed by the British Museum and the India Office Library under the provision of the Press and the Registration of Books Act, 1867, should be offered to the Imperial Library without delay. In 1917 he wrote to the Government of India:

"The influence of one man such as Sir Rabindra Nath Tagore rather the influence of his writing, in changing the general estimate in which the Indian classical and vernacular literature are held, is hardly to be estimated, and the more imbibing the prevailing spirit of Europe and its estimate of the worth of national literature as means of culture, the higher will grow the estimate in which Indian literatures are held. The question in those days will assuredly not be as to whether it is right that of the three "Copyright" Libraries. (I assume that the Imperial Library will then have been made one), two should be in England. The question may then well be whether there should not be four 'Copyright' libraries in India, at Delhi, Calcutta and Bombay and Madras in each of which every valuable Indian publication should be found as in Great Britain there are in London, Oxford, Cambridge, Edinburgh and Dublin"¹¹

It is surprising how prophetic Mr. Chapman had been about the establishment and the growth of depository libraries in the country. The Government of India thought it necessary to provide accommodation and staff for the books first and then to effect the legislation. The Library Council at its meeting held on 21st March, 1933 requested the Librarian to prepare a scheme for a Copyright library which was examined by a subcommittee and was forwarded to the Government of Bengal with the Council's recommendations in 1932-33.

In 1923 the Imperial Library was shifted from Metcalfe Hall to a portion of the Foreign and Military Secretariat Building at 5 Esplanade East, where the National Library now had a newspaper reading room.¹²

After the retirement of Mr. John Alexander Chapman, K.M. Asadullah was the librarian from 1930 to 1947. He started library training classes in 1935.¹³

Again the war made it essential to shift the library to a private building. Jabakusum House, 34, Central Avenue was the home of the Imperial Library from 1942 to 1947. The Library returned to 5 Esplanade East in early 1948 and later in the year was shifted to Belvedere.

6.1.3 National Library

The work of Stocqueler and Curzon and of a series of good librarians had given India something it could call a National Library when it became an independent country. The Imperial Library (change of name) Act was passed in 1948 and the National Library came into being. The Viceregal Lodge of Calcutta with its lovely grounds became the permanent home of the National Library.¹⁴

So there no real National Library in the pre-Independence period. The Independence and Partition of India in 1947 gave birth to a National Library in India. The geographical entity called East Bengal (later on East Pakistan and then Bangladesh) inherited no national library in 1947.

6.2. Post-Independence period (After 1947)

It was in 1947 that this subcontinent was divided into two parts namely India and Pakistan. Then almost all the well-established educational institutions, research organizations, libraries and museums, which were mostly located in Calcutta, came under Indian territory.

After this partition in 1947, with its manifold consequences and the inescapable impact of international relations, Pakistan had increasing needs for information at all levels and on a comprehensive range of subjects. And so, in harmony with the experiences of other developing countries, the requirement of a well organized library system was felt acutely.

The few libraries which were shared by United Pakistan (both wings) were at the time in a disorganized condition due to lack of proper care and accommodation and trained personnel. The Government could not pay attention because of various pressing problems like food, clothings, shelter and especially the refugee problem. In fact Pakistan was then in a distressed situation and could not even imagine the merger of two or three libraries to constitute a national one as New Zealand found it expedient in her situation.

Actually Pakistan wanted to establish the National Library in West Pakistan.

6.2.1 National Library of Pakistan

The National Library of Pakistan was established at Karachi in 1950; in 1954 it was merged with the Liaquat Memorial Library and the

amalgamated Library came to be known as Liaquat National Library.¹⁵ And Liaquat National Library was given the privilege of Copyright deposits.

Due to constant and forceful demands arising from the people of the then East Pakistan the Central Library in East Pakistan was established at Dhaka to maintain parity.

The then Pakistan Government also decided to establish a Bibliographical Unit and it was set up to work in the Directorate of Archives and Libraries. It was also attached to the Liaquat National Library at Karachi. However, the Central Library of Dhaka was designated as one of the three libraries of the then Pakistan with depository privileges.

"This library during Pakistan period, used to receive books and publications under the section 'Delivery' of Books and Newspapers of the 1962 Copyright Ordinance and was called Delivery of Books and Newspapers Branch, Central Library of Pakistan, Dhaka"¹⁶ The branch was functioning in a hired house at Mohammadpur, Dhaka.

For several years, nothing significant was done by way of establishing a national library in this wing of the country and the need became more potent. In 1955 the Ministry of Education arranged the visit of Mr. L.C. Key, and Australian Librarian, to study the library condition and situation in the then Pakistan to make proper suggestions for possible improvements and development. Mr. Key reviewed the situation and prepared a library development report known as the Key Report apart from other suggestions, Mr. Key suggested ambitious plans for the development of the National Library namely, the Liaquat National Library; but the establishment of a National Library at Dhaka was not mentioned by him.

The Liaquat National Library was the legal depository for Pakistan publications since 1960. In 1964, a bibliographical unit was established to prepare a National Bibliography of Pakistan since 1947.

It was divided into two sections of which the primary one covered classified subject list of books in which important information about books was available.

6.3 Post-Liberation Period (After 1971)

A new phase of library movement began in Bangladesh after her liberation in 1971. A group of educationists and library minded people participated in this movement with new inspirations. One of the

dazzling phenomena of library movement was the grand celebrations of the International Book Year, 1972 on the free soil of Bangladesh.

The citizens of Bangladesh also felt it necessary to preserve their ancient national heritage for posterity. They felt the urgent needs for a national library. So partly due to this demand and partly for rehabilitating the repatriated Bengali officers of the Directorate of Archives and Libraries, the Government empowered the Directorate of Archives and Libraries to perform dual duties of National Archives and some of the functions of National Libraries. It may be mentioned that the "Delivery of Books and Newspaper Branch, Dhaka" was functioning directly under the Directorate of Archives and Libraries under the Ministry of Education, Government of Pakistan, Karachi. After the emergence of Bangladesh the Bengali officers of the Directorate of Archives and Libraries, Karachi, on repatriation from Pakistan were rehabilitated in that Directorate.¹⁷

The Directorate of Archives and Libraries was accommodated in a hired house at 103, Elephant Road, Dhaka-5. But again it shifted to another hired house at 106, Central Road, Dhaka-5, due to lack of space. It now forms the nucleus of National Library of Bangladesh.¹⁸

The Directorate has two wings - National Library and National Archives under one Director. It is performing the functions of Bangladesh National Library.

6.3.1 National Library Sub-Committee

On 10th November, 1973 a National Library sub-committee was formed to examine the present conditions and to make necessary steps for the establishment of a National Library of Bangladesh at Dhaka. The sub-committee was constituted with the following persons:

- 1) Dr. K.M. Karim,
Director of Archives & Libraries. (Convenor)
- 2) Mr. A.K.M. Shamsul Alam,
Ex-Chairman,
Dept. of Library Science,
University of Dhaka. (Member)
- 3) Mr. Shamsul Huq,
Ex-Director (Library)
Bangla Academy Library, Dhaka (Member)

Since the emergence of Bangladesh the Copyright (Amendment Act 1974/LIV of 1974) is in force. So it makes it obligatory on the part of the publishers to deposit copies of books to the designated libraries including the national library of Bangladesh. The three other depository Libraries are at Chittagong Divisional Public Library, Rajshahi Public Library and Khulna Divisional Public Library.

6.3.2 Bangladesh National Library

The National Library as part of the Directorate of Archives and Libraries is functioning as the Bangladesh National Library as per declaration of the Government vide Gazette Notification No. LB/IL-13/75/386, dated 29-8-75. LB/IL-13/75/387, dated 29-8-75 and LB/IL-13/75/546, dated 8-11-75.¹⁸

6.3.3 National Bibliography

It is compiling the Annual National Bibliography and Article Index of daily English and Bengali newspapers. The National Bibliography of Bangladesh covering the periods December 16, 1972, 1973-1977, have been published.

The volume covering the period from 1978 to 1980 is in the press and that of 1981-1982 is being processed. The library has 22 staff members; one director and four other officers (in the same scale and status) and other staff.

As in other developing countries of the Third World only a small percentage of books published are deposited in this library. As a result many valuable and costly books are not deposited by the publishers due to the negligence of the publishers and laxity in the enforcement of the law. So the coverage of Bangladesh National Bibliography is only partial and not comprehensive.

In the Bangladesh National Bibliography, the following publications are not included:

- a) Notebooks and made easy text books written for the students, brochures;
- b) Subsequent numbers after the first issue of newspapers and periodicals;
- c) National Assembly debates and commentary; and
- d) Maps.

The Bibliography is divided into two main sections; the first consists of a detailed list of Bengali books and the second provides the list of English books published in Bangladesh. Each part is divided into two sections. The primary section covers classified subject list of books in which important information regarding books are available and the second one covers authors, title and subject index. A brief information of books is given in the index. At the end of each part, full addresses of publishers whose books are included in the Bibliography are given. In preparing the Bibliography, Dewey Decimal classification and Anglo-American cataloguing Codes are followed.

The National Library of Bangladesh is functioning and trying its best to serve the readers to the extent permitted by its limited resources.

The success of the National Bibliography depends largely upon adequate funds and staff and larger deposits of publications by the publishers. As regards the funds and staff, the Government of Bangladesh have been trying to provide them. Steps should be taken through subsidising the ever-increasing publication costs and through other methods to ensure a substantially higher percentage of deposit of publications than at present so that the National Bibliography will serve as a fairly reliable index of the literary output of the country.

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CHAPTER 7

PRESENT STRUCTURE OF BANGLADESH NATIONAL LIBRARY IN TERMS OF LOCATION, BUILDING, STAFF ETC.

7.1 Building

As already mentioned in Chapter 1, after liberation the Government of Bangladesh felt the necessity to establish a National Library in the capital city in Dhaka and allotted a plot of land at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka.

Bangladesh Government prepared two development schemes for the National Library, one for implementation during the Two Year Plan (1980-82) and another during the Five Year Plan (1980-85). The year-wise sanction of grant is given in Appendix D.

According to the Scheme, "the construction of the building will be undertaken during the Two Year Plan Period (1980-82). It is designed to be a seven storied building. The building is to be constructed in phases. The first phase of the building was to be completed during the Two Year Plan and the second phase during the 2nd Five Year Plan period (1980-85)¹. But the construction has lagged behind schedule and is still in progress.

7.2 Cost Estimate of building

The total cost of the project was taka 418.00 lakhs split up into two phases viz. first phase - Tk. 73.05 lakhs and the 2nd phase - Tk. 344. 95 lakhs. But in the Second Five Year Plan (1980-85: Revised), the total cost of the project has been increased. Now the total cost of the project is Taka 465.18 lakhs, the first phase being Tk. 127.24 and the second phase 337.94 lakhs.²

7.3 Progress of work

The National Library building is under construction at Sher-e-Banglanagar, Dhaka. Land measuring about 4.16 acres was acquired in 1976 and developed. In 1978 M/s. Vastukalabid, an architectural firm of repute was engaged for designing the building. The firm accordingly prepared and submitted the blue prints and designs which were approved by the Government. The construction work of the building of the National Library was undertaken in early 1979 and upto the end of the June, 1983, an amount of Tk. 360. 11 lakhs had been spent.³

The project was initially approved at an estimated cost of Tk. 465.18 lakhs on 31.12.80. Now the estimated cost of the building has gone up to Tk. 740 lakhs (including lift and package airconditioning) because of the escalation of prices of materials and the revision of the construction prices of materials and the revision of the construction rates of the Public Works Department (P.W. D).⁴

The foundation work of the National Library building has already been completed. The superstructure of the building has been undertaken and the work of the southern block and the stack block up to 3rd floor is being completed. Construction of other blocks of the building will be undertaken soon. After the completion of the building the work of the National Library as an apex library organization of the country will commence on proper lines.

The following physical items of work are involved.

1. Construction of the four blocks of the building measuring an area of 61,555 sft. will be completed. 61,555 sft.
2. Electrification
3. Construction of Sub-station building 900 sft.
4. Construction of Water pump house 250 sft.
5. Sky light and flood light installation.
6. Internal road, boundary walls, Horticulture work etc.
7. Installation of lift and Airconditioners
8. Furniture.⁵

7.4 Scheme for the building of the National Library of Bangladesh in 2nd Five Year Plan (1980-85)

The following areas will be required for different departments of the National Library:

Sl. No.	Ground Floor	Item	Area in sft.
1.	Porch		755
2.	Security	Hall, Check Information etc.	2400
3.			
4.			
5.	Exhibition		3200
6.	Lift		200
7.	Toilet		200
8.	Circulation	i) 705 ii) 545 iii) 250	1500
9.	Browsing Room		1660
10.	Lobby for conference		900
11.	Conference		4000
12.	Toilet attached to conference room	i) 250 ii) 120	370
13.	Emergency Exit		3150
14.	Reading		3150
15.	Stairs		300
16.	Toilet		100
17.	Circulation		725
18.	Bibliography Section		2830
19.	International Book Exchange		560
20.	Processing Section		1690
21.	Binding, Receiving, etc		975
22.	Service Entry		200
23.	Fumigation		190
Total Ground Floor			26,055

First Floor

Sl. No.	Item	Floor Area in sft.
1.	Passage above Hall	750
2.	Circulation Spaces	
	i) 550	
	ii) 600	1,150
3.	Reading	2,450
4.	Search	1,600
5.	Lounge & Tea	1,400
6.	Tea preparation	500
7.	Reading	2,400
8.	Stairs	300
9.	Admn. Section	2,900
10.	Processing Section	1,125
11.	Reference Section	2,300
12.	Toilet	100
Total of 1st Floor		17,025 sft.

Second Floor

1.	Private Collection	1,050
2.	Circulation	1,950
3.	Newspapers & Magazine	2,700
4.	Parliamentary Service	1,600
5.	Tape-Recording	1,400
6.	Photography	1,050
7.	Micro-film Section	2,550
8.	Stairs	300
9.	Toilet	
	i) 100	
	ii) 200	300
10.	Private Books	2,700
11.	Banned Literature	775
12.	Central Catalogue	900
13.	Union Catalogue	2,000
14.	Reprography	2,100
15.	Lift	200
Total of 2nd Floor		21,575 sft.

Area of Stack Rooms

There are seven (7) floors of stack areas. Their floor areas are as follows:

<u>Sl. No.</u>		<u>Area in sft</u>
1.	Ground Floor (Stack + A. C)	5,975
2.	1st Floor	4,375
3.	2nd Floor	5,975
4.	3rd Floor	5,975
5.	4th Floor	5,975
6.	5th Floor	5,975
7.	6th Floor	5,975
		40,225 sft.

Therefore, Total of National Library:

a)	Main Building :	1) G.F	26,055
		2) F.F	17,025
		3) S.F	21,575
b)	Stacks		40,225
			1,04,880 sft

a) Stack Areas

The prime need of a National Library is its stack area where the books and other publications will be preserved. Hence a total area of 40,225 sq. ft. is proposed for this purpose.

b) Conference Room

The National Library will require an auditorium for holding conference and seminars and imparting in-service library training. For this purpose an area of 4000 sft. will be required.

c) Binding and Repair Section

The binding and repairing section will be responsible for binding and repairing books, manuscripts, newspapers

and periodicals stored in the National Library of Bangladesh. The responsibility covers the cleaning, fumigation, repairing and binding of books and other library materials so as to ensure proper storage conditions.

d) Photography Section

The major function of this section will be to establish and maintain an efficient service for research scholars and other accredited persons wishing photostat copies of all reading materials. For this purpose a total area of 1050 sq.ft. is necessary.

e) Exhibition Hall

In order to educate the people about recent publication, the holding of exhibition is of prime importance. Hence for the exhibition for books, documents, manuscripts, charts and maps, a room measuring 3,200 sq.ft. will be required in the National Library.

f) Processing Section

Books, journals and periodicals received in the National Library are to be accessioned, catalogued and indexed. Hence an area of 2815 sq.ft. is required for this purpose.

g) Reading Hall

The National Library will have reading halls to cater the needs of scholars, teachers, students, children and other accredited persons. The Reading Halls, for general readers, researchers, children and manuscripts readers measuring a total area of 8,000 sq.ft will be required in the National Library building.

h) Bibliography Section

One of the main functions of the National Library is to compile the National Bibliography out of the book collections under the Copyright Act throughout the country. So a space measuring 2830 sq.ft. will be required for the bibliographical service Section.

i) International Book Exchange Centre

One of the functions of the National Library is to exchange books and publications with other countries under

bilateral agreement and mutual exchange programme. For this purpose an area of 560 sq.ft. will be required in the National Library.

j) Director's and other Officers' Room

In the first floor of the building the room for the Director has been shown and to accommodate other officers of the National Library, rooms of different sizes will be required. Hence an area measuring 1,700 sq.ft. has been earmarked for the purpose.

k) Administration Section

To accommodate the staff of the administration Section including cash and accounts as well as diary and despatch sections, an area of 1,200 sq.ft. will be required.

l) Staff, Circulation, Lift, Stair Cases, Toilets etc.

To accommodate the technical staff of National Library the circulation space for counter, catalogue card cabinet, fumigation chamber, guard, corridors, lift, stair and toilets a total area of 9,795 sq.ft. will be required.

m) Newspapers and periodicals Section

The National Library of Bangladesh receives under Copyright Act all the daily newspapers and periodicals published in the country regularly. These papers are required to be kept in a systematic manner for the use of the researchers and the general readers of which 2,700 sq.ft. space area will be required for the purpose.

n) Research Section

There will be a research Section in the National Library for the research scholars wherein all sorts of rare and confined books will be kept for use. For keeping the research materials and also for reading space for readers and circulation desk for the staff an area of 1,600 sq.ft. will be required for the section.

o) Manuscript Section

The National Library will have a manuscript Section for keeping manuscripts and other materials like maps, charts. It will have a stack area and a reading hall along with a circulation area for which a space area of 2,000 sq.ft. has been shown.

p) Private Collection

In the National Library there will be a private collection of books donated voluntarily by eminent persons. Usually they donate their personal collection of books after a certain period of their life-time to the National Library to help build up its collections. It is expected that the National Library will receive a good number of books in terms of donation. To preserve these collections an area of at least 3,750 sq.ft. will be required in the library building.

q) Service to the Government Agencies including National Assembly

The services to the Government agencies including the National Assembly is of great importance and as such an area of measuring 1,600 sq.ft. has been shown in the Plan. This section will extend reading and research facilities to the members of the parliament and the Government agencies as well.

Table - 1

**List of Furniture According to 2nd Five Year Plan
(1980-85)**

Sl. No.	List of Articles	Quantity	Rate Tk	Total price Tk
1.	Adjustable steel Racks	238	2,500	5,95,000
2.	Wooden Almirah	24	4,000	96,000
3.	Secretarial Table for officers	8	3,000	24,000
4.	Cushion seated armed chair of officers	8	1,000	8,000
5.	Table for staff	20	750	15,000
6.	Cane seated armed chair	30	400	12,000
7.	Wooden counter with ancillary materials	1	25,000	25,000
8.	Card Catalogue Cabinet	1	15,000	15,000
9.	Steel Pigeon hole	1	5,000	5,000
10.	Steel visible index card plate with box	2	2,500	5,000
Total				8,00,000

Sources: Development Scheme of the National Library of Bangladesh (1980-85) Rev. p 34.

7.5 MANPOWER REQUIREMENTS

According to the Development Scheme (1980-85) on the manpower requirements, one person will be trained every year either in library administration or in bibliography/documentation. A post of Deputy Director was to be created during 1978-80, but it was not done.

Table 2
Staff According to 2nd Five Year Plan (1980-85)

S. No.	Name of post	Number of existing post under revenue budget	Additional post required under development budget	Rate of salary Tk	Pay and Allowances under development budget 1984-85
<u>Managerial</u>					
1.	Director	1	-	2350-2750	-
2.	Deputy Director	-	1	1400-2225	22,320/-
3.	Assistant Director of Libraries	1	1	750-1450	13,320/-
4.	Chief Bibliographer	-	1	1400-2225	22,320/-
5.	Bibliographer	3	2	750-1450	26,640/-
<u>Technical/Professional</u>					
1.	Senior Librarian	-	1	625-1315	11,000/-
2.	Librarian	1	-	470-1135	-
3.	Senior Technical Assistant	3	1	425-1050	7,500/-
4.	Junior Technical Assistant	2	4	370-745	26,000/-
<u>Skilled</u>					
1.	Publication Officer	-	1	625-1315	11,000/-
2.	Office Superintendent	-	1	425-1050	7,400/-

3.	Accountant	-	1	400-825	7,000/-
4.	Stenographer	1	-	400-825	-
5.	Manuscript Assistant/ Laminator	-	1	370-745	6,500/-
6.	Stenotypist	1	1	370-745	6,500/-
7.	Upper Division Clerk	3	-	370-745	-
8.	Senior Accounts Clerk	1	-	370-745	-
9.	Cashier	-	1	370-745	6,500/-
10.	Care Taker	-	1	370-745	6,500/-
11.	Electrician (Sub- Station mechanic-cum- switch board attendant)	-	1	370-745	6,500/-
12.	Photostat machine operator	-	1	370-745	6,500/-
13.	Plumber	-	1	325-610	6,000/-
14.	Liftman	-	1	300-540	5,400/-
15.	Driver	1	-	325-610	-
16.	Lower Division Clerk	3	1	300-540	5,400/-
17.	Bengali Typist	-	2	300-540	11,000/-
18.	English Typist	-	2	300-540	11,000/-
Unskilled					
1.	Chief Daftary	-	1	325-610	6,000/-
2.	Gesteiner Operator	-	1	300-540	5,400/-
3.	Daftary	4	-	240-345	-
4.	Book Sorter	3	1	240-345	3,500/-
5.	Peon (Messenger)	3	4	225-315	17,000/-
6.	Farash	2	-	225-315	-
7.	Night Guard	1	1	225-315	4,000/-
8.	Chowkidar	1	-	225-315	-
9.	Gardener	-	1	225-315	4,000
10.	Sweeper	1	2	225-315	8,000

* The manpower requirements were scrutinised and approved by the O & M wing vide their letter No. ED/O&M (Co-ORD)-82/79-705 dated 18-10-1979.

7.6 Report of Martial Law Committee

Recently the Report of the Martial Law Committee on the organizational set-up of the Directorate of Archives and Libraries, Sports and Cultural Division was submitted to the Chief Martial Law Administrator after consideration by the Review Committee in consultation with the representative of the organization concerned.

The Chief Martial Law Administrator was pleased to approve the report and the revised organizational set-up. The Report was printed under the title - Report of the Martial Law Committee on Organizational set-up phase II, Vol. XIV, Part 3 - chapter 21, March, 1983.

Former Organization of the Directorate of Archives and Libraries

National Library

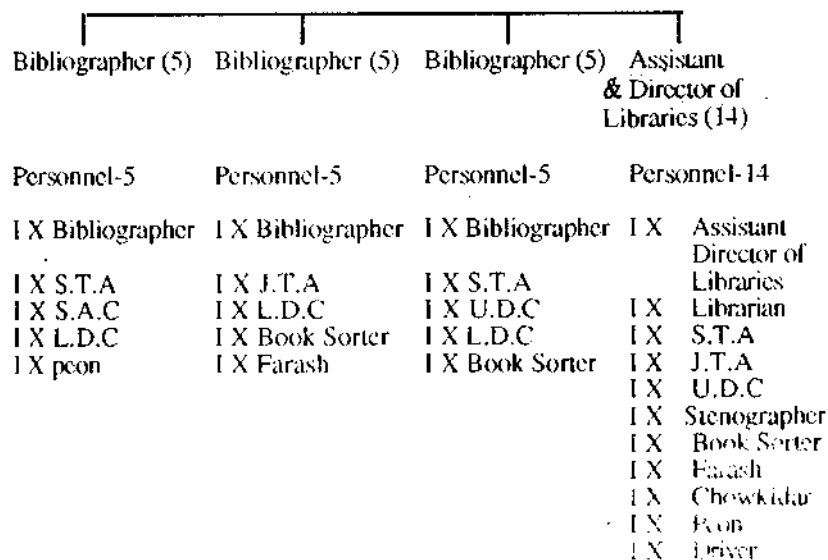
Director (50)

Personnel - 3

1 X Director

1 X Stenographer

1 X Peon



NATIONAL ARCHIVES :

DIRECTOR	50
----------	----

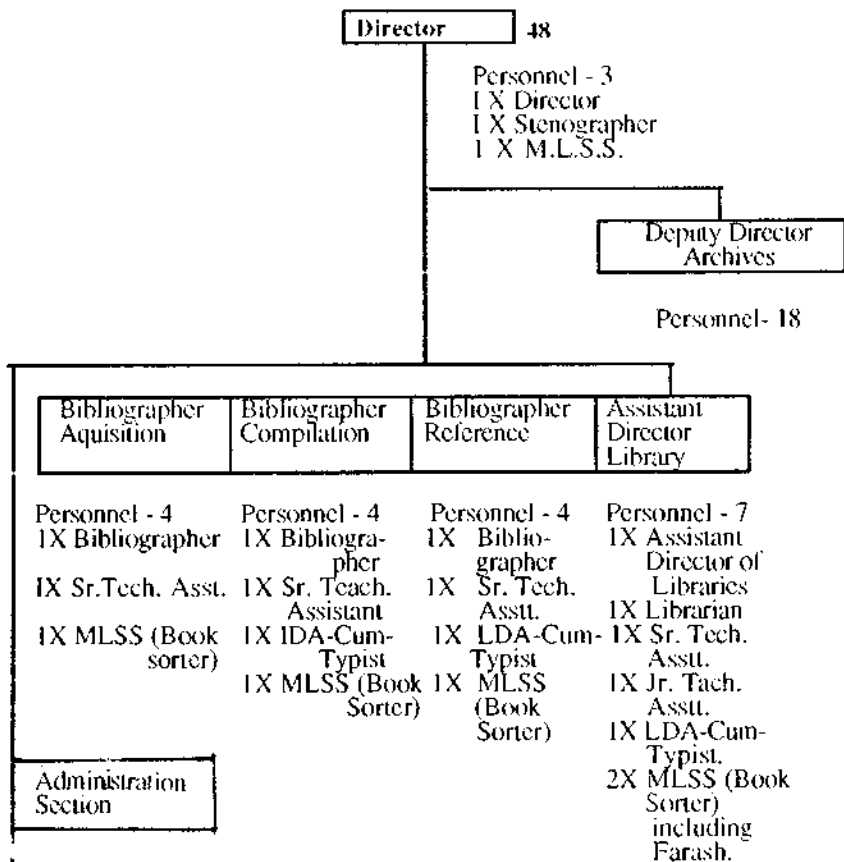
Personnel - 3
 1 X Director
 1 X Stenographer
 1 X Peon

Deputy Director of Archives	18
--------------------------------	----

Personnel - 18

1X Deputy Director
 1 X Junior Microfilming &
 Photostating officer
 4 X S.T.A
 1 X Photostating Officer
 1 X Stenotypist
 1 X Manuscript Assist.
 3 X J.T.A.
 1 X Bengali Typist
 1 X Daftry
 1 X Peon
 1 X Farash
 2 X Night Guard

Revised and Approved Organization Directorate of Archives & Libraries



7.7 Books

The National Library acquired nearly 40,000 books and publications under the Copyright Law of the country⁶.

It has completed the compilation of National Bibliography upto 1979. It is also compiling the article index of daily newspapers, retrospective bibliographies etc. It is trying to maintain contact with countries having bilateral agreements relating to the exchange of publications.

It is widely known that Bangladesh is a country with a long history of civilization and a rich cultural heritage. So, the historical task of preserving, organizing and making use of these ancient books and

records is an arduous one. The National Library shall have to make great efforts to accomplish it and to provide convenient conditions for users, home and abroad.

Under the present conditions, interlibrary loan and international exchange are important means of resource sharing of a country. It will be possible for libraries all over Bangladesh to borrow books from NLB (National Library of Bangladesh). NLB will also have to establish relation with other National Libraries for borrowing materials. Exchange of publications will promote and enhance cultural interflow and friendship among peoples of different countries.

Table 3

Year-wise receipt of Books in the National Library

Year			Number of Books
1971	...	...	323
1972	...	...	484
1973	...	...	849
1974	...	...	738
1975	...	...	950
1976	...	...	1441
1977	...	...	1298
1978	...	...	1589
1979	...	...	2028
1980	...	...	2011
1981	...	...	1601
1982	...	...	1105
Total No.			14407
Grand total from 1968 to 1982 =			17706

Table 4
Year-Wise Receipt of English & Bengali Newspapers

Year	Daily Number	Weekly, Quarterly Monthly Number
1972	3480	1100
1973	4350	1350
1974	4700	1350
1975	2600	800
1976	1589	1673
1977	2294	2104
1978	2360	2091
1979	2778	2282
1980	3305	3084
1981	3390	2627
1982	4025	3429

FACTS AT A GLANCE

As on 31st Dec. 1982

- | | | |
|---|-----|---------------------|
| 1. Foundation of National Library
in Sher-e-Bangla Nagar | ... | 21st Jan. 1978 |
| 2. Number of working days in a year | ... | 292 days |
| 3. Number of Books in the Library | ... | 26,234 |
| 4. Number of manuscripts | ... | 13 |
| 5. Number of maps | ... | 436 |
| 6. Number of Current periodicals
(Titles) | ... | 389 |
| 7. Number of Bound volumes of
periodicals | ... | 1480 |
| 8. Number of books received per
month | ... | 100 approx. P.M. |
| 9. Number of Current periodicals
recorded per day | ... | 3/4 on average |
| 10. Number of Notice from issues
per day/per month | ... | 250 approx. P.M. |
| 11. Number of Staff | ... | 22 including peons. |

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4. Ibid. , p 8.
5. Ibid. , p 9-10.
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"modern product"

CHAPTER 8

PROBLEMS AND PROSPECTS OF BANGLADESH NATIONAL LIBRARY

8.1 Knowledge Explosion

An enormous increase in the output of knowledge was witnessed during the past three decades and that is why the present age is often called the age of "knowledge explosion". This enormous outburst has been noticed particularly in the field of science and technology. In addition to the increase in the annual production of books, periodicals, etc., the knowledge explosion combined with the changes in the character of knowledge, intensification of research and educational activities etc. have a direct bearing on the size, administrative organization, objectives, functions, services and various other aspects of the National Library.

8.2 Problems

The Directorate of Archives and Libraries is performing the function of the National Library of Bangladesh at present. The Bangladesh Government has allotted a plot of land for the National Library at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar in Dhaka.

A suitable site for a National Library is of first and foremost importance. The availability of sufficient land for the future expansion of the library must be kept in mind. It should be located at the central point of the city, where all the main roads meet in order to facilitate easy access for the people.

The proposed site where the construction work is going on at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar for the National Library is not a bad choice. But though it is the centre of Governmental and administrative activities in the country, it is not the heart of the city with the Universities, Colleges and School around it. It would have been more convenient for the

public, students and researchers, if the national library had been near the present Bangladesh Central Public Library in Shahbagh.

At present the National Library is functioning under the Directorate of Archives & Libraries in a hired building. Unfortunately the National Library is now incapable to render the desired services. Bangladesh needs immediately a fullfledged functional national library. "The need is not just of a national library in name as is there on paper under the Directorate of Archives and Libraries but one that will perform functions worthy of its name"¹.

No exclusive plan for development of different kinds of libraries has been made in Bangladesh. "A National Seminar on Library Development was held under the auspices of the Ministry of Cultural Affairs and Sports and the British Council, between 1-4 February 1982. Mr. Shamsul Huda Chowdhury, the then Minister of Information and Broadcasting, Government of Bangladesh said that the new demands of the people required that there should be an integrated national library system."²

Bangladesh as a developing country shares problems with other developing countries which act as barriers to the development of library services, such as lack of national planning, lack of trained staff etc. The participants of the meeting on the National Library Services in Asia held at Colombo, Sri Lanka described the library services in their region as "very unsatisfactory"³. The situation of library services in Africa was no better according to the opinions experienced by a Meeting of Experts on National Planning of Documentation and Library Services in Africa at Kampala, Uganda in 1970.⁴ The State of library services throughout the world was also discussed and the general consensus was that the provision of library services was inadequate and unsatisfactory.

8.3 Need for National Library

The need for a fullfledged functional national library in Bangladesh is clearly evident when the following factors are considered:

1. A large number of manuscripts and books which constitute the cultural heritage not only of Bangladesh but also of the Islamic world in general are available in the country, mostly with individuals. There are

many valuable manuscripts, periodicals and books left uncared for in different libraries in villages, subdivisions and districts. Those books, periodicals and manuscripts are very useful for the researchers. For proper preservation and conservation of those valuable materials, there is an urgent need for a national library in Bangladesh. According to Withers it should acquire, preserve and make available library materials concerning the home country wherever and whenever produced and should have a comprehensive collection, representative of all civilizations and providing a comprehensive subject coverage for the purpose of research, study and inquiry⁵.

2. With the increasing emphasis on education and research, educational, vocational and research institutions are being established and developed in Bangladesh resulting in an increase in the number of research workers and scholars. (This has been discussed in chapter 2). Libraries attached to economic and research institutions are also developing. But with limited book-budget, non-availability of adequate foreign exchange and rising cost of foreign books and journals, most of the academic and research institutions are unable to fulfil the requirements of students and researchers. For sharing the library resources of the entire country through a co-operative acquisition, interlibrary lending facility and maintenance of Union Catalogue - a national body i.e. National Library is necessary and it should be at the apex.

In Bangladesh which has only a small publishing output (see Table 2, in chapter 3) and no language problem as in India, one would expect bibliographic control of materials to be easy. Unfortunately only four volumes of 'National Bibliography' covering the period up to 1977 have so far been published and volumes of 1978 to 1980 are in the Press.⁶

The Director of the Directorate of Archives and Libraries in Bangladesh pointed out:

"There are some obvious difficulties in the way of enforcing effective bibliographical control in Bangladesh. They are (a) lack of knowledge of bibliographical importance, (b) non-receipt and irregular receipt of published materials by the depository libraries under Copyright Act; (c) lack of coordination among the depository libraries; (d) absence of an effective bibliographical

unit in the national library and (e) apathy of the non-official groups towards bibliographical control and documentation work".⁷

One of the major problems for the compilation of the National bibliography of Bangladesh is its printing and circulation. For its printing and publication Bangladesh National Library is depending on printers other than its own.

The National Library should hold a monthly or yearly meeting with the publishers in the interest of book deposits in the national library. They must realise that they will have to deposit materials in their own interest and in the interest of the nation. In Bangladesh book trade is not a very profitable business, because of low income of the people and high rate of illiteracy (discussed in chapter 2) the book market and book-trade are dull.

In order to make book publishing profitable and alluring, Government's financial assistance and subsidy are required. This would encourage the publishers and attract them into book promotion activities. Publishers of Bangladesh are not well off. A further step of incentives to the publishers is that instead of four free copies, only one free copy be insisted on and the remaining three copies be purchased by the Government. It is important that the National Library, as the National Depository of all publications, has as comprehensive a collection of them as possible and they are listed in the National Bibliography. Dr. Luther Evans former Director General of the UNESCO, has very aptly said that without bibliographies, the record of civilisation would be an unchartered chaos of miscellaneous contributions and incapable to meet human needs.

National Bibliography (current and Retrospective) should be printed in its own press or in a press which will keep the time schedule and fix moderate price. The Government Press is very busy printing all kinds of Government publications; so it takes an unduly long time to publish the National Bibliography. And the National Library should provide short catalogues of new accessions promptly after receipt, generally within 3/4 weeks for making them known to the library users. It is necessary that the accession list should be issued periodically.

The National Bibliography which is the yard-stick of the intellectual standard of a nation is lagging far behind in compilation and publication due to inadequate space in the National Library and staff.

8.4 General Comments

The National Library has long been overdue in Bangladesh. Thirteen years should have been enough for the National Library to grow into a fullfledged centre for serving the country's academic and research needs. It has now been recognized by the Government as an essential component for preservation of cultural heritage, bibliographical control of indigenous literature and for promotion of education and research in the country. Mr. Ahmad Husain, former librarian of Dhaka University satates "We have delayed and delayed the National Library at our cost. I repeat, one cannot rule out the chances of the National Library going into the melting pot again, as it did too often before, with the change of Government, if any. Delay of any account even for a rosy dream of monumental National Library starting on a hazardous path through a labyrinth of scheme, estimate, blueprint, rod, cement and so on will certainly be costly, may be dangerous. Would God-help us think and act correctly"⁸.

In every country the National library should serve as the cultural bridge with the world outside that it should have the responsibility of bringing out the National Bibliography of Bangladesh that it should serve as the highest centre for research and so on. National development of every country needs intellectual, cultural and informational type of fertilizer. Mr. Ahmad Husain continued "National Library does itself manufacture this fertilizer, which unfortunately has no physical dimensions, and help allied organizations to manufacture such fertilizers in their respective spheres".⁹

Other difficulties and proplems being faced by the National Library are the obstacles in rendering adequate library services. Such as: (a) Population growth; (b) high degree of illiteracy, (c) insufficient educational facilities, (d) limited economic resources, (e) limited skilled manpower.

The National Library is one of the media for the development and improvement of library services throughout the country. "After the emergence of independent Bangladesh a Library Development committee was formed in 1973. They also submitted schemes to the

Government. The aims of the Report were obviously library development in our country, but little significant improvement has been noticed"¹⁰. Bangladesh is one of the poorest countries with high population among the developing countries. In the developing countries like Bangladesh where resources are meagre and scanty, there is a great need for cooperation and coordination in the overall planning process of the information systems as it will largely eliminate overlapping of functions and duplication of effort in their development. Dr. K.M. Karim discussed in his article on proper planning and coordination of National Information system. "To promote coordination; a vigorous national library itself may also act as the centre for coordination of technical services as in Lenin Library for USSR."¹¹ It may also be the coordinating and policy making body necessary to ensure full coordination in the development and planning of library and information services.

No Library Legislation has been enacted in Bangladesh other than the Copyright Ordinance of 1962, as amended by the Copyright (Amendment) Act of 1974, which provides for the deposit of copies of new publications with the National Library, the Chittagong and Khulna Government Public Libraries and the Rajshahi (Non-govt.) Public Library, but not with the Bangladesh Central Public Library.¹²

Bangladesh has numerous socio-economic problems which she is determined to solve with whatever resources she possesses. Nevertheless the socio-cultural sector has not been ignored in the country's second five year plan and therefore, as a logical outcome, positive steps have been taken for the development of information infrastructure in the country. The construction of the building of the National Library has made considerable progress and when completed will be temporarily shared by the National Archives. The need for the establishment of a National Library instead of designating an old one as such was a positive and logical step towards the growth and expansion of library facilities. It was also done as a step for the fulfilment of a pledge to a new nation which remained unfulfilled during the Pakistani rule.

For better co-ordination among the organizations included in the National Information system (viz. National Archives National Library, Central Public Library and all other Public Libraries, National Science Library, National Medical Library, National Agriculture Library, Copy

Right office, BANSDOC, BANBAIS, National Book Centre etc.), a central co-ordinating agency should be in charge of establishing harmonious professional relationship, acquiring resources, disseminating information, distributing responsibilities and many other fields already mentioned. Close co-operation and co-ordination will eliminate duplication of functions and overlapping lower administrative overheads and make small organizations viable through merger whenever it is necessary.

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CHAPTER 9

MODEL PLAN FOR THE ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE OF THE NATIONAL LIBRARY

9.1 Introduction

An attempt is made in this chapter to suggest a model plan for the organizational structure of the National Library of Bangladesh. C.V. Penna in his book 'The planning of library and documentation services' has outlined the planning techniques for the development of library services which include the following:

- a) a review of acquired experience;
- b) diagnosis;
- c) determination of requirements and financial implications;
- d) programming;
- e) publicity;
- f) execution and evaluation.¹

Using Penna's planning stages as a checklist, this study for the establishment of a national library in Bangladesh has followed the following procedure:

1. reviewed the experiences of various planners as mentioned in the literature on the subject. Among other sources this experience has been collected from
 - a) the final report on the Meeting of Experts on the National Planning for Library services:
 - in Latin America: Quito, Equador, 1966.²
 - in Asia: Colombo, Sri Lanka, 1967.³
 - in Africa: Kampala, Uganda, 1970.⁴
 - in Arab Countries: Cairo, Egypt, 1974.⁵

- b) Questionnaires on the proposed organizational structure of the National Library, completed and returned by librarians/directors of foreign National libraries including India and other professionals as well as by Bangladeshi library professionals and potential national library users.
 - c) the national library acts of selected countries.
2. Made an assessment of (diagnosed) the current state of library and information services in Bangladesh and also summarised the present position and condition of Bangladesh National Library functioning under the Directorate of Archives and Libraries.
 3. Studied the goals, objectives and functions of different national libraries and with them as guidelines, arrived at the goals, objectives and functions of the proposed national library.
 4. Indicated the financial implications of the proposed national library. The financial implications are as worked out by the Planning Commission and shown in the Appendix D.

9.2 Objectives

The National Library should be the premier library of the nation playing the key role of leadership in the overall library and information system of Bangladesh. It must be the medium for all co-operative and co-ordinating efforts in the library and information science field. It must be vested with the power to initiate and execute programmes that will be able to meet national needs to serve larger national interests. It should be the apex of the entire library and information system and should be organized with due regard to the distinct geographical, economic, cultural, and administrative conditions prevailing in the country as a whole. In short, the National Library of Bangladesh, as any other national library, should be the channel for the nation to discharge its library obligations and responsibilities, both to the citizens of the country and to the international community. The weaknesses and deficiencies in the library scene indicated in Chapter 3 should be sought to be removed by the establishment of a strong library system for which the National Library should be adequately equipped to give the necessary leadership. The library services required by the people of the country without any distinction of sex, caste, age, economic or social

status, and all other considerations should be made available to all. Academic libraries, right from school level upwards, research libraries, and other special libraries meant for different groups of people and the public library system should be strengthened. The National Library should function as the umbrella under which all these different types of libraries will flourish and serve as instruments for national progress.

9.3 Organizational structure

The policy of the present Bangladesh government is to amalgamate different units of similar nature into one unit to minimise overhead costs. According to this policy the National Library of Bangladesh should be based on a unitary system. There should be a National Commission for Library and Information Services or Bangladesh National Library Authority at the top of the organizational structure. It will be responsible for the development of library services and should be set up through legislation.

The National Library will function under the overall supervision of this commission. As already stated it will be an agency which is "essential for the co-ordinated and efficient development of all types of libraries in a country".⁶ The National Library will be headed by an officer designated as director.

There will be an Advisory body constituted of scholars, librarians, government officers, and others to advise the National Library on matters relating to policies and functions. The chairman of the National Commission will be the chairman of the Advisory Body and the Director will be its member-secretary. All administrative and financial affairs will be directly supervised by the National Librarian or the Director. The National Library will be having the following major divisions which are indicative of its functions.

1. National Bibliographic Division consisting of four sections.
2. Collection Development Division (or Acquisition Division) consisting of six sections.
3. Processing Division with two sections.
4. Services Division with six sections.
5. Research and Planning Division with four sections.
6. Administration Division.

Each of the first five Divisions will be headed by a Deputy Director and under him there will be an Assistant Director in charge of each of the sections falling under it as indicated in the chart. The Administrative Division will be headed by a Administrative Officer who will be on a par with a Deputy Director in pay scale and status.

9.4 Analysis of the questionnaire

Three questionnaires were framed, one for eliciting opinions from heads of different national libraries of the world regarding the objectives and organizational structure of the Bangladesh National Library, one for ascertaining the views of the nationals of Bangladesh including library professionals regarding the functions to be undertaken by the National Library, and the third for obtaining the views of people in Bangladesh to determine the priorities of the functions. The answers to the first two questionnaires were obtained by post and the answers to the third were mostly collected by the investigator after interviewing the persons concerned. In choosing the persons for answering the second and third questionnaires representative samples from different sections were taken. The statement of objectives and organizational structure and functions have been so framed in the questionnaire that they largely reflect these aspects as they obtain in different national libraries. Therefore the statements regarding the objectives and functions and also the suggested organizational structure are in the nature of hypotheses to be tested by the opinions collected from professionals and others. The investigation has largely proved the validity of the hypotheses.

9.4.1 Questionnaire - I : Organizational Structure

As already mentioned, this questionnaire was designed to collect opinions from the heads of different national libraries of the world, university libraries and the national librarian and heads of important libraries in India. Out of sixty persons to whom the questionnaires were sent 45 (75%) responded.

Question 1(a) and (b)

1(a) Kindly peruse the objectives stated in the Model Plan for the National Library of Bangladesh

1(a) If they are adequate Yes No

Responses are shown in Table 1.

Table 1

Answer	Number of person	Percentage
Yes	40	88.1
No	5	11.1

1(b) Expressed clearly Yes No

The answers to this question were also the same as to question 1(a).

Therefore the objectives of the National library as stated in the questionnaire can be regarded as adequate and also expressed clearly.

Question No. 2

Kindly peruse the statement under the Heading "Structure" and state if you are in Agreement with it. If not kindly suggest modification that you consider appropriate.

It was found 95% of the replies were in agreement with the suggested structure.

Question No. 3

Kindly peruse the brief description of the proposed organizational structure of the national library and its activities and services.

- i) Do you agree with the suggested organizational structure?
- ii) If not please give your suggestions for the organizational structure.
- iii) Give your views regarding the activities and services suggested.
- iv) If additional activities and services are required kindly indicate them.

About 98% respondents expressed themselves in agreement with the given organizational structure and activities and services. 3% of the respondents suggested that the Conservation Division may be separated and 1% suggested provision for a Childrens Division.

Question No. 4

Any other points relating to the proposed National Library not covered by the questions above that you consider worth mentioning.

95% of the respondents had no additional suggestions to offer. 5% made a few suggestions such as the establishment of an External Services Division and a Data base Bibliographic Division. A few wanted the remaining of the Research and Planning Division as Research and Development Division.

9.4.2 Questionnaire – II: Functions

The questionnaire to elicit opinions about the functions to be undertaken by the National Library (Appendix-II) was sent to 40 Bangladesh library professionals, educationists, researchers, journalists, etc. Number of responses was 38 or 95 per cent. The responses to the different functions indicated in the questionnaire are analysed in Table 2.

Table 2

Responses to Questionnaire Relating to Functions

Total number of responses : 38

Functions	Number of responses in agreement	Percentage	Number of responses not in agreement	Percentage
A. Collect all the documents published in Bangladesh	38	100	nil	
B. Collect all the documents published elsewhere but has relevance to Bangladesh	36	94.7	2	5.3
C. Preserve all documents connected with the culture and life of Bangladesh	36	94.7	2	5.3
D. Provide hostel and other amenities for scholars-Bangladesh and foreign to stay in Dhaka over a period of time	18	47.3	20	52.7
E. Provide comfortable reading room facilities to users within the library	35	92.1	3	7.9
F. Provide document reproduction (Reprography) service at nominal cost	37	97.3	1	2.7
G. Provide for mailing non-rare documents under safety to users (through other libraries)	37	97.3	1	2.7
H. Maintain a National Union catalogue of books, reports, periodicals and other kindred documents	37	97.3	1	2.7
I. Publish a National Bibliography of documents as a monthly basis	38	100	Nil	-

It can be seen from the table that functions A and I received the highest score, cent per cent of the respondents having supported them. This is indicative of the concern of the people regarding the need for preserving at one place the entire national bibliographic production and its proper control through a national bibliography. Two other functions which received the support of 37 of the respondents i.e. 97.3 per cent are F and H viz. the provision of reprographic services and the maintenance of a National Union Catalogue. The other functions listed in the table, except D, also received high scores. As regards D only 18 respondents thought that the provision of hostel and other amenities was essential. This may be because it was difficult for the respondents to visualise functions of this kind as essential in the context of the non-existence of even the more essential functions listed.

The support given to function E by as many as 35 respondents or 92.1 per cent that the National Library should provide comfortable reading room facilities to all types of readers is evidence of the anxiety of the respondents to have access to a comprehensive collection of documents which a National Library is able to build up and organize.

The second part of the questionnaire reads as follows:

The National Library of Bangladesh should be adequately funded

- a) through national legislation or
- b) through a government order for a regular grant.

Responses to this questions are shown in table 3.

Table 3

Total number of responses: 38

Proposal	Number of responses in agreement	Percentage of responses	Number of responses not in agreement	Percentage
Through national legislation	34	89.5	4	10.5
Through a government order for regular grant	4	10.5	34	89.5



The responses are in strong support of the funding of the National Library through legislation so that the National Library is well-fortified from the possible ill-effects of policy changes when change of government takes place and it is assured of a regular income for its healthy growth and development.

In order to test the urgency felt by the citizens of Bangladesh for the establishment of a National Library a question was included to ascertain the year for the inauguration of the National Library preferred by the respondents. 4 years between 1985-2000 were given and the respondents asked to indicate their preferences.

The responses are shown in table 4.

Table 4

Responses to the question No. 3

Total number of responses: 38

Year for inauguration	Number of responses	Percentage
a) 1985 A.D	18	47.40
b) 1990 A.D	11	28.90
c) 1995 A.D	6	15.80
d) 2000 A.D	3	7.90

The answers provide evidence of the desire of the people to have the National Library inaugurated as early as possible.

Question No. 4 is : There should be a National Library policy formulated to guide the function and other libraries. This policy should be formulated by:

- a) the Parliament
- b) the Government
- c) an autonomous Bangladesh National Library Authority (BNLA)

The responses are shown in table 5

Table 5

Responses to questions No. 4

Total number of responses: 38

Agency	Number of responses in agreement	Percentage
The Parliament	13	34.20
The Government	8	21.10
An autonomous Bangladesh National Library Authority (BNLA)	17	44.70

The responses show that the establishment of a Bangladesh National Library Authority for the development of library services in the country including the establishment of the National Library and the formulation of a National Library Policy by this authority is more favoured than the formulation of the policy by the Parliament or the Government. This may be because an authority exclusively created for this purpose will be more fully involved in the cause than the Parliament or the Government with their multifarious responsibilities could. Of course, this does not mean that the Parliament or the Government will not be concerned with the matter. It only means that the primary work relating to the development of library services would be the responsibility of an exclusive autonomous authority and the Government and the Parliament would then take up the matter for further legal and administrative follow up.

In question No. 5, opinions regarding other functions (other than those listed in the questionnaire) were invited and some of the respondents suggested that the National Library of Bangladesh should fall in line with the major National Libraries of the world in its functions and services.

9.4.3 Questionnaire - III : Priorities

Questionnaire III was meant to ascertain opinions regarding priorities. The investigator after analysing the replies categorised the functions as first priority functions, second priority functions and third priority functions as shown below.

- a) first priority functions:
- i) acting as the central collection of Bangladeshi literature,
 - ii) acting as a Legal Deposit Library,
 - iii) acting as the National Bibliographic Centre,
 - iv) producing the National Bibliography,
 - v) Collecting foreign literature ,
 - a) about Bangladesh,
 - b) by Bangladeshi authors living abroad,
 - c) on particular subjects according to the needs of the country,
 - vi) compilation of select bibliographies,
 - vii) maintaining the National Union Catalogue ,
 - viii) planning and co-ordinating interlibrary lending,
 - ix) providing leadership to the country's libraries ,
 - x) participating in the planning of library sciences in the country, and
 - xi) collecting, preserving and organizing Bangladeshi manuscripts.
- b) Second priority functions:
- i) providing access to the National Library's catalogue for other libraries and information agencies,
 - ii) providing indexing services to articles in Bangladeshi periodicals and newspapers,
 - iii) providing services to the government,
 - iv) for acting as a centre for exchange of publications, within the nation and internationally,
 - v) formulating standards for information handling,
 - vi) providing reprographic services and
 - vii) providing translation services.
- c) Third priority functions:
- i) conducting research on library techniques,
 - ii) providing professional training,
 - iii) providing books for the blind and persons otherwise handicapped.

One of the functions not listed but important in the opinion of the investigator is the maintenance of a Bibliographic Database relevant to the country. The National Library is the institution which enjoys the benefits of the Legal Deposit Law, produces the National Bibliography, and National Union Catalogue. Maintaining a bibliographic database is clearly a byproduct of this and therefore can be included in the group of first priority functions.

The functions of a National Library do not remain static. They would change according to changes in the educational and cultural environment of the country. Similarly the priorities of the functions of the National Libraries can also be different for different countries according to the social, economic, and political conditions.

The distinction between a developed country and a developing country is not a criterion for determining and implementing the national library functions because it is seen that the National Libraries of some of the developing countries perform more functions than those of some developed countries. Examples of the former are the National Libraries of Botswana, Philippines and Singapore and as examples of the latter Belgium, Greece, Ireland and the Netherlands can be cited.

9.5 National Library and National Development Plan

An important step towards the establishment of a National Library in Bangladesh is the inclusion of the National Library Planning and Services in the National Development Plan. This is a clear indication of the official recognition of the importance of the National Library and helps to create a concept of libraries as an important element in the overall national development.

9.6 Cost estimate

The financial provision available and necessary for the proposed National Library needs to be examined. Appendix D gives the financial schedule of work and the yearwise sanction of grant given by Bangladesh Government. The Meeting of the Experts on National Planning for Documentation Services in Africa suggested the cost norms of National Libraries as \$ 5,000 per 1,000 volumes. The same meeting identified a National Library's recurring cost for 1980 as \$ 8,500 million for a low target and \$ 12,500 million for a moderate target and \$ 17,000 million for a high target.⁷ Planning a National

Library for Ceylon, a Meeting of Asian Experts estimated the expenditure on a National Library to be 0.03 per cent of the recurring expenditure on education in 1977, with 0.8 per cent of the educational expenditure collected for all types of libraries including the National Library.⁸ As an example of an actual National Library Budget, the National Library of Singapore's budget was \$ 5,266,300 or 1.3 per cent of the Ministry of Education's Budget and 0.16 per cent of the National Budget for the fiscal year 1979.⁹ The African Experts estimated the recurring cost required for the development of Library Services in 1980 to be 2.9 per cent of the total educational cost for a low target, 4.9 per cent for a moderate target, and 7.3 per cent for a high target¹⁰. In the case of Bangladesh the total cost of the project for the establishment of the National Library was estimated to be taka 465.18 lakhs ie. \$ 3,101,200 approximately¹¹ and this was subsequently revised as taka 621.4 lakhs including the foreign exchange component of taka 45.60 lakhs.¹²

9.7 Manpower

A basic requirement to be looked into in planning the establishment of a National Library is the provision of the required manpower. The National Library has to be manned by well-qualified staff in adequate strength. The number of persons required depends on the functions and duties of the National Library.

The Meeting of Experts on the National Planning for Library Services in Latin America suggested in 1966 that the minimum staff required by the National Library should consist of 50 persons: one director, one technical assistant director, twelve trained librarians, sixteen library assistants, and twenty posts for office and maintenance staff.¹³

In the Bangladesh National Library there are now only 22 posts. It is estimated that 110 posts in addition to 15 posts for maintenance and special services for staff are required for the efficient discharge of the functions and services envisaged by the library. The details are given below.

Director	....	1
Deputy Director	....	6
Assistant Director	....	22
Bibliographers	....	4

Acquisition Librarians	....	3
Technical Assistants (Senior)	....	8
Technical Assistants (Junior)	....	8
Supervisors (Conservation)	....	2
Technical Assistants (Conservation)	....	4
Technicians	....	12
Assistants (Services)	....	20
Translators	....	4
Typists	....	6
Secretarial staff	....	10
Maintenance and special services staff	....	15

9.8 Implementation

Now that the functions of the National Library have been identified and their priorities determined the progressive implementation of these functions may be examined.

9.8.1 Present activities

At present the activities of the National Library are confined to the following. Under the Copyright Deposit Law the National Library is to get one copy of each publication published in the country. But the act is not vigorously enforced as evidenced by the failure of many publishers to deposit their publications. The result is that there are many gaps in the collection of the national literature held by the library.

It is not only that the collection is incomplete, the available collection is subjected to many constraints like inadequacy of space and staff. Also there are no book funds for acquiring other books published in foreign countries.

Since 1972 the Bangladesh National Bibliography based on the publications received under the Copyright Deposit Act is compiled and published. So far four annual volumes covering the period upto 1977 have been published. Another bibliographical activity is the compilation of the Annual Index of Articles in the Daily Newspapers. Both these publications are not upto date, primarily because of the dependence of the National Library on the Government Printing Press for this purpose.

9.8.2 Action Plan

The building of the National Library Agargaon, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar is under construction and the first task is to complete the first phase of the building so that the most important activities and functions of the National Library can be started. The construction has lagged far behind schedule and all efforts should be made to expedite the construction.

In discussing the action plan the investigator wishes to divide the planning process into three terms viz. 1. short term, 2. medium term, and 3. long term.

Short term (1985-87)

It is likely to take, even with the best of efforts, 2-3 years for the building to be completed for the first phase of activities to be initiated and organized.

- a) Planning the best use of the available space in consonance with the present organizational set up and objectives of the National Library and the recruitment of the staff in vacant positions.
- b) Vigorous enforcement of the Copyright Deposit Act to ensure that the library receives one copy of every indigenous publication.
- c) Provision of reading facilities and recurring services.

The following steps need special attention

- a) Provision of adequate funds and foreign exchange for acquiring foreign books on Bangladesh and books written by Bangladeshis abroad and other publications required for scholarly pursuits.
- b) As regards the indigenous publications two copies should be acquired, one for current use and one for preservation for posterity.
- c) Filling up the present gaps in the indigenous collection of publications by soliciting gifts, acquiring several copies, etc.
- d) The setting up of a printing press and bindery to ensure the timely publication of the national and other bibliographies and indexes.

- e) Setting up a strong reprographic section, particularly keeping in view the needs of scholars.

The National Library does not now have its separate identity being a part of the Directorate of Archives and Libraries. Time is ripe now for giving it a separate and distinct identity by being bifurcated from the Directorate. In this connection the question has to be examined whether the library should be under Government control or should have an autonomous status. Dr. Abdul Huq is of the opinion that "by an ordinance the National Library be created as a semi-autonomous institution with the authority vested in it to be the principal library of the nation and the principal organ of the Government on all library and related matters. It must have the powers to effectively co-ordinate all library and bibliographical activities within and without Government"¹⁴. Such autonomous status is enjoyed by almost all National Libraries of the world.

Side by side with the above steps immediate attention is to be paid to the implementation of the following recommendations by J.S. Parker,¹⁵ an UNESCO expert whose services were made available in 1979 for the development of libraries in Bangladesh with special emphasis on public libraries.

Recommendations No. 17

The National Library be encouraged to develop a national programme for the preservation and conservation of rare, valuable and little-used library materials.

Recommendation, No. 26

Provision be made under the Second Five Year Plan for the establishment for a National Library co-ordinating Committee, representing all types of libraries and responsible for ensuring the co-ordinated development.

Recommendation, No. 29

Provision be made under the Second Five Year Plan for the enactment of library legislation which will facilitate the implementation of the recommendations of this report.

Recommendation, No. 31

Efforts be made to achieve improved co-ordination of bibliographical activity and in particular to publish the National Bibliography more frequently and more promptly.

Medium term (1987-1990)

At the next stage the following activities may be taken up:

- a) Provision of reference and bibliographical services ,
- b) Standardisation of classification and cataloguing,
- c) Compilation of the National Union Catalogue,
- d) Preparing a plan for the introduction of new technology in libraries.
- e) Providing services to the Government.
- f) Planning and Co-ordinating inter-library lending.
- g) Promoting translation services.

Long term (1990-1996)

During this period the Library should expand its activities to cover:

- i) Conducting research on library techniques,
- ii) Providing professional training, and
- iii) Providing books for the blind and persons otherwise handicapped.

By the end of this period the library should gain the recognition of being in a position of leadership in the library and information science field in the country and act as the centre for single, unified, and highly developed National Information System.

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CHAPTER 10

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

10.1 Summary

This investigation presented in ten chapters has attempted the following:

- i) Established the need for a fullfledged National Library for Bangladesh. In this connection the efforts during the pre-independence, post-independence, and the post-liberation periods for the development of library services in general and the National Library in particular have been traced. The international efforts in this regard in the context of the development of concepts like Universal Availability of Publications (UAP) and Universal Bibliographic Control (UBC) have also been discussed.
- ii) The geographic, administrative educational, and cultural milieu of Bangladesh which have a bearing on the development of library services with the National Library at the apex have been described.
- iii) The library scene in Bangladesh comprising all types of libraries, information and documentation centres has been critically evaluated.
- iv) The published literature which is fairly extensive, as the bibliography included in this would testify, was perused and the concept, definitions and functions of National Libraries, as far as could be ascertained from the literature, have been described.
- v) A comparison of a few selected National Libraries with regard to the types and functions has been made in order to serve as guide lines for arriving at the organizational structure and functions of the National Library of Bangladesh.

- vi) The historical background, present structure, and problems and prospects of Bangladesh National Library have been described in Chapters 6, 7 and 8.
- vii) On the basis of the ideas formed by the investigator through her own consultation of the relevant literature and experience of working in the National Library so far, and on the basis of the replies received to questionnaires regarding the organizational structure, functions, and priorities from heads of National Libraries, other library professionals and others, suggestions have been made in respect of the following:
 - a) model organizational structure of the National Library,
 - b) functions to be undertaken by the National Library ,
 - c) priorities for the implementation of functions.

10.2 Conclusions and recommendations

- i) The National Library which now functions without a separate identity as part of the Directorate of Archives and Libraries should be bifurcated and put under an autonomous agency which may be designated Bangladesh National Library Authority (BNLA).
- ii) The building currently under construction for the National Library should be completed as early as possible and the National Library shifted there.
- iii) The organizational structure of the National Library should be as given in the chart given in Appendix A questionnaire I with such minor variations as may be found necessary.
- iv) Copyright Deposit Law should be vigorously enforced to ensure the receipt by the National Library of a copy each of all indigenous publications. While the collection of publications so built up should be preserved for posterity, the library should acquire an additional copy for current use by scholars.
- v) The publication of the Bangladesh National Bibliography and the Index to Articles in Newspapers should be brought upto date.

- vi) The other functions of the National Library enumerated in Chapter 9 should be implemented in three phases with 1996 set as the target year for the Library to become a full-fledged one performing all its functions and playing an effective leadership role in the library and information science field in the country.
- viii) The manpower necessary for the effective working of the National Library should be provided according to a phased programme corresponding to the implementation of the functions.

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QUESTIONNAIRE I - WITH COVERING LETTER

February 6, 1984

Dear Sir,

I am a student of Doctoral Degree from Bangladesh pursuing my studies at the Department of Library and Information Science, University of Kerala, Trivandrum. I am preparing my Doctoral dissertation on "National Library of Bangladesh: Retrospect and Prospect," under the supervision of Prof. K.A. Isaac, Head of the Department of Library and Information Science, University of Kerala.

In this dissertation I shall seek to identify the objectives, services and the functions of the National Library in Bangladesh and to establish a model plan of the organizational structure for this national library. I am using Bangladesh as an example of a developing country.

At present, the National Library of Bangladesh is in a state of disarray and confusion. The Directorate of Archives and Libraries is temporarily performing the functions of the National Library. This library at present is housed on rental premises and is functioning with inadequate space and with inadequate staff. Foundation has been laid at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka, for the permanent housing of the Bangladesh National Library. Although the construction of this building is in progress, it is still uncertain as to when the national library will be shifted there and will start functioning with adequate space and adequate staff.

In addition to the above problems, there is a serious lack of co-operation among the libraries of the country. Furthermore, the library service in Bangladesh in general, is beset with innumerable problems such as lack of recognition, the absence of accurate national library planning, the absence of library legislation and inadequate library service. These problems, however, are not exclusive to Bangladesh, but appear to be common among the libraries of the developing countries.

In preparing this dissertation, I would like to seek your valuable assistance. It would be of utmost help if you could kindly provide me with any published material regarding the national library. These materials will go a long way in helping me to prepare my dissertation.

I am enclosing herewith a copy of the model plan along with the objectives, functions and standard services of the Bangladesh National Library as well as questionnaires for your valuable comments and observation. This information is required very urgently and therefore I would appreciate it greatly if it is sent early to the address of the undersigned.

Looking forward to your kind co-operation and thanking you.

Yours sincerely,
Sd/-
(Nurun Nahar)
Research Scholar
Dept. of Library & Information Science,
University of Kerala, Trivandrum.

Dear Sir,

On February 6, 1984, I sent you a questionnaire on a proposed organizational structure of a national library for Bangladesh in connection with my Ph.D. dissertation titled 'National Library of Bangladesh: Retrospect and Prospect'.

I have not received any response from you, as of this date. I know you are busy, but the information sought from you will be of great help to me in my work I request you to kind enough to spare a little time for me from your busy scheduled and send a reply to my questionnaire as early as possible.

Soliciting your kind cooperation.

Yours sincerely,
Sd/-
(Nurun Nahar)
Research Scholar
Dept. of Library & Information
Science
University of Kerala

Trivandrum
18-4-1984

P.S. Please ignore this letter if you have already send your response.

QUESTIONNAIRE I

Model plan of the Organizational structure showing major function for the proposed National Library of Bangladesh

Objectives

The National Library should be the apex of the entire library system and information centres. In other words, the National Library should play the role of leadership in the overall library system and information networks in Bangladesh.

Structure

The National Library of Bangladesh should be based on a Unitary system in consonance with the present Government Policy of amalgamating different units of similar nature in one unit to minimise overhead cost, provision being kept for co-ordinating the library resources of the whole country through Union Catalogue and inter library loan facilities.

Organizational Structure

A National Commission for Library and Information Science to be responsible for the development of library services will be set up through legislation. The National Library will function under the over all supervision of this commission.

The National Library will be headed by an Officer designated as National Librarian or Director.

There will be an Advisory Body constituted of scholars, Librarians, Govt. Officers and others to advise the National Library on matters related to policies and functions. The Chairman of the National Commission will be the Chairman of the Advisory Body and the National Librarian (Director) will be its Member Secretary.

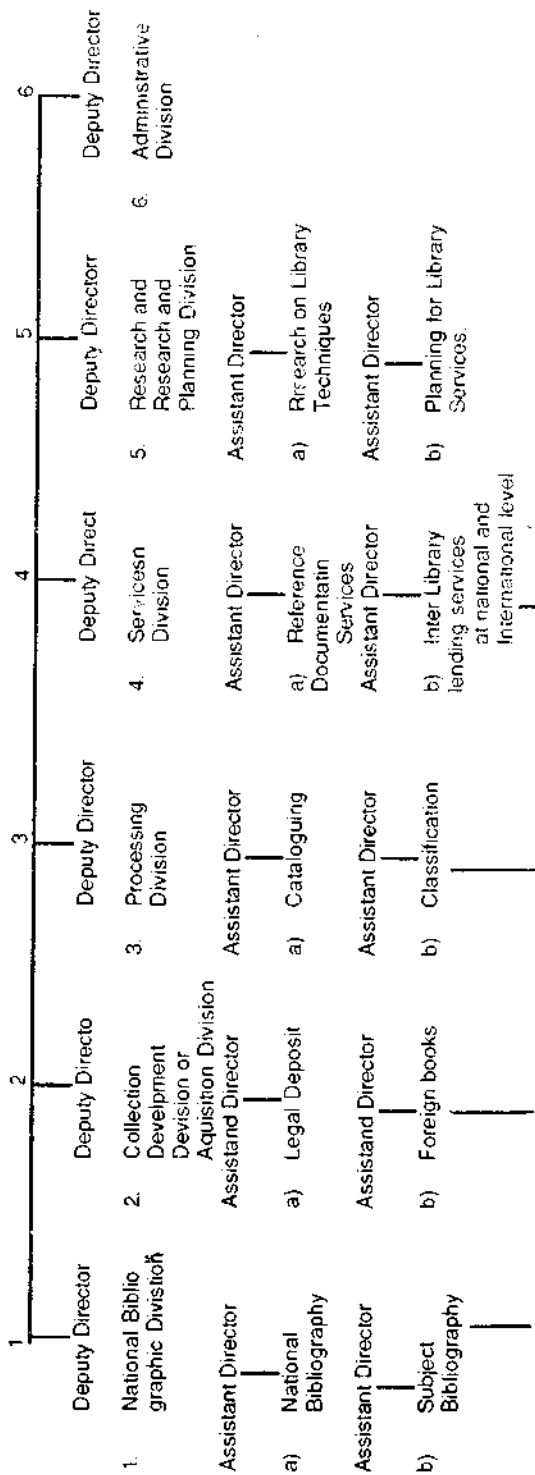
The National Library will have the following divisions which are indicative of its functions:

1. Bibliographic Division
2. Collection Development Division or Acquisition Division
3. Processing Division
4. Services Division
5. Research and Planning Division
6. Administrative Division

Each of the first five Divisions will be headed by a Deputy Librarian with an Assistant Librarian in charge of each of the sections falling under a Division as indicated in the chart enclosed. The Administrative Division will be headed by an Administrative Officer who will be on a par with a Deputy Librarian in pay scale and status.

CHART 1
Proposed Organizational Structure of the National Library of Bangladesh
National Commission for Library and Information Science

National Librarian
or
Director



QUESTIONNAIRE AND INTERVIEW

1. Kindly peruse the objectives stated in the model plan for the National Library of Bangladesh.

a) Is it adequate	Yes	No
b) Is it expressed clearly	Yes	No

If not kindly let us have the possible points for elaboration in a separate sheet.
2. Kindly peruse the statement under the heading 'Structure' and state if you are in agreement with it. If not kindly suggest modifications that you consider appropriate.
3. Kindly peruse the brief description given of the organizational structure of the National Library and its activities and services as indicated in the chart.
 - i) Do you agree with the suggested organizational structure.
 - ii) If not please give your suggestions for the organizational structure.
 - iii) Give your views regarding the activities and services suggested.
 - iv) If additional activities and services are required kindly indicate them.
4. Any other points relating to the proposed National Library not covered by the questions above that you consider worth mentioning.

Questionnaire - II With Covering Letter

October 10, 1983

Dear Sir

It is a well accepted fact that the National Library of a country is a prestigious institution that receives the flow of information and the

intellectual productions from both within and outside the country. It is the duty of the National Library to conserve, organize and make available the national literature to its own nation on a priority basis, and subsequently to other nations.

To arrive at the salient features of a National Library and a model plan showing the structure, major functions and services is the focus of my Ph. D. dissertation on which I am currently working at the Department of Library and Information Science, University of Kerala, Trivandrum under the direction of Professor and Head, K.A. Isaac.

I would appreciate your contributing to this study by completing and returning the enclosed questionnaire as soon as possible. Your answer will be a valuable contribution to my study.

Thank you deeply for your kind co-operation.

Yours sincerely

(Nurun Nahar)
Bibliography Officer,
3/H, Sobhanbag Govt. Estate,
Dhaka-7.

Questionnaire II

Your Opinion for Developing the National Library of Bangladesh

1. Personalia

- 11 Name
- 12 Occupation
- 13 Address with
designation

1. The National Library should do the following:

Please put (Tick mark) in the appropriate blocks

- Collect all the documents published to Bangladesh
- Collect all the documents published elsewhere but has relevance to Bangladesh
- Preserve all the older documents connected with culture and life of Bangladesh.
- Provide Hostel and other amenities for the scholars of Bangladesh and foreign countries to consult and read literature.
- Provide comfortable reading room facilities to users within the library
- Provide document reproduction (Reprography) at a nominal cost.
- Provide for Mailing of non-rare documents under safety to users (through other libraries)
- Maintain a National Union Catalogue of books Reports, periodicals & other kindred documents
- Publish a National Bibliography of Documents on a monthly basis

2. The National Library of Bangladesh should adequately be funded :

- 7 through a national legislation
- 7 through a Government Order for regular grant

3. The National Library of Bangladesh should be developed into a large institution like Dhaka University in finance as well as working latest by :

- 7 1985 A.D
- 7 1990 A.D
- 7 1995 A.D
- 7 2000 A.D

4. There should be a National Library Policy formulated to guide the functioning of the National Library & other libraries.

Policy is to be formulated by :

- 7 The Parliament
- 7 The Government
- 7 An autonomous Bangladesh National Library Authority (BNLA)

5. Any other opinion (in brief 1000 words)

QUESTIONNAIRE - III:FOR THE PERSONAL INTERVIEW FUNCTIONS OF THE NATIONAL LIBRARY

Kindly put the No. 1,2,3 etc. according to the priority:

<u>Functions</u>	Rank
1. Acting as the legal deposit library	7
2. Acting as the Central collection of Bangladeshi literature	7
3. Collecting foreign literature	7
* about Bangladesh	
* by Bangladeshi authors living abroad	
* On special particular subject according to the needs of the country.	

4. Acting as a National Bibliographic Centre
5. Producing the National Bibliography
6. Producing the National Union Catalogue
7. Participating in the planning of library services in the country
8. Providing leadership to the country's libraries
9. Providing services for the select Bibliography
10. Acting as a centre for exchange of publications, nationwide and internationally
11. Planning and co-ordinating interlibrary lending
12. Providing services to the Government
13. Providing professional training
14. Providing indexing services to the articles in the nation's periodicals and newspapers
15. Formulating international standards for information handling
16. Conducting research on library technique
17. Providing books for the blind and persons otherwise handicapped
18. Collecting, preserving and Organizing the country's manuscripts
19. Provide translation services
20. Provide Reprograph and Memeograph services
21. Providing access to the National library's catalogue for other libraries and information agencies

APPENDIX B

COUNTRIES, NAMES, TITLES, AND ADDRESSES TO WHOM THE QUESTIONNAIRE I WAS SENT

1. **ALGERIA**
Mr. Mahmoud Bouayed,
Director de La Bibliotheque
National d' Algeria
Bibliotheque National
1 Ave Frantz Fanon, Algiers.
2. **AUSTRALIA**
Dr. Harrison Bryan,
Director General
National Library of Australia,
Parke Place, Canberra, ACT 2600 Australia
3. **AUSTRIA**
Dr. Welfgang Duchkowitsch,
National Librarian
Cesterreichische National bibliothek
Josefsplatz 1, A-1015 Wien, Austria.
4. **BHUTAN**
Mr. Lopen Pemala
Director,
National Library of Bhutan, Bhutan.
5. **BRAZIL**
Vera Maria Furstenau.
Librarian Head, SIB (Secao de Informacoes Bibliographicas)
Biblioteca Nacional de Rio de Janeiro
AV Rio Branco, 219-31 ZC-21 Rio de Janeiro GB Brazil.
6. **CANADA**
Dr. B. H. Anderson,

Chief, Library Documentation Centre.
National Library of Canada, 395 Wellington Street,
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0N4, Canada.

7. **CHINA**

Mr. Tan Xiangjin,
Deputy Director.
National Library of China, China.

8. **FRANCE**

Mme. Francoise Finelli,
Conservateur au Centre Bibliographique,
National Bibliotheque National,
58 Rev. Richelieu, F-75084,
Paris, Codex, O2, France.

9. **GREECE**

Mrs, Antigone Dourdoune,
Director National Library of Greece,
Panepistemiou Street,
Athens, Greece.

10. **INDIA**

Mr. M.N. Nagraj,
Deputy Librarian, Indian National Library,
Belvedere, Alipore, Calcutta- 700027.

11. **Mr. Anandaram,**

Librarian,
Central Reference Library, Calcutta.

12. **Librarian,**

National Library, Belvedere, Alipore,
Calcutta- 700027.

13. **Padmasri B.S. Kesavan,**

Ex. National Librarian
39 Anandlok, New Delhi-110049.

14. **Mr. D.R. Kalia,**
Indian Institute of Technology,
Hanzkhas, New Delhi-110027.
15. **Prof. P. N. Kaula,**
Department of Library and Information Science,
Benaras Hindu University,
Varanasi-221005, India.
16. **Prof. P.B. Mangla,**
Professor,
Department of Library and Information Science, University of
Delhi, Delhi.
17. **Mr. A.A.N. Raju,**
Prof. and Head,
Department of Library & Information Science,
Osmania University, Hyderabad 500007.
18. **Mr. Noorul Hasan Khan,**
Reader and Head,
Dept. of Library and Information Science,
University of Kashmir, Srinagar, India.
19. **Dr. G. Bhattachariyya,**
Professor and Head,
Documentation Research Training Centre,
DRTC, 31 Church Street,
Bangalore, India,
20. **Prof. P.K. Patil,**
Professor and Head,
Dept. of Library and Information Science,
University of Mysore, Mysore, India.
21. **Mr. Usmani, S.A.**
Senior Librarian,
National Botanical Research Institute
Rama Pratap Marg, Lucknow 226001, India.

22. **Dr. A.K. Ohhedar,**
2114, Co-operative Road, Bansdrani (P.O)
24 Paraganas 743501, India.
23. **Mr. K.C. John,**
University Librarian,
Kerala University Library.
University of Kerala, Trivandrum.
24. **Mr. T.S. Rajagopalan,**
Scientist in charge, INSDOC
Hillside Road, New Delhi 110012, India.
25. **Mr. P.V. Varghese,**
State Librarian,
Trivandrum Public Library, Trivandrum.
26. **The Librarian,**
Kerala Grandhasala Sanghom, Trivandrum-33.
27. **Mr. S.P. Aggarwal,**
Director,
Social Science Documentation Centre.
ICSSR 35 Ferozsha Road, New Delhi-110001.
28. **Mr. Girja Kumar,**
Librarian, Jawaharlal Nehru University.
New Mehrauli Road, New Delhi-110067.
29. **Inamdar, N.B.,**
Librarian, Osmania University Library.
Hyderabad-500007, India.
30. **Mr. Mittal Rahan Lal,**
University Librarian,
Himachal Pradesh University Library.
Summal Hill, Simla-171005.

31. **Mr. Razvi S. Mahammed Hussain,**
University Librarian and Head,
Dept. of Library Science, Aligarh Muslim University.
A-6 Professor's Bungalow, M.C. Colony, Aligarh, India.
32. **Naqvi Gulzar Ahmed,**
Librarian, Indian Council for Cultural Relations.
Azad Bhavan, New Delhi.
33. **Thiru P.A. Moharajan,**
Librarian,
Madras University Library.
Madras-600095.
34. **Prof. P. Gangadhara Rao,**
Professor of Library Science,
Dept. of Library & Information Science,
University of Madras,
Madras-600005.
35. **Mr. S. Parthasarathi,**
Librarian, British Library, Y.M.C.A. Building,
Trivandrum.
36. **IRELAND**
Mr. Alf Maclochlainn,
Director, National Library of Ireland,
Kildare Street, Dublin, Republic of Ireland.
37. **JAPAN**
Mr. K. Okamura,
Director,
Division for Interlibrary Services,
National Diet Library,
10-1. 1-chome Nataga-cho,
Chiyoda-KY Tokyo, Japan.

38. **JORDAN**
Dr. Ahmed H. Sharkas,
Director General, Documentation and
National Archives, Amman-
Tabal Amman- Third Circle,
New Ins. Bldg, 4th Floor B.O.
Book 6070 Amman, Jordan.
39. **KUWAIT**
Mr. Suliman Kalender,
Director of Libraries,
Kuwait University, Kuwait.
40. **MALAYSIA**
Dr. D. E.K. Wijasuriya,
Deputy Director General,
National Library of Malaysia,
7th Floor, U.M.B.C Bldg.
Jalan Sultan Suliaman
Kaulalumpur 01-33, Malaysia.
41. **Mohamed Hashim.**
Director General,
National Library of Malaysia.
42. **NIGERIA**
Mr. A. Olu Olafioye,
Chief Mechanised Services Division,
National Library of Negeria,
4 Wesley St. P.M.B.O. 12626,
Lagos, Nigeria.
43. **PAKISTAN**
Mr. Abdulhafeez Akhtar,
Project Director,
National Library of Pakistan,
C/o Deptt. of Libraries, Stadium Road,
Karachi-5, Pakistan.

44. **Dr. Anis Khurshid,**
Chairman,
Dept. of Library & Information Science,
University of Karachi, Karachi.
45. **PHILIPPINES**
Dr. Serafin Quiason, Director,
The National Library of the Philippines,
T. M. Kalaw St. P.O.B. 2926 Ermita
Manila, Republic of Philippines.
46. **SINGAPORE**
Mr. Cheogn Kwai Liew,
Services Librarian for Director,
National Library of Singapore,
Stanford Road, Singapore— 6
47. **Hedurig Anuar**
Director
National Library of Singapore.
48. **SRI LANKA**
Mr. N. Amarasinghe,
Director, National Library of Sri Lanka,
Sri Lanka,
49. **SUDAN**
Mr. Abdel Rahman El-Nasri,
Librarian, Library of the University Khartoum,
P.O.B. 321, Khartoum, Sudan.
50. **SPAIN**
Mr. M. Carrion,
Biblioteca Nacional
Pascode Calve Setelo 20, Madrid I, Spain.
51. **SWEDEN**
Dr. Lars Tynell,
National Librarian, Kungl. Biblioteket,
Box 5039, S-10241, Stockholm, Sweden.

- 52. SWITZERLAND**
Dr. F.C. Maier,
Director,
Bibliothèque National Suisse,
Hallwysstrasse 15, CH-3003,
Bern, Switzerland.
- 53. THAILAND**
Mrs. Kullasap Germankit.
Director,
National Library of Thailand,
Samsen Road, Bangkok 3, Thailand.
- 54. TURKEY**
Mr. Atinay Serndli,
Assistant Director.
Milli Kutuphane (Turkish National Library)
Yenischir Andara, Turkey.
- 55. UNITED KINGDOM, SCOTLAND**
Dr. E.F.D. Roberts
Librarian
National Library of Scotland.
George IV Bridge, Edinburg EH 8 9 Scotland,
United Kingdom.
- 56. UNITED KINGDOM, WALES**
Dr. R. Geraint Gruffydd,
Librarian,
National Library of Wales,
Aferystwith
Dyfed Sy 23 Wales, 38 U
Wales, United Kingdom.
- 57. The Secretary.**
The British Library
(Reference Division)
Great Russell Street. London, WG-IB 31 G,
England.

58. UNITED STATES OF AMERICA (U.S.A)

Daniel J. Boorstin,
The Librarian of Congress,
Washington D.C 20402,

59. Mr. Warren Tsueish,

Director, Area Studies,
Library of Congress,
Washington D.C. 20540.

60. Dr. George N. Atiyeh,

Head, Near East Section.
Library of Congress,
Washington D.C. 20540.

APPENDIX C

NAMES AND TITLES OF BANGLADESHEE PROFESSIONALS AND NON-PROFESSIONALS TO WHOM THE QUESTIONNAIRE WAS SENT.

- Dr. K. M. Karim,**
Director
Directorate of Archives and Libraries
Dhaka-5
- Mr. N. Lack,**
Librarian
British Council Library.
Dhaka-2
- Dr. A.M. Chaudhury,**
Professor of History,
Librarian in charge,
Dhaka University Library, Dhaka-2
- Dr. A. Biswas,**
Director, BANSDOC, Dhaka.
- Mr. Zaki Uddin Ahmed**
Chief Librarian
National Health Library and Documentation
Centre, Dhaka.
- Mr. Alauddin Talukder,**
Librarian, Rajshahi University Library,
Rajshahi.
- Mr. A.K.M. Abdun Nur,**
Librarian Mymensing Agricultural University,
Mymensingh.
- Mr. M. Shamsul Islam Khan,**
Head, Library and Publication Branch,
International Centre for Dearthoical Disease Research,
Bangladesh,
GPO 128, Dhaka-2.

Mr. Shamsul Alam,

Librarian, University of Chittagong,
Chittagong.

Mr. Abu Baker Siddique,

Librarian in Charge,
Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology, Dhaka.

Mr. Nasiruddin Ahmed,

Ex-Chairman and Assistant Professor,
Dept. of Library and Infor. Science,
University of Dhaka, Dhaka.

Mr. M. Wahiduzzaman,

Librarian,
Bangladesh Administrative Staff College, Dhaka.

Mr. Abdul Khaleque Khan,

Journalist,
Dainik BANGLA, DIT Avenue, Dhaka.

Mr. Nurul Amin,

Ex Librarian and Adviser,
American Cultural Centre Library,
Dhaka.

Mr. Motahar Ali Khan,

Ex. Librarian
Bangladesh Central Public Library. Dhaka.

Mr. Sirajul Haque,

Acting Chief Librarian,
BIDS (Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies)
Dhaka.

Mr. Shafiqul Islam Khandaker,

Documentation Officer,
Bangladesh Bank, Head Office, Dhaka.

- Dr. Ali Ahmed,**
Member Directing Staff,
Administrative Staff College,
New Gana Bhaban, Dhaka-7.
- Mr. M. Zahirul Islam,**
Principal Scientific Officer,
Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council,
(BARC) and National Agricultural Library and Documentation
Centre (NALDOC) Dhaka.
- Mr. K. R. Rahman,**
Assistant Professor and Research Scholar for Ph.D.
Dept. of English, University of Dhaka, Dhaka.
- Mr. Humayun Kabir Chowdhury,**
Assistant Director,
Documentation Division,
Dept. of Research Library, Bangladesh Bank, Dhaka.
- Mr. Ahmed Kamrul Hasan,**
Library Development Planning Officer,
Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education, Dhaka.
- Mr. Sarwar Hossain,**
Chairman,
Dept. of Library Science,
University of Dhaka, Dhaka.
- Mr. A.K.M. Shamsul Alam,**
Ex. Chairman and Associate Professor,
Dept. of Library Science,
University of Dhaka, Dhaka.
- Mr. A.F.M. Badiur Rahman,**
Assistant Chief, Planning Cell,
Sports Culture Division, Govt. of Bangladesh. Dhaka.
- Md. Abdur Rezaque**
Ex. Librarian, Bangla Academy Library, Dhaka.

- Md. Syed Fazlul Hoque,**
Senior Librarian, Atomic Energy Centre, PO Box 164, Dhaka
- Mr. Abdul Jalil,** Librarian, Research (Library)
Bangladesh Bank, Dhaka.
- Mr. S.S.M.A. Kharassani,**
Assist. Director,
Bangladesh Central Public Library, Dhaka.
- Mr. Syed Azizur Rahman,**
Director and Chief Librarian,
Bangladesh Central Public Library, Dhaka.
- Mr. Md. Noman,**
Principal, Dhaka Govt. College, Dhaka.
- Mr. Jalal Uddin Ahmed,**
Chief Librarian,
National Institute of Public Instruction, Dhaka.
- Mr. Mozzammel Huq,**
Librarian and Documentation Officer,
Bangladesh Food and Sugar Industry, Dhaka.
- Md. Abdus Sattar,**
Librarian, Press Institute of Bangladesh, Dhaka.
- Mr. Md. Salam,**
Librarian and Research Officer,
University Grants Commission, Dhaka.
- Mr. Abdul Awal,**
Librarian, Bangladesh Central Public Library, Dhaka.
- Md. Abdul Hye Sameni,**
Librarian, Institute of Engineers,
Bangladesh, Dhaka.



Mrs. Saleha Sultana,

Assist. Librarian

Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies,
Dhaka.

Mr. Sultan Uddin Ahmad,

Librarian, Bangladesh Bureau of Educational Information &
Statistics, Ministry of Education, Government of Bangladesh,
Dhaka.

Mr. Md. Safiullah,

Librarian,

Civil Officer's Training Academy, Dhaka-I.

APPENDIX D

FINANCIAL SCHEDULE OF WORK

Year (Financial year)	Local	Foreign	Total	Remarks if any
1975-76 N.L.	-			
N.A.	<u>1.92</u>	1.92	-	1.92
1976-77 N.L.	3.00			
N.A.	<u>1.00</u>	4.00	-	4.00
1977-78 N.L.	4.50			
N.A.	<u>4.50</u>	9.00	-	9.00
1978-79 N.L.	26.68			
N.A.	<u>27.60</u>	54.28	-	54.28
1979-80 (Combined)	84.45	-	84.45	
1980-81	107.22	-	107.22	
1981-82	75.42	-	75.42	
1982-83	21.45	-	21.46	
1983-84	131.89	-	131.89	
1984-85	235.36	40.00	275.36	
Total	725.00	40.00	765.00	

N.L. = National Library

N.A. = National Archives

APPENDIX E

**GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC
BANGLADESH
PLANNING COMMISSION
(Education and Training Sector)**

Minutes of the meeting of the Project Evaluation Committee hold on
24.11.1978

A meeting of the Project Evaluation Committee was hold on 24-11-1978 in the Conference Room of the Planning Commission. Prof. Innas Ali, Member, Planning Commission presided.

(List of Participants Enclosed)

1. Scheme: Revised scheme for establishment of National Library of Bangladesh.

(Taka in Lakh)		
Local Currency	PEC	Total
263.13	7.30	270.34

2. Scheme : Revised scheme of development of National Archives

Local Currency	PEC	Total
97.90	11.00	108.90

DISCUSSION

Opening the discussion, the Secretary, Ministry of C.A. , Sports explained at length the necessity for the establishment of a National Library and National Archives. He was unable to share the view that the 2 organizations should be housed in one building. He informed that though both the institutions would be set up on the same plot of land, the designs were for two separate buildings according to specific requirements of each. He further said that it would not be possible to house both the institutions in one building even for a temporary period. He pointed out that 2 separate schemes under reference had been prepared on the basis of an earlier decision. He attributed the delay in

the implementation of the schemes to inadequacy of funds provided in the ADP.

Division Chief (SEI), Planning Commission felt that there was considerable scope of reduction in the cost of the scheme. The Chairman enquired if the costs could be minimised by providing common services for both the institutions.

Joint Secretary, Finance Division, submitted that the financial requirements as indicated in the schemes were much more than which were provided in the TYP. If the amounts as indicated in the scheme were to be made available, the concerned Ministry would have to provide funds by intra-sectoral adjustments. He further submitted that schemes might preferably be implemented in two phases. In the first phase only these items of the schemes should be taken up which were absolutely needed to make the completed portion of the projects functional. He suggested that the schemes should be revised within the TYP allocation so as to complete the first phase by June, 1980.

Drawing pointed attention of the Chair, Chief, Education Section submitted that (i) 'Education is acquired and culture grows'. So educational development should precede and not be preceded by cultural development, (ii) these two schemes ran counter to the strategy of the TYP which attached top most priority to the ongoing projects and should be completed by June, 1980, (iii) the progress of implementation of the schemes were exasperatingly slow and since the revised cost of both the schemes were more than double and absorption capacity low, he felt that the consideration of these two schemes might pend till approved costs were fully spent.

Decisions

It was decided to return the schemes for further revision among others, on the following lines:

- a) The scheme should be implemented in two phases. The first phase should include only those items which were indispensable to make these organizations functional and should be completed by June, 1980. Additional funds beyond TYP allocations should be made available by the Ministry concerned through intra-sectorial adjustments.
- b) The cost should be reduced by providing common services for both the schemes as far as possible.
- c) The revised schemes should be placed before the PEC for consideration at an early date.

APPENDIX F

GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH
 MINISTRY OF FINANCE & PLANNING,
 PLANNING COMMISSION
WELFARE, SPORTS, CULTURE &
MASS MEDIA SECTION

No. P/EDN/DGS-13/74 PT II

Dated: 22.2.1983

Subject: Minutes of the meeting held on 1-2-1983

The undersigned is directed to enclose herewith the minutes of the meeting held on 1.2.1983 on the project "Combined Scheme of National Library and National Archives" for kind information and necessary action.

Sd-
 (Khaleda Akhter)
 Research Officer.

Distribution:

1. Secretary, Sports and Culture Division Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs Central Public Library Building Shahbag, Dhaka.
2. Secretary, Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation Division, Gonobhaban, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka. (Attention: Group Cap. (Rtd) Syed Ahmed, Director-General).
3. Director, Directorate of Archives and Libraries, 106, Central Road, Hatir pool, Dhaka.

Copy forward for information to:

1.8.P.S. to Member (SEI), Planning Commission.

Sd- 23.2.83
 (Khaleda Akhter)
 Research Officer.

Minutes of the Meeting Held On 1.2.1983

A meeting was held on 1.2.1983 in the Planning Commission on the project "National Library and National Archives" Mr. M. Mujibul Huq, Member, SEI Division, Planning Commission, Presided (List of participants is attached).

Discussion

At the invitation of the Chairman, the Secretary of Sports and Culture Division said that the original P.P. had envisaged a cost of Tk. 465.18 lakh (approved by EC NEC) but subsequently, the scheme had to be accommodated within the rationalised cost of Tk. 305.50 lakh and, as a result, plan for construction and other items had to be reduced. It was mentioned that in the original P.P. there was proposal for construction of four three-storied blocks with raft foundation. Later on, as it appeared, construction of all the blocks could not be done within Tk. 305.50 lakh and so a reduced plan for raft foundation of all four blocks, one ground floor of one block, two blocks upto second floor and one stack block upto third floor was taken up but even then total cost far exceeded the rationalised cost. The Chairman asked the Director of National Library and National Archives to state if there was any attempt to find out how much of the envisaged construction could actually be completed within the rationalised cost. In reply, the Director said that efforts were made to revise the construction programme but the minimum requirements could not be accommodated within the rationalised cost and so some modifications were stipulated in regard to the construction of a number of blocks and floor and even then, the cost could not be kept within the rationalised cost. The Chairman said that the PWD was expected to have adequate capability to make proper estimate for construction of the whole complex and they should have pointed out the minimum cost required for the construction work even though such estimate could exceed the rationalised cost prepared by the Planning Commission. PWD representative said that raft foundation originally designed by the architect was found not suitable for technical reasons and instead pile foundation was taken up as a result of which the total cost had increased. He continued to say that cost of electric fittings, installations etc. was not included in the estimate of construction cost and when cost of fittings was included, the total cost of the project shot up. The Chairman asked how the PWD could estimate cost of construction leaving aside cost of electric fittings etc. The PWD official said that he looks after the civil side and as such his department could give estimate of only civil side of the work while there is another section of PWD which gives estimate of electrical fittings etc. The Chairman commented that it was normal that cost of the buildings should include the cost of electrical fittings etc. also and

someone should have co-ordinated the matter in the PWD and advised the Ministry about the total cost required. The Chairman wanted to know how much work the Ministry was now expecting to complete and at what minimum cost in order to make the National Library functional.

The Secretary said that an amount of Tk. 29.31 lakh in addition to what was already provided in the ADP (1982-83) would be needed to make the project functional without, of course, a number of items such as electric sub-station, flood light etc. for which Tk. 5.00 to 10.00 lakh more would be required. Both the Director of National Library and the PWD representative said that electric sub-station was necessary and without which it would not be possible to get electric connection from PBD.

The Chairman suggested that Implementation, Monitoring and evaluation Division should check with the PBD whether electric connection was possible without installation of a sub station. Group Cap. (Retd.) Syed Ahmed agreed to do this. The Secretary introduced the latest cost estimate of the project prepared by the Ministry, which was then discussed item by item. The Chairman said that the cost of the project had already increased much beyond what was provided for and so the P.P. should be revised within a reasonable limit of the increased cost so that it would be possible to arrange for the required funds. The Consultants, Planning Commission, drew the attention of the Chairman to the Ministry's letter regarding minimum cost to be required to make the project functional; this letter was then read out and discussed. The Secretary said that the total cost of the revised project would not be more than Tk. 426.00 lakh including the cost of flood light, electric sub station, etc. which would mean an increase of about Tk. 121.00 lakh over the rationalised cost of the project. The Chairman said that the PEC should discuss the matter and take decision on different items as well as on the total cost of the project.

The Secretary suggested that meanwhile work should continue. The Chairman agreed to this suggestion.

Decision

The P.P. should be revised in the light of the discussions held in to-day's meeting and the revised scheme should be submitted for

consideration of the PEC. In revising the scheme the following conditions should be complied with:

- i) The cost should be limited within a reasonable amount, not exceeding Tk. 426.00 lakh in any case.
- ii) Cost of books and furniture should be reduced as much as possible.
- iii) There should be no provision for staff salary during the construction work as there could be no need for staff until the project starts functioning, when also, the staff salary could preferably be met from the Revenue Budget.
- iv) Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation Division would check with the PDB whether electric sub-station will be at all necessary for the project.

Sd/-
(M. Mujibul Huq)
Member
SEI Division.

APPENDIX G

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Ministry of Finance & Planning

Planning Commission

Social Welfare, Sports, Culture & Media Section

No. P/SP & C/C-6/83

Dated 25-10-1983

Subject: Minutes of the PEC meeting held on 29-9-1983

The undersigned is directed to enclose herewith the minutes of the PEC meeting held on 29-9-1983 on the project "Combined Scheme of National Library and National Archives", for kind information and necessary action.

Sd/-

(N.N.M.A. Ghani)

Research officer.

Distribution

- a. Secretary, Finance Division, Ministry of Finance & Planning, Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka. (Attention: Dr. Mashur Rahman, Joint Secretary (Dev.))
2. Secretary, Establishment Division, Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka. (Attention: Mr. Fazlur Rahman, Assignment Officer).
3. Secretary, Sports & Culture Division, Central Public Library Building, Shahbag, Dhaka.
4. Secretary, Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation Division, Gonobhaban, Dhaka.
5. Secretary, ERD, Ministry of Finance & Planning, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka.
6. Brig. Fazlur Rahman Miah, P.S.C., Ordinance Services, Army H.Q. Dhaka.
7. Chief, P&A Division, Planning Commission, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka.
8. Director, Directorate of Archives & Libraries, 106, Central Road, Hatir Pool, Dhaka-5.

9. Copy for information to:

1. P.S. to Member (SEI), Planning Commission.
2. P.S. to Addl. Secretary, Planning Division.

(N.N.M.A. Ghani)
Research Officer

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Ministry of Finance & Planning
Planning Commission
Social Welfare, Sports, Culture & Mass Media Section.
Minutes of the PEC meeting held on 29.9.83

A meeting of the Project Evaluation Committee was held on 29-9-83 in the Planning Commission to discuss the following scheme Mr. M. Mukibul Huq, Member, Planning Commission presided (List of participants is attached).

Name of the Scheme	: <u>"Combined scheme of the National Libraries and National Archives.</u>		
Cost. (Taka in lakh)	Local	Foreign	Total
	<u>currency</u>	<u>currency</u>	<u> </u>
	575.82	45.60	621.42

Discussion

On being asked by the Chairman, Chief of Education Section of Planning Commission traced at length the history of the project and said that in an inter-ministerial meeting held on 1.2.83, it was decided that the project cost should be limited within Tk. 426.00 lakh. Later on, in the meeting of the Programming Committee, the project cost was raised to Tk. 492.00 lakh with the request to complete it by June, 1984, he added.

Director, National Archives and National Libraries pointed out that the original cost of the project was Tk. 465.00 lakh out of which Tk. 355.00 lakh was meant for construction. Subsequently, at the time of rationalisation the cost was reduced to Tk. 305.50 lakh by curtailing the construction of the stack block. But due to price escalation, the proposed construction could not be completed. Besides, from the architectural point of view some additional work as found to be necessary. As a result, the project had been revised covering minimum construction area and for this purpose Tk. 621.42 lakh would be necessary. On a query of the Chairman, the Director informed that construction area of the original project was 1.05 lakh sft and area proposed under the revised project was 75,000 sft.

The Chairman observed that construction rate upto ground floor was Tk. 531.00 per sq ft and enquired of the basis of calculation of the rate. Representative from PWD informed that the cost already incurred and tender accepted for the remaining work was taken as the basis in calculating the rate. In the present scheme, Tk. 530.00 lakh would be needed for construction alone and rest of the amount would be required for other items to make the project functional. In reply to another query, Director, National Archives and National Libraries informed that the activities of the Archives would be accommodated in the National Library building temporarily. The Architect of the National Library submitted that total cost of the building was estimated at Tk. 465.00 lakh at 1979 prices which had almost become double by now. If implementation of the project was further delayed total cost would go much higher. In this connection, the representative of the PWD informed that if the project was to be completed as per original schedule cost of construction would come to Tk. 700.00 lakh at current prices. Besides, Tk. 65.00 lakh would be required for lift (Tk.20.00 lakh), air-conditioning (Tk.20.00 lakh) and for other items (Tk. 25.00 lakh). A threadbare discussion was held and consensus of the meeting was that the project should be completed as early as possible because further delay would only escalate its cost. It was found that if the project was to be completed an additional amount of Tk. 450.00 lakh over and above the SFYP allocation would have to be provided. The Chairman asked Sports and Culture Division to provide Tk. 250.00 lakh by intra-sectoral adjustment so that attempt could be made for the rest of the amount to be arranged for by Planning Commission by adjustments from the defaulting sectors. Regarding air-conditioning only two floors of the stack blocks would be airconditioned with package airconditioner in order to preserve delicate instruments, non-traditional items of Archives and some important books of the Library it was stated by the Director. Air-conditioning would not be used for administrative offices and reading halls and for normal book stacks, it was clarified.

Representatives from Establishment and Finance Division submitted that there were some discrepancies in designation as well as in pay scale of the manpower proposed. They argued that standard designations and pay-scales should be followed as per NNPS and staff position should be vetted by the O & M Wing of the Establishment Division.

Decision

The project was recommended for approved subject to the following conditions:

- i) the project should be completed within SFYP period (by June '85) at a cost of Tk. 765.00 lakh out of which Tk. 700.00 lakh would go for construction.
- ii) Sports & Culture Division would provide Tk. 250.00 lakh by intra-sectoral adjustments.
- iii) Air-conditioning should not be used for administrative offices and reading rooms/halls.
- iv) Number of typists should be four instead of six. Pay-scales and designations should be as per new national pay-scales and staffing pattern should be vetted by O & M Wing of the Establishment Division.

(M. Mujibul Huq)

Member.

APPENDIX 'H'

**Government of Bangladesh
Public Works Department**

Dated: 14-11-1983

Name of work: Construction of National Library Building at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka.

Major Head :

Minor Head : Constn. of National Library at S.B.Nagar, Dhaka.

Detailed Head:

Estimate framed by: Mr. K.M. Zainul Abeden,
Executive Engineer, Dhaka P.W.D.
Divn. III Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka.

of the probable cost of Tk. 7,40,00,000/- i.e. D.C.

R E P O R T

History

This preliminary estimate amounting to Tk. 7,40,00,000/- i/c D/C has been framed to meet the probable cost of the above cited work. The scheme was administratively approved for Tk. 27.77 lacs and Tk. 465.18 lac vide Ministry of Sports and Culture Affairs Memo No. LB/II-15/75/119 dated 6/12/76 and respectively. M/S. Vastukalabid was appointed by the Ministry of Sports and Cultural Affairs as consultant of this project.

The building comprises of 4(four) blocks i.e. stack block (7-storied with normal floor height of 10'-0" in each storey), South, East and West Block (3-storied each with floor height of 17'-5" in each storey) on R.C.C., cast-in-situ pile foundation. Accordingly, the pile foundation of all the block superstructures of stack and South Block, Compound wall and site development of both the National Library and the National Archives were taken up as desired by the requisitioning Authority based on the consultant's design and estimates either technically sanctioned for N.I.T. , approved by the Chief Engineer time to time.

The project proforma of this project for an amount of Tk. 465.18 lac was prepared and submitted to the Planning Commission by the Ministry of Sports and Cultural Affairs. At the time of preparation of P.P., P.W.D., was neither consulted nor P.W.D's approved rates were incorporated in it. The Planning Commission rationalised the cost alongwith the elimination of some storeys from the stack block. In the light of the rationalisation of cost, the Secretary, Ministry of Sports and Cultural Affairs in the Co-ordination meeting held on 12.5.82, in his office Chamber instructed to submit the estimate for stack block, upto 3rd floor and other three blocks as per original plan including all services. As per that instruction an estimate amounting to Tk. 6,04,89,000/- i/e. D.C. was submitted by P.W.D. for Administrative approval, expdr. to sanction and allotment of fund.

Subsequently a meeting was held in the Planning Commission on 1.2.83 and it was decided that to make the project functional the stack block will be constructed upto 4th floor the south block as per original plan, the east block upto ground floor and west block will not be constructed at all exact the foundation which has already been completed. 4 preliminary estimate was prepared submitted on the basis of that discussion held on 1.2.83 amounting to Tk. 5,30,76,000/- i/e. D.C. vide D.O.No.D. XIII/w-27(A)/1367 dated 16-3-1983.

A PEC meeting was held in the Planning Commission on 29-9-83 to discuss the scheme on the basis of the estimate comprising the stack block upto 4th floor, south block as per original plan, the east block upto ground floor and the west block foundation only already completed. After thread bare discussions it was decided in the meeting to complete the whole scheme within June 85 as per the original plan comprising stack block upto 7 storeys, East, West & South block upto 3 storeys each (Minutes enclosed) at a cost of Tk. 700 lakhs. Besides the meeting considered and addl. amount of Tk. 40 lakhs for lifts and airconditioning stating that airconditioning should be used for stack block only.

According this preliminary estimate for Tk. 7,40,00,000/- i/e, D.C has been framed and is submitted for favour of obtaining revised Administrative approval, Expenditure sanction and allotment of fund from the competent authority at a very early date.

- Design & Scope :** The estimate provides for construction of stack block upto 6th floor and south block east block and west block upto 2nd floor as per drawing, design and specifications of the consultant stated in detail in the body of the same.
- Rate :** The rates have been based on the approved plinth are rates of P.W.D schedule effective from 15th Dec. 80 plus 10% for difference of cost of materials and 45% extra cost for fulfilling the special provisions and requirements of the consultant stated in detail in the report as well as in the nomenclature of items of the estimate.
- Cost :** Tk. 7,40,00,000/- i/c D.C.
- T & P :** 1% has been kept in the estimate.
- Land :** As existing at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka originally 3.80 acres of land were earmarked for this project. But subsequently the Sr. Architect P.W.D., revised the original allocation to 4.43 acres Development of a portion of land could not be completed for the reasons stated in the report referred to above.
- Method :** By Contract.
- W/C Estb.** 2% has been kept in the estimate.
- Contingency :** 5% has been kept in the estimate
- Charges :** 8% has been kept in the estimate.
- Time :** Upto June, 1983.

Sd/- 13-11-83

Executive Engineer,
Dhaka P.W.D. Divn. III
Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka.

BANSDOC Library
Accession No. 18988

APPENDIX - I

Organizational charts of :

1. The British Library
2. The Library of Congress
3. The National Library of Singapore.
4. The National Library of India.

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