
Cataloguing practice in university libraries

A comparison of three developing countries (Pakistan, Malaysia, Saudi Arabia)

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A library catalogue, usually defined as a list of holdings of a library or a particular collection, is an indispensable tool in the bibliographic organization of a library. Without an up-to-date and efficient catalogue, the use of library collections would be greatly hampered. In his evidence before the Re-organization Committee of the British Museum in 1841, T.H. Carlyle rightly observed: "A big collection of books without a good catalogue is a Polyphemus with no eye in the head". The obvious function of a catalogue is to reveal the collections of a library under various access points such as author, title, and subject headings.

In a university, the library works as the backbone of a total educational system. It provides information resources in the form of books, serials, microfilms, etc. to the educators and researchers involved in higher learning. In this modern world, universities maintain large collections of library materials. In this situation, the importance of an effective catalogue increases by a high degree.

University libraries in developing countries

Pakistan

Pakistani university libraries are among the most advanced libraries in the country. The ten universities existing in 1981 grew to 23 in 1989; their more than 140 libraries held almost 2,900,000 volumes, more than a fifth of all books in Pakistani libraries. They grew at more than 60,000 volumes a year in the 1980s, keeping pace with the growth of the student population. The government's University Grants Commission funds libraries at all public universities. Notable central university collections are at the University of the Punjab Library (opened 1906; 769,000 volumes); the Mahmud Hussain Library, Karachi University (founded 1952; 255,000 volumes); Peshawar University (1951; 200,000 volumes); Quaid-e-Azam University, Islamabad (1965; 150,000

volumes); and Sind University (opened 1949; 137,800 volumes). The Lahore University of Management Sciences (8,000 volumes) and Shah Abdul Latif University, Khairpur (19,200 volumes) opened in 1985; the Hamdard University (80,000 volumes) opened at Madinat al-Hikmat in 1989[1]. According to a survey conducted by Khan in 1994 there are 3,296,517 volumes of books, 4,505 periodicals, 32,360 manuscripts and 23,182 items in microform in 20 government funded university libraries including their departmental libraries in Pakistan. These resources are available to cater to the needs of 56,402 students and 8,708 faculty members and research scholars[2].

Malaysia

In Malaysia, there are only seven universities, but these few universities, Nazir says, "are making an invaluable contribution by producing skilled and professionally trained manpower and by promoting research and creating understanding among diverse races, sects and religious groups"[3]. The University of Malaya which was first established in Singapore, set up its Kuala Lumpur Division in 1957 – the year of Malaysia's independence. In 1962 the Kuala Lumpur Division was constituted as the University of Malaya[4]. Other universities include University Sains Malaysia (established 1969), University Kebangsaan Malaysia (1970), University Pertanian Malaysia (1971), and University Teknologi Malaysia (1972). Two newer universities are the University Utara Malaysia (1984) and the International Islamic University (1983), which is co-sponsored by a number of countries. University library collections vary considerably in size and ranged in the late 1980s from 932,000 volumes in the University Sains Malaysia and 500,000 in the University Kebangsaan Malaysia, to 233,000 in the University Pertanian Malaysia and 212,000 in the university Teknologi Malaysia. The collections in the two newer universities are still relatively small[5]. In general terms all the libraries attached to the universities are relatively well endowed financially, in that annual allocations reflect a favorable percentage of the total university budget. For example, in the University of Malaya Library, this percentage has stabilized at approximately 5.8 per cent[4, p. 61]. Co-operation among university libraries and the National library is well established. Most remarkable projects are the MALMARC (Malaysian MARC) System and a Computerized Union List of Serials Project. Most of the university libraries are active participants in these projects[6].

Saudi Arabia

The development of universities in Saudi Arabia began in the 1950s. The first was Riyadh University, organized in 1957 in the capital city of Riyadh. Following this creation of a fully-fledged university, King Abdul Aziz University was set up, first as a private university in the western region of Saudi Arabia, in 1965. It became a government university in 1971 when it had fulfilled the major requirements of any modern university. In 1961 the Islamic University was established in Medina, with an emphasis on theological education. The University of Petroleum and Minerals was established in 1964 in

the eastern region of Saudi Arabia – where all oil resources are located – with the emphasis on engineering, science, and applied geology. In 1974 a new Islamic University was founded in Riyadh: Imam Mohammad ibn Saud University, which is concerned with religion, humanities and social sciences. King Faisal University was founded in Dammam in 1975 and it was initiated by the faculties of Islamic architecture, agriculture, and medical sciences[7]. The seventh in this chain of new institutions is Umm al-Qura University in Mecca (1981) which specializes in Islamic studies, the Arabic language, humanities, and social sciences[8]. The library systems of all seven Saudi universities are centralized. Each university has a central library and a number of smaller library units at several locations on the campus. The central library is responsible for almost all the activities of the system, controlling the acquisition and processing and the distribution of the staff[7, p. 315]. The operating budgets in these university libraries is relatively high. There is no correlation between the date of establishment and the size of the collection or the allocated book budget. In spite of large collections and equally adequate book budgets, university libraries in Saudi Arabia suffer from a shortage of qualified professional staff. In addition to Saudis, the libraries also recruited staff from Egypt, Pakistan, and India[9].

Purpose and scope of the study

Keeping in view the importance of cataloguing in university libraries, particularly in developing countries where these libraries can play a more significant role in national development, a study was designed. The purpose of this study was to ask the following questions regarding the university libraries in some developing countries:

- What is the current status of cataloguing practice?
- What is the use of various standard/international schemes in cataloguing, classification and subject headings?
- How much similarity/uniformity is there in the use of technical tools among different countries?
- What are the various forms of catalogues?
- Which access points have been provided for searching?
- Is catalogue work done manually or is a computer being used and to what extent?

Data collection from all developing countries has always been difficult. For the purpose of this study three developing countries were selected (Pakistan, Malaysia and Saudi Arabia). There are many differences and similarities in the three selected countries.

The three countries are geographically far away from each other. People, culture, language, literacy rate, economic situation, type of government, educational system, etc. are entirely different. As similarities, the following points may be considered: all three countries have a majority Muslim population,

the Arabic language is thus spoken largely in the three countries, and libraries also have a considerable amount of literature in Arabic. Educational systems at university level in the three countries have largely developed after the Second World War. These three countries also belong to one continent, Asia.

For the purpose of this study all types of universities (general and special/technical) of Pakistan, Malaysia and Saudi Arabia have been covered. The central libraries of the universities have been included in the study. Departmental libraries working independently (not under central libraries) were ignored.

Methodology

To get information about the cataloguing practices of university libraries a questionnaire was designed. To gain information by survey methods is a tedious job in general and particularly in the case of developing countries where the response rate is very low. The questionnaire was sent to some libraries two or three times. Some friends of the authors in the three countries helped a lot in securing data. The authors also personally interviewed some of the university librarians in Pakistan and Saudi Arabia. The response rate varies in the three countries. From Pakistan, 19 out of 23 (83 per cent) libraries responded. From Malaysia, 6 out of 7 (86 per cent) gave responses while from Saudi Arabia all seven universities responded and the response rate is 100 per cent. The overall response rate is 86 per cent. The coverage of university libraries from the three countries is given in Figure 1.

Analysis and discussion of the survey findings

Cataloguing codes

PAK: Out of 19 libraries, 16 (84 per cent) use a single code while 3 (16 per cent) use combined codes. All 16 using a single code have adopted the Anglo American Cataloguing Rules (AACR). The other 3 using combined codes have adopted AACR as one of them. All libraries use AACR either alone or in combination (4 still use AACRI). Two libraries use the International Standard Bibliographic Description (ISBD) only in combination.

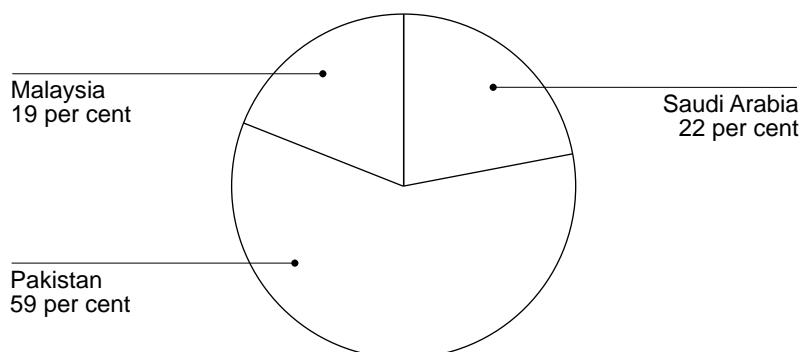


Figure 1.
Coverage of libraries in
the survey

MAL. Out of 6 libraries, 3 (50 per cent) use a single code while the other 3 (50 per cent) use combined codes. All 3 using a single code, have adopted AACR2 while the other 3 using combined codes, have adopted AACR2 as one of them. All libraries use AACR2 either alone or in combination. ISBD (2), local (1) and another (1) are used only in combination.

SAU. Out of 7 libraries, 5 (71 per cent) use a single code and 2 (29 per cent) use combined codes. All 5 using a single code, have adopted AACR2. Both the 2 using combined codes, have adopted AACR2 as one of them. All libraries use AACR either alone or in combination (1 uses AACRI). ISBD (1) and local (1) are used only in combination.

The results from these data identify that despite the need of other codes, AACR is the most widely-used code in respondent libraries. That shows the overall uniformity in cataloguing practice in these libraries (see Table I).

Codes used	PAK (%)	MAL (%)	SAU (%)
AACR	90	60	78
ISBD	10	20	11
Local codes	0	10	11
Others	0	10	0

Table I.
Use of cataloguing codes

Subject classification

PAK. Of the 19 libraries, 17 (89 per cent) use a single classification scheme and 2 (11 per cent) use combined schemes. Of the 17 using a single scheme, 16 use Dewey Decimal Classification while 1 uses another. The 2 using combined schemes have adopted DDC as one of them.

MAL. Of the 6 libraries, 4 (67 per cent) use a single scheme and 2 (33 per cent) use combined schemes. Of the 4 using a single scheme, all have adopted the Library of Congress Classification (LC). The 2 using combined schemes have adopted LC as one of them.

SAU. Of the 7 libraries, 4 (57 per cent) use a single scheme and 3 (43 per cent) use combined schemes. Of the 4 using a single scheme, 2 use DDC and 2 use LC. All 3 using combined schemes, have adopted DDC as one of them.

Despite a small but significant need for different classification schemes, the analysis shows the overall uniformity in schemes used in respondent libraries. DDC is more commonly used in libraries of Pakistan and Saudi Arabia, while in Malaysia LC is most frequently used (see Table II).

Used schemes	PAK (%)	MAL (%)	SAU (%)
DDC	86	0	50
LC	0	75	20
Others	14	25	30

Table II.
Use of classification
schemes

Classification editions

PAK. Out of 19 libraries, 16 (84 per cent) provided information about the editions of classification schemes used in their libraries. All use DDC. Nine of them use the current 20th edition. Four use the 19th edition and 3 use mixed editions of DDC.

MAL. No respondent provided information about classification editions used.

SAU. Out of 7 libraries, 3 (43 per cent) provided information about the editions of classification schemes used. All use DDC. One uses the current 20th edition, 1 uses the 19th edition and 1 uses the 18th edition of DDC.

These data indicate the importance of a common classification scheme with the emphasis on the most current edition (see Table III).

Table III.
Use of classification editions

Used DDC editions	PAK (%)	MAL (%)	SAU (%)
20th	56	–	33
19th	25	–	33
18th	0	–	33
Mixed editions	19	–	0

Subject headings

PAK. Out of 19 libraries, 18 (95 per cent) use a single scheme and 1 (5 per cent) uses combined schemes. Of the 18 using a single scheme, 9 use Sears List of Subject Headings, 6 use Library of Congress List of Subject Headings (LCSH) and 3 use other schemes. The library using combined schemes has adopted Sears List and another.

MAL. Out of 6 libraries, 5 (83 per cent) use a single scheme and 1 (17 per cent) uses combined schemes. All 5 using single schemes have adopted LCSH. The library using combined schemes has adopted LCSH and another.

SAU. Out of 7 libraries, 5 (71 per cent) use a single scheme and 2 (29 per cent) use combined schemes. Of the 5 using single scheme, 3 use another and 2 use LCSH. The 2 using combined schemes, have adopted the other as one of them.

The analysis shows diversity in the use of subject heading lists. On one hand Sears is popular in Pakistan, while on the other, LCSH is popular in Malaysia. In Saudi Arabia other schemes are also used in university libraries. The reason for this diversity is the difference in size and subject nature of the university libraries (see Table IV).

Table IV.
Use of subject heading schemes

Used codes	PAK (%)	MAL (%)	SAU (%)
LCSH	30	85	45
Sears List	50	14	0
Others	20	0	55

Manual vs. automated cataloguing

PAK. Out of 19 libraries, 3 (16 per cent) use automated systems, 11 (58 per cent) use manual and 5 (26 per cent) use mixed systems for cataloguing services.

MAL. All 6 (100 per cent) university libraries use automated systems for cataloguing.

SAU. Out of 7 libraries, 3 (43 per cent) use automated systems, 2 (28 per cent) use manual and 2 (29 per cent) use mixed systems for catalogue production.

The analysis shows the increasing use of automated systems compared to traditional manual systems for cataloguing services. University libraries in Malaysia use 100 per cent online catalogues. In Saudi Arabia the libraries use computers in large numbers while most of the Pakistani libraries still use manual cataloguing systems (see Table V).

System type	PAK (%)	MAL (%)	SAU (%)
Manual	58	0	28
Automated	16	100	43
Mixed	26	0	29

Table V.
Manual vs. automated
cataloguing activities

Catalogue access points

PAK. All (19) provide catalogue access by author through automated (2), mixed (4) and manual (13) systems. Sixteen (84 per cent) provide catalogue access by corporate body through automated (2), mixed (3) and manual (11) systems. All (19) provide catalogue access by title through automated (2), mixed (4) and manual (13) systems. Nine (47 per cent) provide catalogue access by keywords through automated (5), mixed (1) and manual (3) systems. Eleven (58 per cent), provide catalogue access by journal title through automated (2), mixed (2) and manual (7) systems. Twelve (63 per cent) provide catalogue access by class number through automated (4) mixed (1) and manual (7) systems. Eight (42 per cent) provide catalogue access by author/title through automated (2) and manual (6) systems. Twelve (63 per cent) provide catalogue access by series through automated (2), mixed (1) and manual (9) systems. Ten (53 per cent) provide catalogue access by conference headings through automated (2), mixed (2) and manual (6) systems. Seventeen (89 per cent) provide catalogue access by subject headings through automated (3), mixed (3) and manual (11) systems. Six (32 per cent) provide catalogue access by control number through automated (4) and manual (2) systems.

MAL. All (6) provide catalogue access by author through automated (5) and mixed (1) systems. All provide catalogue access by corporate body through automated (4) and mixed (2) systems. All provide catalogue access by title through automated (5) and mixed (1) systems. All provide catalogue access by keywords through automated systems. All provide catalogue access by journal title through automated (3) and mixed (3) systems. All provide catalogue access

by class number through automated (5) and mixed (1) systems. 5 (83 per cent) provide catalogue access by author / title through automated (5) systems. All provide catalogue access by series through automated (5) and mixed (1) systems. All provide catalogue access by conference headings through automated (5) and mixed (1) systems. All provide catalogue access by subject headings through automated systems. All provide catalogue access by control number through automated systems.

SAU. All (7) provide catalogue access by author through automated (1), mixed (2) and manual (4) systems. Five (71 per cent) provide catalogue access by corporate body through automated (1), mixed (2) and manual (2) systems. All provide catalogue access by title through automated (1), mixed (2) and manual (4) systems. Three (43 per cent) provide catalogue access by keywords through automated (1) mixed (1) and manual (1) systems. Five (71 per cent) provide catalogue access by journal title through automated (1), mixed (1) and manual (3) systems. Six (86 per cent) provide catalogue access by class number through automated (1), mixed (2) and manual (3) systems. Four (5.7 per cent) provide catalogue access by author/title through automated (2) mixed (1) and manual (1) systems. Five (71 per cent) provide catalogue access by series through automated (1) mixed (2) and manual (2) systems. Five (71 per cent) provide catalogue access by conference headings through automated (1), mixed (2) and manual (2) systems. All provide catalogue access by subject headings through automated (1), mixed (2) and manual (4) systems. Four (57 per cent) provide catalogue access by control number through automated (3) and manual (1) systems.

The analysis shows that most of the libraries in Malaysia offer the majority of catalogue access points. Although the access points of keywords, author/title and control number are comparatively few in Saudi Arabia and Pakistan, the overall use of these access points is significant. That shows the importance of all these catalogue access points for the use of library material and the provision of bibliographic services (see Table VI).

Access points	PAK (%)	MAL (%)	SAU (%)
Author	100	100	100
Corporate body	84	100	71
Title	100	100	100
Keywords	47	100	43
Journal title	58	100	71
Class number	63	100	86
Author/title	42	83	57
Series	63	100	71
Conference headings	53	100	71
Subject headings	59	100	100
Control number	32	100	57

Table VI.
Provision of catalogue
access points

These access points are provided through automated, mixed and manual systems. Most of the libraries in Malaysia provide them through automated systems. Very few libraries use their mixed or manual systems for this service. Although the use of manual systems for the provision of these access points in libraries of Pakistan and Saudi Arabia is high, still a significant number of libraries use mixed and automated systems. That shows the development of technology in the provision of bibliographic services. For the use of automated, mixed and manual systems see Tables VII, VIII and IX respectively.

Forms of catalogue

PAK. Out of 19 libraries, 14 (74 per cent) use a single form and 5 (26 per cent) use more than one form of catalogue. Of the 14 using a single form, 12 use card

Access points	PAK (%)	MAL (%)	SAU (%)
Author	11	83	14
Corporate body	12	67	20
Title	11	83	14
Keywords	56	100	33
Journal title	18	50	20
Class number	33	83	17
Author/title	25	100	50
Series	17	83	20
Conference headings	20	83	20
Subject headings	18	100	14
Control number	67	100	75

Table VII.
Use of automated
systems for catalogue
access points

Access points	PAK (%)	MAL (%)	SAU (%)
Author	21	17	29
Corporate body	19	33	40
Title	21	17	291
Keywords	11	0	33
Journal title	18	50	20
Class number	9	17	33
Author/title	0	0	25
Series	8	17	40
Conference headings	20	17	40
Subject headings	17	0	29
Control number	0	0	0

Table VIII.
Use of mixed systems
for catalogue access
points

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6,3/4

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Table IX.
Use of manual systems
for catalogue access
points

Access points	PAK (%)	MAL (%)	SAU (%)
Author	68	0	57
Corporate body	69	0	40
Title	68	0	57
Keywords	33	0	33
Journal title	64	0	60
Class number	58	0	50
Author/title	75	0	25
Series	75	0	40
Conference headings	60	0	40
Subject headings	65	0	57
Control number	33	0	25

catalogues and 2 use online. Of the 5 using 2 forms, 4 use card and online and 1 uses card and printed forms.

MAL. Out of 6 libraries, 4 (67 per cent) use a single form and 2 (33 per cent) use more than one form of catalogue. All using a single form have adopted the online catalogue. Of the 2 using more than 1 form, 1 uses card and online and 1 uses printed, online and microform forms.

SAU. Out of 7 libraries, 1 (14 per cent) uses single form and 6 (86 per cent) use more than one form of catalogue. The library using single form has adopted card form. Of the 6 using more than one form, 3 use card and online, 1 uses card and printed, 1 uses card and COM and 1 uses COM and online.

The analysis shows that most of the libraries in Pakistan and Saudi Arabia use card catalogues. But use of the online catalogue is also significant. In Malaysia all libraries use online catalogues either alone or in combination. That shows the development of online technology for cataloguing services (see Table X).

Conclusion

The survey findings show that there is an overall uniformity in the use of cataloguing tools in university libraries in various developing countries. On the basis of this we can plan for any kind of co-operative activities in libraries at an international level. The dream of international bibliographic control seems to

Table X.
Forms of catalogue

Forms	PAK (%)	MAL (%)	SAU (%)
Card	74	11	46
Printed	4	11	8
Online	22	67	31
COM	0	11	15

be coming true in this era. It is also obvious that, although it is not 100 per cent due to various hurdles, new information technology is rapidly replacing the old manual methods (i.e. card, printed and microform) of providing technical services in libraries. With the emergence of computer technology, we can see in the research results a number of new access points have become possible in catalogue searching. As a result, the use of library material has become easier and librarians can serve their clientele in a more satisfactory way.

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