Introduction

This policy is a guide for University of Regina Library staff and a framework for collections development using the University's membership in the Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute. It will be revised as needed by the librarian with Shastri responsibilities. For information on the selection and withdrawal of materials, see the University of Regina Library General Collections Policy.

Overview

The Shastri library fund, formally the Indian Studies Library Programme, is one of the components of the University's membership in the Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute. The fund is principally concerned with acquiring material published in India to support teaching and research needs in India/Indic Studies. Indian Studies, an alternative designation for the discipline, is not used here in order to avoid confusion with Indian (i.e. North American aboriginal) Studies.

Shastri differs from most funds in a number of ways. It is not aligned with one specific department but draws on faculty from several departments with an interest in India. Funding is, in a sense, independent of the regular budget process as it is expressed as a percentage of the University's membership fee for the Institute as a whole. The library's portion is approximately 10% (2014: $498 of the institutional fee of $5731). Occasionally, as happened in 2012-2014, the membership has lapsed; in those years there is no appropriation. It operates on a five-year grant cycle with appropriations set annually. The fiscal year, ending March 31, also differs from that of the University. The chair of the local Shastri committee approximates the function of a departmental library representative.

There is not a clearly defined area studies program for India and majors are not offered. There are, however, several courses devoted to India or including substantial Indic content. The largest share of purchases is for Eastern religions (Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam) and philosophies, Anglo-Indian and Commonwealth postmodern literature, women's studies, and cultural area studies in anthropology. Books on Indian politics and government at the federal level and the disputed state of Punjab are collected selectively. Works on education in India and comparative education are no longer collected. Reflecting the University's earlier involvement in a major Shastri/CIDA program, the social aspects of technology in developing countries is of interest as is the role of women in such societies. Indian history is selectively acquired at the national level.

Although the focus of the Shastri fund is on India as subject, occasionally works are ordered for other fields where the sole Indian connection is place of publication. These are usually books requested by other departments and published in India; Sage and Oxford University Press India are examples of major co-publishers.

Guidelines

General Considerations

3.1 Languages

Material ordered is in English apart from the occasional dictionary in the regional languages of India. English translations of contemporary major literary figures are selected.

3.2 Publication date

The majority of acquisitions are of current or fairly recently-published materials.
3.3 Geographic areas

Indian subcontinent, with limited coverage of Pakistan and Bangladesh if published in India; more broadly, South Asia.

3.4 Exclusions

Journals are generally not ordered through Shastri because of slow or erratic delivery.

3.5 Formats

The library acquires materials in all formats (paper, electronic, microform, etc.), giving consideration to the appropriateness or usefulness of the format. Paperbacks are preferred although the distinction between hardback and paperback is not an issue as Shastri routinely provides inexpensive binding of paperback titles.

Statistical Summary

A detailed statistical breakdown of the Indic Studies collection is not feasible but the classification range DS 401-DS486.5 (History of Asia: India) contains 1760 titles, some of which were purchased by funds other than Shastri. A subject keyword search of the library catalog results in approximately 8600 titles with India in the descriptive subject headings.

Courses

The following are courses concerned with India or the region, wholly or in part, which the Shastri fund may help support:

ANTH 230 Ethnography of Southeast Asia
ANTH 233 Ethnography of the Himalayas
ANTH 238 Ethnography of India
ANTH 241 Culture Area Studies
ANTH 242 Culture Area Studies
ANTH 305 Anthropology of Religion

ECON 211 Development Economics
ECON 311 Economics of Developing Countries

ENGL 322AB Postcolonial Literature

GEOG 316 Geography of the Third World

HIST 290AH Introduction to Asian Studies
HIST 390AQ Memory & Place in Asia
HIST 450 Modernity in Asia

JS 890AH Social Justice in Developing Countries

PSCI 326 Asian Politics
PSCI 344 Political Economy of Development and Underdevelopment
PSCI 470 Third World and Political-Economic Change
RLST 203 Hinduism  
RLST 207 Buddhism  
RLST 214 Islam  
RLST 290AH Religion and Asian Cinema  
RLST 303 Deities: India  
RLST 363 Storytelling in Asian Religions  
RLST 377 Goddesses and Women  
RLST 384 Advanced Readings in Sanskrit Literature  
RLST 390AY Yoga: Teachers, Texts, Techniques  
RLST 390BE Gandhi, Malcolm X & Martin Luther King Jr.  
RLST 390BG Religion and Asian Cinema  
RLST 403 Studies in South Asian Religion  
RLST 840 Advanced Studies in the Religions of Asia  
RLST 890BM Recent Research in Buddhism  
RLST 890BP Advanced Modern Hinduism  

SOC 314 Studies in Development and Underdevelopment  
SOC 831 Sociology of Underdevelopment  
SOC 890AR Critical Perspectives on the Environment in the Global South  

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