Sahitya Akademi : A Socio Legal Study

Jitendra Kumar

Research Scholar, Department of Library & Information Science
Mandsaur University, Mandsaur, MP

Ravindra Kumar

Assistant Professor & Head, Department of Library & Information Science
Mandsaur University, Mandsaur, MP
Corresponding Author: jitendra3682@gmail.com

Abstract

Sahitya Akademi is India's National Academy of Letters, whose mission is to advance the cause of Indian literature through publications, translations, seminars, workshops, cultural exchange programmes, and literary meets. The Sahitya Akademi is a non-profit organisation dedicated to promoting the cause of Indian literature. This organisation maintains a distinct multilingual library in each of its four locations : New Delhi, Bengaluru, Kolkata, and Mumbai, which has literature in more than 24 different languages. This research focuses particularly on the multilingual resources of Indian literature, and it demonstrates how technological advancements are having an influence on such collections. Following that, this article explains the numerous services that are available for multi-lingual systems.

Keywords*: Multilingual library, Library sources, Library services, Sahitya Akademi Library, Special libraries.*

Introduction

The Akademi was officially launched on March 12, 1954, at the Central Hall of Parliament in New Delhi and in accordance with the recommendations of the Akademi's General Council; it was registered as a society under the Societies Registration Act of 1860 on January 7, 1956. The officials of an organisation have a significant influence on the way the organisation functions. President, Vice President, Financial Adviser, and Secretary are the positions designated by the Sahitya Akademi's Constitution as the organization's top executives.

S. Radhakrishnan, the inauguration speech was made by a philosopher-statesman who was also the Vice President of India at the time. "The term, Sahitya Akademi, is a combination of two words," he said. The words 'Sahitya' and 'Academy' are both Sanskrit words. This name reflects our global perspective and goal. Sahitya is a literary creation, while the Academy is a gathering of persons who are interested in the subject matter in question. As a result, the Sahitya Akademi will be a conglomeration of all people who are engaged in both creative and critical writing. The objective of this Akademi is to recognise persons of accomplishment in writings, to encourage men of promise in letters, to educate the public about literature and literary criticism, and to raise the standards of literature and literary criticism…"

Sadana (2012) Sahitya Akademi is described as a "literary nationality" in her book Sahitya Akademi. Being literate in terms of literary output means being familiar with the literatures of each regional language and giving them equal value to the degree that this is feasible

Regional Offices in India

National Bibliography of Indian Literature, a modest production office was established in Calcutta on the National Library's grounds in 1956 to oversee the work of the National Bibliography. It didnot take long for this tiny manufacturing office to expand and become a Regional Office in Kolkata. This Regional Office is responsible for the publishing and programme work in the Assamese, Bengali, Bodo, Manipuri, and Oriya languages, as well as a portion of the publication and programme work in the English and Tibetan languages. Moreover, it is responsible for programming in the other north-eastern languages.

It was decided in 1959 to establish a second Regional Office in Madras to oversee the Akademi's activities in the Southern languages. In 1990, the Regional Office in Madras was relocated to Bangalore, with a minor section remaining in Madras at the time. It is in charge of the publishing and programme work in Kannada, Malayalam, Tamil, and Telugu, as well as a portion of the publication work in English, among other languages. It may be found on the Central College Campus in Bengaluru.

In order to better execute the Akademi's programmes in the Western languages, a second Regional Office was established in Bombay in 1972, which is still in operation today. It is responsible for the publishing and programme work in Gujarati, Konkani, Marathi, and Sindhi, as well as a portion of the publication work in English and Hindi, among other languages.

North-East Centre for Oral Literature: In addition, a project office for the development of tribal and oral literature has been established in Agartala to care for the unrecognised languages of the North-Eastern region.

Library Sources and Services

Moreover, as we are all know, the Sahitya Akademi Library, which operates under the auspices of the Sahitya Akademi, the National Akademi of letters, holds a significant position not only in Delhi's library map, but is also the premier library of letters on the cultural map of the country. This institution has an extensive and diverse library of 24 languages in literature, literary theory and criticism, philosophy, history, and cultural studies, which is well-liked and appreciated by its active and receptive public. In addition to this apex organisation, additional well-known multilingual libraries that ought to be mentioned include the National Library and the British Library.

Tulsi Sadan Library, Delhi Public Library, and the Central Institute of Indian Languages are just a few examples of places to visit.

One of the most significant multi-lingual libraries in India, Sahitya Akademi Library has a large collection of volumes (about 2 lacs) on literature and associated disciplines in 24 languages recognised by the Sahitya Akademi, and is one of the most important multi-lingual libraries in Asia. It is devoting the utmost attention to the establishment of a comprehensive library of books in all of the languages with which it is involved, which is absolutely necessary for its operation. It was because of the demands of customers with specialised interests that these libraries were established. These libraries are dedicated to literature, literary theories, history of Indian literature and criticism, women's studies, cultural histories, and translation studies. As a result, these libraries are specialised collections that serve the requirements of the whole fraternity.

There are publications about and by Rabindranath Tagore, Sri Aurobindo, and Mahatma Gandhi in the library's specialist collections, among other authors. It also comprises enhanced reference books that are mostly devoted to Indian and international literature, philosophy, religion, art, and culture, among other topics.

During the first year of the Akademi, 700 carefully chosen volumes were added to the Library's collection. It was not until the end of November 1961 that the Library was relocated to its current location at Rabindra Bhawan, New Delhi, where it remains today. It is said that the Sahitya Akademi library grew into a centre for the study of Indian literature as a result of this development. More than two hundred literary magazines/periodicals in different languages are now accessible in the Akademi libraries, representing a significant increase in the number of literary publications in various languages that are received on a regular basis.

The library is available to the public for reference purposes, and it has begun providing books to people who have signed up as members of the library. Initially, there were no fees associated with library membership. Akademi libraries now accept refundable security deposits as a condition of membership. Every type of reader can benefit from the library's various membership categories, which include Research Scholars, General Membership, Senior Citizens, Consultation, and so on. The library's daily scholars, faculty, literature students, Research Scholars, editors, journalists, writers, and members of the general public are

among those who visit it. Table 1 lists the overall number of Registered Members as well as the total number of books

.**Table 1- Sahitya Akademi Libraries: Collections**

S.No.	Name of the Library	No. of Books	No. of users
1	Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi	1,77,239	16,039
2	Sahitya Akademi, Southern Regional Office, Bengaluru	32,300	528
3	Sahitya Akademi, Southern Regional Office, Kolkata	29042	341
4	Sahitya Akademi, Southern Regional Office, Mumbai	10619	209

In 2001-2002, Akademi upgraded its automated circulation operations approx. to use commercial software, Libsys, and turned over to commercial software. A total of 2000 members have signed up. After completing the retro-conversion of the English and Hindi parts, they were made accessible on the LAN for viewing online.

After making the decision to unite all of its libraries into a single Internet-based catalogue (WEBOPAC) that adheres to international standards for cataloguing and data interchange in 2008, Sahitya Akademi has finally completed this task by implementing an Integrated Library Management Software (VTLS, Virtua).

Sahitya Akademi Library receives reference requests from all throughout India and overseas, from readers who come in person, by email or letter to the library, and from readers who use social media networks like as Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, and other platforms. Because of the collection's multilingual character, the reference work is performed by every member of the professional team.

The library staffs have certified that, on average, 105 reference requests per month are answered by the staff, according to the 2012 library classification report. The membership and regional office library functions allow for an increase in this limit to 200 people at current time.

Since 2011, the Sahitya Akademi Library has been delivering three publications to the public each month: Book Review, Current Contents, and News Clippings.

The library staff at the Akademi edited a prestigious project of Who's who of Indian writers, which was made available on the website www.sahitya-akademi.gov.in. The library staff also compiled and edited a Critical inventory of North-Eastern Tribal literature, which was made available on the website www.sahitya-akademi.gov.in. Virtually all languages are represented in a centralised catalogue that is accessible through the Web-OPAC, which includes regional office libraries.

Special libraries were established in order to meet the demands of clients who had a specialised area of interest. As a result, these libraries are specialised collections that serve the overall requirements of the whole literary community as a whole. The following are a few examples of detailed fundamental facts: -

Table 2 In New Delhi, the Sahitya Akademi Libraries are open all week days and are also open on Saturdays, according to the information provided.

Table 2- Working Hours of Libraries

S.No.	Library hours	Sahitya Akademi Libraries			
		New Delhi	Bengaluru	Kolkata	Mumbai
1	Mon-Fri	09.30AM – 06.00PM	09.30AM – 06.00PM	09.30AM – 06.00PM	09.30AM – 06.00PM

| 2 | Saturday | 09.30AM – 06.00PM | closed | closed | closed |
| 3 | Sunday & Holidays | closed | closed | closed | closed |

Table 3 displays a comprehensive list of the services provided by these Akademi libraries, which may be found below. In addition to reference services and the Web-based On-Line Public Access Catalogue (WebOPAC), these Akademi libraries provide a variety of other services such as consultation and circulation, Inter Library Loan (ILO), resource sharing among Akademi regional centres, Information Alert Services (CAS), book reservations and renewals, user orientation, and reprography and printing services. In addition to these initiatives, Akademi libraries put a stronger focus on user education in order to inform, notify, educate, and train users about a variety of resources and services available. Users should also be instructed on 'How to Use' numerous multilingual databases of the OPAC, both in Roman character and in the original language.

Table 3: Services Offered by Sahitya Akademi Libraries

S. No	Library Service	Sahitya Akademi Libraries			
		New Delhi	Bengaluru	Kolkata	Mumbai
1	Reference Services	√	√	√	√
2	Online catalogue	√	√	√	√
3	Bibliographic Services	√	√	√	-
4	Indexing/Abstracting Services	√	-	√	-
5	Information Alert Services (CAS)	√	√	√	-
6	Book Reviews	√	√	√	-
7	Current Contents of Journals	√	-	√	-
8	Newspaper Clippings	√	√	√	-
9	Reprography	√	√	√	√
10	Printing	√	√	√	-
11	Internet	√	√	√	-
12	Books lending	√	√	√	-
13	Inter Library loan	√	√	√	√
14	Books reservations/renewals	√	√	√	-
15	User orientation	√	√	√	√
16	Web OPAC	√	√	√	√
17	Digital Scanning facility	√	√	√	-
18	Digital photos printing facility	√	-	-	-

The Sahitya Akademi Library has a large collection of works on literature and associated disciplines, and it has volumes in 24 languages (Appendix 1) that have been acknowledged by the Sahitya Akademi as being of literary importance. In order to offer excellent services to its member users, Akademi libraries have among of the most modernised WebOPACs and are leaders in the use

of the most up-to-date methods and practises in information and communication technology (ICT). They have been giving e-Resources such as the 'Who's Who of Indian Writers' (Online Directory of Living Writers), Citations of Eminent Writers, and prizes to writers all over the world since 2001. Table 4 demonstrates that Akademi libraries have a distinct library building, good public transportation, an internet connection, CCTV monitoring, and natural ventilation, among other amenities. It can be seen in Table 5 that all Akademi libraries have a rich collection of books and monographs as well as Reference Books, periodicals, and a large number of news clippings. It can also be seen in Table 6 that non-print sources such as film and videos as well as audio/visual materials such as CDs/DVDs, e-books, online databases, portraits, and still photographs are mostly available in New Delhi

.Table 4 Library Building & Other Facilities

S. No.	Library building	Sahitya Akademi Libraries			
		New Delhi	Bengaluru	Kolkata	Mumbai
1.	Separate Library building	√	√	√	-
2.	Good public transport	√	√	√	√
3.	Separate Reading hall	√	-	√	√
4.	Periodical section	√	√	√	√
5.	Internet facility	√	√	√	-
6.	Assessable to differently abled persons	-	-	√	-
7.	Lockers for users	√	√	√	-
8.	CCTV surveillance	√	√	√	√
9.	Natural ventilation	√	√	√	√
10.	Possibility of Library building expand in future	-	-	-	-
11.	Capacity of the reading hall	45	20	13	12

Table 5 Acquisition of Libraries Sources

S. No.	Library Sources	Sahitya Akademi Libraries			
		New Delhi	Bengaluru	Kolkata	Mumbai
1.	Books	√	√	√	√
2.	Monographs	√	√	√	√
3.	Reference Books	√	√	√	√
4.	Periodicals	√	√	√	√
5.	Research Reports	√	-	-	-
6.	Patents	-	-	-	-
7.	Standards	-	-	-	-
8.	Dissertations /thesis – pub.	√	√	√	√
9.	Souvenirs	√	-	-	-
10.	Festschrifts	√	-	√	√
11.	Databases and Indexes	√	-	√	-
12.	Indexing periodicals	√	-	-	-
13.	Abstracting Periodicals	√	-	-	-
14.	Book Reviews	√	√	√	-
15.	Newspaper clippings	√	√	√	-

16.	Unpublished Sources (diaries, letters, etc.	√	-	-	-
17.	Bibliography of Bibliographies	√	-	-	√
18.	Others	Citations, Award broachers, photos	Citations, Award broachers. photos	Citations, Award broachers, photos	Citations, Award broachers, photos

Table 6 Acquisition of Non-Print Sources

S. No.	Non-print Sources	Sahitya Akademi Libraries			
		New Delhi	Bengaluru	Kolkata	Mumbai
1.	Film and Videos	√	-	-	-
2.	Audio/Visual materials	√	-	-	-
3.	CDs/DVDs	√	-	√	-
4.	e-books	√	-	√	-
5.	e-journals	√	-	√	-
6.	Online databases	√	√	√	-
7.	Portraits	√	√	√	√
8.	Still photographs	√	√	√	√
9.	Others				-

Conclusions

Better coverage of Indian literature and related areas, Akademi libraries are models of efficiency in terms of providing efficient services. These libraries have gained access to a vast number of materials in the fields of literature, literary theories, history of Indian literature and criticism, women's studies, cultural histories, and translation studies for the benefit of their patrons and staff. This means that these libraries must spend even more money in order to go from traditional libraries to digital libraries and maintain their preeminent position in the country. Some of the areas that need immediate attention are listed as: In order to make their home pages and online OPAC more interactive, the Akademi Head Quarters Library and its Regional Office Libraries should deploy Wi-Fi access points and incorporate some of the web 2.0 methods. This would allow users to connect with and contribute to the library. One of the most commonly used databases at Akademi Libraries is the Web-based Online Public Access Catalogue (WebOPAC), which is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The library's main page provides access to all of its materials and services. Training workshops, seminars, and conferences on current subjects of interest to library and information workers are also organised by Akademi libraries to assist them in upgrading their knowledge and abilities. The majority of the library buildings are relatively old and need extensive restoration not only to enhance the amenities and atmosphere, but also to be able to provide a range of places to meet the needs of various kinds of users in different ways. The amount of room necessary for fifty years ago and now is much smaller, yet it is still an incredibly inadequate amount of space. Obviously, apart from financial considerations, the amount of physical space available affects the number of books/journals that may be purchased. In reality, all library users are academics, researchers, authors, film and television script writers, artists, and other professionals. As a result, the library's hours should be flexible to meet the demands of its diverse users, including students. Work related to circulation, such as book renewals, notifications, online book reservations, and other library operations, might be moved online as well.

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