

Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts
Kala Nidhi Division

Participation in International Conference: Tour Report by Dr. P.R. Goswami, Director (Lib & Inf.), IGNCA.

4th International Conference of Asian Special Libraries (ICoASL 2015) was organized by the Asian Chapter of Special Libraries Association (SLA), USA during April 22-24, 2015 at the National Assembly Library, Seoul, South Korea. The theme of the Conference was 'Creating the New Values Beyond Library'. More than two hundred delegates from all over the world participated in the conference. There were six invited speakers who delivered talks on certain current issues that have impacted library and information field:-

1. Jill Strand, USA. 'Leaning into the Curve : Demonstrating the value of Information Professionals'.
2. Diana Chang, Hong Kong: 'Creating Values in the digital Domain'.
3. Kiduk Yang, South Korea: 'Library XG: To Survive or to Thrive'.
4. Klaus Tochtermann, Germany: 'Science in Transition and its Impact on Scientific Libraries'.
5. Richard Savovy, U.K.: 'Joint Information Systems Committee Collections: Structure and Activities'.
6. Pascalia Boutsouci, Switzerland: 'Times change and we change with them'.

One of the Sessions of this Conference was on 'Knowledge'. The paper 'Relevance of Population Related Information in Social Science Libraries' by Dr. P.R. Goswami, IGNCA and Dr. P.K. Jain, Institute of Economic Growth was presented in this session on April, 23 in the afternoon. The basic purpose of this paper was to familiarize the social science libraries with various sources of statistical data on India's population.

The paper stated that economic development through centralized five year plan and subsequent creation of new areas of social science research has increased the demand for statistical data. The paper defined the subject population studies or demography and identified variables/indicators that are used for tabulation of population related data. The paper argued that importance of demography or population studies in social sciences is basically due to a closer inter-relationship between population trend and socio-economic development. Major sources of demographic/population data i.e. (a) Population census (b) Vital Registration and Sample Registration System and (c) Sample Survey have been identified in the paper. Methodology used in collection of data and mode of dissemination of data (through digital media as well as printed reports) has been adequately explained. Also the role of international agencies like UN Population Council, World Bank, UNICEF and their publication has been mentioned. The need for users' guide/guide to statistical publication with an exhaustive bibliography has been emphasized by the participants.

The Conference was held at the National Assembly Library, Seoul which is one of the most modern and heavily used library in the country. The participants had an opportunity to see the functioning of the library which is basically a network for sharing knowledge and information resources with foreign universities and Korean

studies research institutes. It provides parliamentary information service and law library service to the members of the National Assembly and general public. A visit was also organized for the participants to see the Underwood Memorial Library at Yonsei University which has modern facilities for the student of mass communication.

The conference has organized an exhibition in which many prominent publishers and database vendors participated including Brill Publishing which deals with arts and humanities. Recent catalogues of Brill Publishing on Philosophy, Literature and cultural studies, history, classical studies were collected for the IGNCALibrary.

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