

## GOVERNMENT PUBLICATION: A MODERN APPROACH FOR

### BIBLIOGRAPHICAL CONTROL

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#### ABSTRACT

Discussed the practical problems in acquisition of Government publications. Some suggestions have been made to overcome this problem.

**Key words:** Government publication, Acquisition problems, Bibliographical control.

#### INTRODUCTION

Government publications, as indicated by the name, are the official documents brought out at the government expense, under the authority of the government? The authority may vary from level to level such as a ministry a department, government undertakings, Institutes or any authorized agency of the Central/State Governments and this authority holds the responsibility for the correctness of the contents of the documents.

In- India, the biggest democratic country, a large number of official publications are brought out annually. The Department of publications of Government of India singly handles 75,000 titles of 184 departments, ministries attached and subordinate offices of the Central Government including semi-government and autonomous institutions and organizations. Another important department, which deals with the publication and sale of official documents, is publication division of the ministry of Information and Broadcasting and has so far brought out thousands of publications. Parliament Secretariat also markets a large number of publications.

#### MARKETING OF PUBLICATIONS

The Department of publication is the most important organ of the government responsible for publication and marketing of the largest number of the official documents. It is estimated that 75% of the govt. of India publications are handled by it through its 896 sales agents (including 24 foreign agents, 150 Sale and Return Agents and 365 employment exchanges).

The major publishing houses of the government of India has their own networks of sales depots, sales counters of agencies. But these facilities are available only in big cities like Bombay, Calcutta, Madras & Delhi. In Lucknow also,

there is a sale-depot of publications Divisions, but is deal<sup>3</sup> mainly with the publications of Ministry of Information. Though the major publishing houses of Government of India claim to have authorized agents in the country but even in the city like Lucknow there is no authorized agent of Government of India publications. Moreover, commercial book sellers seems to be less interested in government publications because these are less profitable being of comparatively very low price leaving a meager profit.

### ACQUISITION PROBLEM

The purchase of government publications is a serious problem. The problem is of multi-dimensional nature. The first problem is the non-availability of printed lists and catalogues. The catalogue available is not up dates. Some of the State Governments are not very serious in updating their catalogues. Even the authorized agents are not able to distribute the printed catalogue. Although with some exceptions the Central and State government at least bring out printed catalogue of their publication, but there are several government departments directly issuing some of their publications. Such departments do not care to bring out any printed catalogue. In absence of a catalogue even the important publication also goes un-noticed.

### TIME LAG IN THE SUPPLY

There is a considerable time lag between the date of. order and receipt of government publications. The delay from the authorized private agency is less in comparison to the order directly placed with the controller of publications. The government machinery does not function properly and tJ1ey take their own time in the supply of publications. The un-priced publications, limited copies of the priced publication, meant for free distribution, and in exceptional cases the entire lot of priced publications are directly distributed by the sponsoring agencies. Due to lack of proper distribution facilities by the printing and stationary departments the time lag is between 2 to 3 months. Thus delay is quite exaggerating and many times after repeated reminders their is single line reply that the required publication is out of stock.

Some of the books reported to be out of st09k are later weeded out and find outlet in the commercial market at premium. This can happen only in connivance with some unscrupulous employees in the department. To intimate the users about the new release, the controller of publications issues a monthly "Catalogue of Government of India Civil publications." But the number of printed copies/is reported to be about 500, which is too small in comparison to the number of user institution'.

### SUGGESTIONS

- 1 There is a need for Central Reference Library for Govt.. publications and the Central government should establish such an agency.
- 2 The national library at Calcutta should update the Indian National Bibliography by using latest and very fast methods in printing and also make available on line.
3. Effective measures must be taken up by the Central as well as State Governments to promote sale, availability and

**utilization of**

**4 Parliament Library and CSL at New Delhi should take up the responsibility as far as possible for full bibliographical control of . Govt. publications and make it available through web enabled database.**

**5 State Secretariat and/or State Assembly Libraries should take up the responsibility as far- as possible for full bibliographical control and organization of the publications of their Respective states. They must take up the compilation of Regional/Local /Union catalogue of Government publications.**

**6 Each University Library should maintain a separate section of Government publications, and must be managed by efficient trained staff, for better and fruitful use of these documents.**

**7 The list of publications of Govt. Department should be put in their web pages; efforts should be made to put it in a web enabled database using CCF or MARK format for its easy importability and merger with the central database of would be bibliographical control agency like CSL and National Library**

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