

See discussions, stats, and author profiles for this publication at: <https://www.researchgate.net/publication/280740367>

Mapping of University Presses in India: Pattern of Knowledge Production and Dissemination

Article in *Annals of Library and Information Studies* · June 2015

CITATIONS

3

READS

153

1 author:



Anup Kumar Das

Jawaharlal Nehru University

124 PUBLICATIONS 508 CITATIONS

SEE PROFILE

Some of the authors of this publication are also working on these related projects:



Principal Investigator, "A Comparative Study of India's Research Performance in Scientific and Technological Areas of Clean Energy and Water (2009-16): A Scientometric Analysis" [View project](#)



Development of comprehensive database and scientometric analysis of Indian research output in physics and space science since independence [View project](#)

Mapping of university presses in India: Pattern of knowledge production and dissemination

Anup Kumar Das

Centre for Studies in Science Policy, School of Social Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi-110067, India

Email: anup_csp@mail.jnu.ac.in

Received 13 May 2014; accepted 13 April 2015

This paper presents the current status of university presses in India, and how they are interlinked with their prestigious fellowship programmes and academic research. Indian university presses were identified from DELNET union catalogue of books. Their publishing patterns are studied based on MIS reports available or generated from their respective websites. The paper also analyzes global visibility and availability of produced knowledge through institutional and external web catalogues, e-commerce sites and utilization of book promotion avenues. It is found that, as of now, Indian university presses don't publish e-books. Many of these presses don't even have a dedicated website for disseminating detailed bibliographic information on available titles.

Keywords: academic publishing; scholarly communications; publishing; university press; India; knowledge production; knowledge dissemination

Introduction

Modern university system in India was initiated during the British colonial rule with the establishment of three major universities in three important parts of Indian subcontinent, namely in Calcutta, Bombay and Madras located respectively at eastern, western and southern regions. The University of Calcutta, established on 24 January 1857 became the first modern university in South Asia to be established as a multidisciplinary and secular western style university. In the same year, University of Bombay was incorporated on 18 July 1857 and University of Madras on 5 September 1857. Gradually, these universities became the centres for higher learning and tertiary education in the country. During the British colonial rule, these universities produced several leaders in bureaucracy, legislation, judiciary, industry, education, politics, and governments. Some of the other significant public universities established during the British colonial rule were: University of Allahabad (f. 1887), Banaras Hindu University (f. 1916), University of Mysore (f. 1916), Aligarh Muslim University (f. 1920), Jamia Millia Islamia (f. 1920), Visva-Bharati University (f. 1921), and University of Delhi (f. 1922). Jamia Millia and Visva-Bharati were given university status only after independence. Although, many of them were not

established by the British rulers themselves, these were community-oriented public universities established by visionary educationalists and nationalist leaders for inculcating rationalism, scientific temper and human values in the minds of young citizens. Examples of this kind of community-oriented universities were Banaras Hindu University, Aligarh Muslim University, Jamia Millia Islamia, and Visva-Bharati University, established by enthusiastic visionary educationalists and community leaders.

After India's independence from the British colonial rule, these universities became fully funded public universities, either supported by Central or respective state governments. In almost every Five Year Plan period, new set of public universities were proposed keeping in the mind the growing number of school passed-outs. Doctoral research also grew manifold since independence, thanks to upgraded research infrastructure and access to research fellowship (financial aid) to every full-time doctoral researcher.

Knowledge production is not only a matter of intellectual contribution of university researchers but also a collaborative effort of affiliating institutions, funding agencies, research networks and peer groups from where individual researchers get continuous and qualitative supports. Knowledge production turns out to be an academic cycle, where individual researcher

absorbs resources from the society and recreates knowledge resources for the betterment of the society. He/she is adding values in his/her academic discourses and narrations while creating new heights of wisdoms.

In the following sections, emergence of academic presses in India and more particularly university presses in India is seen as a responsible knowledge disseminator and creator of knowledge resources. University presses in India have been wholeheartedly supporting research scholars in disseminating knowledge emanated from university research projects. University presses also have emerged as a platform for vibrant discussion, public debate and public understanding of science. On the other hand, university presses also publish low-cost textbooks that help in expanding higher education to larger sections of population who cannot afford to buy costly textbooks published by commercial publishing houses. Analytical details of major university presses in India that have impacted scholarships in the country and even abroad are given.

Literature review

Since the last few centuries university presses are recognized as torchbearers of scholarly activities of the respective universities. Their scholarships are well reflected in publications conceived and produced by their respective university presses. They are also considered as a publishing department of the university, where dissemination of completed research studies on contemporary issues takes priority. University presses also serve the purpose of widening of university's outreach to worldwide scholarly communities. Text-books and self-learning study modules published by university presses also help in widening access to learning and help in training lifelong learners. The Association of European University Presses (AEUP)³ was launched in 2010 to help European university presses to build stronger relationships between them, to co-operate and share knowledge to reach common goals and to jointly address important issues.

In a few recent articles in online media, authors discussed several challenges and dilemmas in academic publishing, while embracing digital publishing channels for academic contents dissemination.

Holzman, Armato and Callaway⁴ briefly outlined the key challenges facing university presses in

western countries, which are namely: university presses don't speak loudly enough; many face serious budget cuts due to economic recession; and university administrators don't see their press as essential to the university's core mission. Mullaney⁸ discussed how many of these centuries-old presses have been facing challenges and also opportunities related to changing socio-technological perspectives. He argues emphasizing following points of contemporary relevance, such as, works of highly specialized content having limited appeal; smaller presses struggle to go digital to publish new titles in print and e-book formats; and many presses collaborate with Project MUSE or similar e-books portal for global dissemination.

However, no recent comprehensive study is available on mapping of activities of university presses in South Asia.

Nevertheless, publication activities of the Asiatic Society of Bengal are relatively better documented. In a monograph Kejariwal⁷ elaborated scholarly activities of the Asiatic Society of Bengal during 1784-1838 that led to the discovery of India's past. Sen¹¹ discussed growth of scientific periodicals in colonial India during 1788-1900. In late eighteenth century, the Asiatic Society of Bengal/India came into existence and launched the first journal from India "*Asiatick Researches*" or "Transactions of the Society instituted in Bengal, for inquiring into the history and antiquities, the arts, sciences, and literature of Asia" in 1788. Sen¹² also studied growth of scientific societies in colonial India during 1784-1947, which started with establishment of Asiatic Society of India in 1784.

Ray^{9,10} documented publications activities of Visva Bharati Publishing Department (VBGV). However, these papers have evaluated dissemination of literary works of Rabindranath Tagore and works on Tagore studies only, rather than overall publication activities of VBGV. Some other studies on evaluation of doctoral theses and dissertations in Indian universities include that by Das, Sen & Dutta² Gupta³, Joshi⁶ and Sengupta¹³.

In science, technology and medicine (STM) disciplines, research findings incorporated in a PhD thesis usually get published as journal articles and conference papers. However in social sciences and humanities disciplines, research findings incorporated in a PhD thesis usually get published as monographs or book chapters, and rarely as journal articles and

conference papers. In absence of appropriate avenue of publishing a doctoral thesis as a monograph through a university press, many of the recent Indian theses are only accessible through institutional and national-level electronic theses and dissertations (ETD) repositories. The INFLIBNET Centre of UGC has established a centralized and national-level ETD repository named as 'Shodhganga' (<http://shodhganga.inflibnet.ac.in>) for digital archiving of full-text contents of all PhD theses and M.Phil dissertations awarded in Indian universities. Shodhganga has already archived full-text contents of about 35264 theses and dissertations in all subject areas, as on 13th April 2015. Similarly, INFLIBNET Centre has established another national-level repository named as 'Shodhgangotri' (<http://shodhgangotri.inflibnet.ac.in>) for digital archiving of Indian research in progress, i.e., full-text contents of all approved synopses of PhD and M.Phil students registered in Indian universities. Shodhgangotri has already archived full-text contents of about 1916 approved synopsis in all subject areas, as on 13th April 2015. Many Indian universities also have established their own institutional repositories for digital archiving of full-text contents of theses, dissertations, project reports, research papers, approved synopses and other scholarly documents. Institutional repositories have become open access channels for Indian universities to showcase scholarly contributions of their researchers. Joshi⁶ studied functionalities of Shodhganga, while Sengupta¹³ studied functionalities of Shodhgangotri. Gupta and Gupta³ studied status of Government-led Initiatives in building ETD repositories across the country.

Objectives of the study

- To report the present status of university presses in India;
- To give a historical background of university presses in dissemination of scholarly knowledge;
- To assess how university presses are interlinked with fellowship programmes and academic research; and
- To assess global visibility and availability of produced knowledge through institutional and external web catalogues, e-commerce sites, and utilization of book promotion avenues.

Methodology

University presses selected for this paper were identified from Developing Libraries Network

(DELNET) Union Catalogue of Books. Publications of many Indian university presses are available with DELNET member libraries. Data were taken from the DELNET catalogue and other sources including MIS (management information system) reports from the respective Indian university presses and their online or offline catalogues. Only the well-established academic presses run by century-old universities, or institutions of national importance are covered. University presses that do not have substantive scholarly publishing activity beyond publishing few textbooks have not been considered.

Major university presses in India

Visva Bharati Publishing

The Visva Bharati University, established by Nobel Laureate Rabindra Nath Tagore in 1921 in Shantiniketan, is an experimental university for embracing nature and creativity in pursuit of advancement of knowledge and universal understanding. Tagore utilized his Nobel Prize money to establish Visva Bharati and its various teaching departments. Over the years, Visva Bharati became a place for inculcating ideas of outstanding universal value, internationalism, humanism, cultural interchange, rural reconstruction, and creative minds. Tagore in the history of Indian education system, first introduced the concept of 'think globally, act locally' in his approaches to environment protection, nature regeneration, rural reconstruction, and other aspects of 'green' campus life. This residential university soon achieved the educational excellence in the interdisciplinary areas of visual arts, performing arts, applied arts, handicrafts, creative writing, antiquities, literature, social work, rural development, and other areas of humanities and social sciences.

In 1923 Visva-Bharati Granthana Vibhaga (VBGV) or Visva Bharati Publishing Department was established by Rabindranath Tagore to publish all literary works written by him and other people associated with Visva Bharati. After winning Nobel Prize in Literature in 1913, Tagore's literary works and creative writings, particularly, poems, songs, short stories, novels, dance-dramas and travelogues, got immensely popular not only in Bengal but also in other parts of the country and globally. Majority of his books were originally written in Bengali language and few were in English language. World's leading publishers got interested to publish his works in major European and Asian languages. Translations of his

works, particularly his books of poems, songs, short stories, drama, novels, essays and autobiographies were made available in different languages in many countries. His works were also translated into all major Indian languages. While, VBGV published all works in original Bengali language, Visva Bharati facilitated translation of Tagore's works by publishers in India and other countries. Visva Bharati held copyright of all works of Tagore after his death in 1961 till the expiry of copyright in December 2001. Until 2001, VBGV has been engaged in rights transfer to other publishers and management of copyrights.

Table 1 gives the publishing profile of VBGV website (<http://vbgv.in/catalogue.html>) as on 10th June 2015. VBGV has brought out 344 publications written by Rabindranath Tagore and out of these 344 publications, majority are the books of notation of Tagore Songs, followed by books of poems and songs. VBGV also publishes original and translated works in English language. It has books on Tagoreana or Tagore studies and other monographs written by scholars associated with the university. In fact, 81.3% of the books published by VBGV have been authored by Tagore himself, 13% of the books are books on Tagore or his works (Tagoreana) and only 5.7% of the remaining books are written by scholars on other disciplines.

Tagore's translated works by other publishers across the world have enabled Visva Bharati earn substantial royalties and revenues, an amount not

matched by VBGV's own sales revenue from selling its books in Bengali language. However, VBGV with its earning from royalties and sales provided cross-subsidies to the university and such an effort is unmatched by any other university press in India.

Visva-Bharati Music Board (VBMB), a sister department of VBGV, has been involved in quality assessment of audio and video recordings of Tagore songs produced by music companies in the country before their commercial release. If approved by the VBMB, the audio cassettes or music CDs or video CDs are permitted to be launched in the market. VBMB also is involved in approving all sound tracks used, based on Tagore's songs and music, in cinemas and audio-visual documentaries in India and other countries.

VBGV and VBMB have developed their capacity and capability of handling rights management, again something that is unique among for a university press in India. They also had successfully tracked copyright infringement activities across the country and abroad and stopped such activities through courts of law. After expiry of copyrights of Tagore's works, rights management functions of VBGV and VBMB have become limited. VBGV became only an academic publishing house like many other university presses in the country and VBMB became a certification authority for different levels teachings of Rabindra Sangeet (Tagore's Songs) and music schools across the country.

Interestingly, India's copyright legislation changed once to extend copyright of Tagore's works for a decade. Earlier, copyright was granted to right holders for 50 years after death of an author. For extending coverage of copyright of Tagore's works for another decade, period of copyright coverage was enhanced to 60 years after death of an author.

In the concluding year when copyright of Tagore's works was about to be free, there was a high degree of public debates and discussions on the impact of publishing of Tagore's works. Many small publishers welcomed Tagore's works in public domain and published some of his popular works as reprints. They offered publications in low cost as compared to VBGV. Many of his out of print publications were reprinted and made available to general audience.

Ray¹⁰ studied quality assessment of copyright free Tagoreana and he found certain deviation of printing quality, in terms of quality of paper and binding as in 2011. However, he also found that some of the

Table 1—Tagore Works and Other Monographs Published by the VBGV

Type of publications	Number
Notation of Tagore Songs (Svarabitan)	67
Poems and songs by Tagore (Kabita O Gaan)	56
Collected Works by Tagore (Rabindra Rachanabali)	51
Books of Essays by Tagore (Prabandha)	44
Prose and Dramas by Tagore (Gadya Natya)	29
Text Books by Tagore	24
Letters by Tagore (Patrabali)	22
Novels by Tagore (Upanyas)	14
Dance Dramas by Tagore (Natya Kavya)	8
Stories by Tagore (Galpa)	5
Paintings by Tagore	2
English language books and translation of Tagore works	22
Total number of books written by Tagore	344
Other books in Tagoreana	55
Other English books	24
Total Number of Currently Available Books	423

Source: VBGV website <http://vbgv.in/catalogue.html>

publishers have maintained near similar quality of what VBGV offered while significantly reducing price compared to VBGV.

Even now, many websites offer open access to complete works of Rabindra Nath Tagore, where users can freely access, read and share any part of Tagore's works without any copyright restrictions.

The Asiatic Society, Kolkata

The Asiatic Society is one of the oldest and pioneering institutions of Asian Studies, established in 1784 in the city of Kolkata in India with patronage of the British colonial government. Its founder Sir William Jones was an orientalist attached with the British East India Company, then the British colonial ruler. Other founder members of the Asiatic Society were eminent orientalists, anthropologists, oriental linguists and other scholars concerning man and nature within the geographical limits of the Asian continent. The Asiatic Society was closely associated with the Bengal Renaissance and became publishing partner of many actors of socio-cultural and religious reform movements in Bengal. European scholars based in India and attached with the Asiatic Society also supported Bengal's reform movements and writers of the Renaissance period. The Asiatic Society (TAS) began its journey of scholarly publishing in 1788 and subsequently became most contributing knowledge creating institution in Asia in the areas of oriental studies, Asian linguistics, Asian anthropologies, and other domains of Asian studies. The Transactions of the Asiatic Society was the first publication of TAS, published in 1788 titled *Asiatick Researches* or the "Transactions of the Society instituted in Bengal, for inquiring into the history and antiquities, the arts, sciences, and literature of Asia". Subsequently, four more volumes of *Asiatick Researches* published in 1790, 1793, 1795 and 1797 respectively received high acceptance amongst the scholars of Asian studies. In 2013, TAS completed 225 years of academic publishing. This is a rare achievement for any academic press in the Global South as well as in Asian continent.

Asiatick Researches became immensely popular amongst orientalists in Europe, Asia and other places and got translated into many European languages. TAS now publishes the *Journal of the Asiatic Society* (since 1961, ISSN: 0368-3303) superseding all other journal titles associated with the Society such as *Asiatick Researches* (1788-1839), *Journal of the*

Royal Asiatic Society of Bengal: Science (1936-1956), *Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society of Bengal: Letters* (1936-1956), and *Memoirs of the Royal Asiatic Society of Bengal* (1905-1933)⁷.

TAS began publishing depth studies on South Asian literature and languages in the late eighteenth century and continued till the twentieth century. It published annotated translation of many important texts, originally written in Asian languages such as Sanskrit, Arabic, Persian, Tibetan and Urdu. Those were the texts highly appraised and consulted by historians and orientalist for their advanced studies. TAS also published annotated descriptive catalogues of manuscripts available in many different Asian languages, such as Sanskrit, Tibetan, Bengali and Assamese. TAS launched its Bibliotheca Indica Series in nineteenth century and Monograph Series in twentieth century that published many scholarly works written by eminent scholars. Many titles published under these two series have been reprinted and are still available through the normal book trade channel from TAS publishing department.

Table 2 shows year-wise publishing records of books and monographs, published by TAS and presently available with normal book trade channel. Only few available titles are written in languages other than English and Bengali, e.g. Sanskrit.

The Calcutta University Press

University of Calcutta was first modern university in Indian subcontinent established by the British colonial government in 1857, the year better known for India's first war of independence or Indian Mutiny. University of Calcutta initiated its publishing

Table 2—Recent publishing activities of the Asiatic Society

Year	No. of titles published
2003	17
2004	17
2005	10
2006	9
2007	11
2008	16
2009	13
2010	18
2011	13
2012	6
Total in last ten years (2003-2012)	130
Published before 2003	159
Total available titles	289

Source: Catalogue of Available Publications, February 2012

department, popularly known as Calcutta University Press (CUP) in the year 1908. CUP was established on the model of the Oxford University Press. CUP contributed immensely by publishing works of contemporary relevance. CUP also published annotated translated works from Sanskrit, Pali and Persian literature into English and Bengali languages. CUP has published books in different disciplines of natural sciences, social sciences and humanities.

The publishing profile of CUP based on available information in its webpage (www.caluniv.ac.in/publication/Publication.html) as on 10th June 2015 shows that 217 unique titles, published by CUP and written by different scholars in different subject areas are now available for sale out of which majority are the books written in English language (72.81%), followed by books written in Bengali language (23.04%) and about 4.15% books published in other languages including Hindi, Sanskrit and Pali. Majority of the books are monographs and transcripts of memorial lectures, remaining ones are reference books and textbooks for different undergraduate and postgraduate degree programmes of the university. As no descriptive information of each book is available on the website, it is not clear whether these books have any ISBN, a major requirement for international trade and book procurement programmes of different national libraries and academic libraries across the world. A search in OCLC WorldCat database revealed that majority of CUP publications, particularly, which are written in English language are available in libraries across the world.

Indian Institute of Advanced Studies (IIAS) Publications

The Indian Institute of Advanced Studies (IIAS) was established at Shimla in Himachal Pradesh on 20th October 1965 as an advanced research centre in the interdisciplinary and cross-disciplinary areas of humanities and social sciences. IIAS is located at the premises of Rastrapati Nivas or Presidential Residence, erstwhile residence of Viceroys and Governors-General of British colonial government. It is an autonomous research body under by the Ministry of Human Resources Development (MHRD), Government of India. In 1991, IIAS became a UGC Inter University Centre for Humanities and Social Sciences (IUCHSS). In 2013, IIAS has established the 'Tagore Centre for the Study of Culture and Civilization' to mark 150th Birth Anniversary of Rabindra Nath Tagore. In the same year, IIAS jointly

with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) have established another centre within IIAS premises named 'International Centre for Human Development' (ICHD).

IIAS runs most prestigious fellowship programme of the country in the areas of humanities, social sciences and natural sciences. Every year, IIAS selects a handful of fellows through an open selection process. They have intake of fellows at the different levels, such as Fellow, National Fellow, and Tagore Fellow. The Fellows are selected competitively on the basis of academic merit of scholars and their project proposals. The selection committee is formed every year to judge sound academic foundations of applicants and merit of their research proposals. Fellows are full-time residential scholars joined for about two year's period. IIAS takes care of their accommodation in the campus, desk space in the IIAS academic complex and other official facilities such as desktop computers with internet connectivity and telephone connectivity. They also take active part in academic events organized during their stay in the campus. Fellows pursue their research studies based on approved research proposals and submit their final theses after completion of fellowship term. A submitted and completed thesis in the form of manuscript for a monograph is sent to peer-reviewers for evaluating quality of contents and validation of presented information. If approved by the reviewers, then this manuscript is considered for publishing from IIAS publishing department. IIAS has signed memorandum of understanding (MoU) with different Indian commercial publishing houses, based on their specialized subject areas. IIAS co-publishes its series of research monographs and edited works with associated corporate publishing houses. IIAS retains copyright of published works, while commercial publishing houses assume responsibilities of worldwide distribution, promotion and marketing of these published works through their marketing channels. IIAS Fellows also transfer copyright, i.e., publishing rights to IIAS, as their research studies were supported by the fellowship grants of IIAS.

In addition to hosting different Fellows, IIAS invites university and college teachers from all over the country to become Associates of IUCHSS/ IIAS for a short period of up to three months. This effort encourages college and university teachers in pursuing post-doctoral studies and knowledge creation in their respective subject areas.

Table 3 gives the year-wise publishing records of monographs and edited books published by IAS and presently available with normal book trade channel. Monographs are mainly contributed by the former Fellows and Associates of IAS, as outcomes of their fellowship in IAS. Edited books are mainly seminars proceedings, i.e., collection of papers presented in academic seminars at IAS. Sometimes these proceedings are edited by the former Fellows, Associates and Visiting Professors of IAS. Table 3 also indicates that 81 books were published in eleven years period between 2003 and 2013, whereas available 189 books were published prior to 2003. Majority of these titles are written in English language with about 95% share (272 titles) whereas a few are written in Hindi language with about 5% share (14 titles). IAS has published more number of monographs (77%, 219 titles) and fewer edited volumes (23%, 67 titles).

IAS publishes its official journal titled *Summerhill: IAS Review* (since 1994, ISSN: 0972-1452) and a journal of its IUCHSS titled *Studies in Humanities and Social Sciences* (since 1994, ISSN: 0972-1401) for publishing research papers submitted by IAS present and former Fellows, IUCHSS present and former associates, and other eminent scholars.

IAS publishing department is one of the best amongst non-profit academic presses in the country.

Table 3—Recent publishing activities of IAS

Year	No. of titles published
2003	8
2004	15
2005	4
2006	9
2007	2
2008	1
2009	7
2010	14
2011	9
2012	7
2013	5
Total in eleven years between (2003-2013)	81
Forthcoming Books (2013-15)	16 [#]
Published Before 2003	189
Total Available Titles	286
Authored Monographs	219
Edited Books	67

Source: Catalogue of IAS Publications, 2013

[#]Not yet published as on 10th June 2015

IAS also raises a substantial amount from sales revenue and royalties that is being utilized for cross-subsidizing different academic programmes in the institute.

Project of History of Indian Science, Philosophy and Culture (PHISPC)

Project of History of Indian Science, Philosophy and Culture (PHISPC) is a Central government funded project, launched in the year 1990 under the aegis of Indian Council of Philosophical Research (ICPR). The basic objective of this project is “undertaking inter-disciplinary study so that inter-connection between Science, Philosophy and Culture as developed in the long history of Indian civilization, could be brought out in detail”. This project is supported and implemented by the Department of Science and Technology and the Planning Commission through MHRD. In 1997, PHISPC was officially transferred from ICPR to Centre for Studies in Civilizations (CSC), an autonomous non-governmental research centre. CSC was selected as the nodal agency by the MHRD.

PHISPC is a research project which aims at discovering the main aspects of India's heritage and present them in an interrelated way. Outcomes of this project are to bring out comprehensive, authoritative and qualitative multi-volume books in a Series named as “History of Indian Science, Philosophy and Culture”. PHISPC also has a sub-project containing series named as “Consciousness, Science, Society, Value and Yoga” (CONSSVAY). Eminent Indian scholars from relevant disciplines were engaged in contributing chapters and editing different parts and volumes of this Project. In this project, so far, about 101 individual books have been produced that include 15 monographs and 86 discrete parts out of 17 volumes. Each volume has on an average 5 parts, while Volume VII titled “The Rise of New Polity and Life in Villages and Towns” has largest number of parts, i.e., nine. Each part is hard bounded and has a distinct ISBN. Volumes 11 to 16 are based on sub-project of PHISPC on theme CONSSVAY.

While accessing web pages of PHISPC (www.csc-india.in/publication.html), it was found that many of the titles have been reprinted (with 32 counts) and two titles also have revised editions. This shows their worldwide popularity and availability. All these titles are primarily published by CSC and co-published and distributed mainly by Munshiram Manoharlal Publishers. These books are widely available in online bookstores such as Amazon.in, Flipkart.com, Infibeam.com and Indianbooks.co.in.

Other Important Academic Presses in India

Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR)

ICHR, established in 1972, is the autonomous research institution under the MHRD, Government of India. It provides lead in fostering scientific research in all aspects of Indian history and civilization. ICHR has elaborated publishing programme that supports publishing books on different dimensions of Indian history in different Indian languages. ICHR sponsors many research projects every year and research findings are brought out in printed monographs. ICHR supports doctoral and post-doctoral researchers in Indian universities with fellowship grants. Some of these doctoral works are also brought out in printed monographs. ICHR sponsors many academic events every year such as history congresses. Edited volumes containing collection of papers presented in those events are also published in printed form. ICHR collaborates with Indian publishing houses for co-publishing these ICHR Publications. It publishes *The Indian Historical Review* (since 1974, ISSN: 0376-9836) for publishing research papers submitted by ICHR-supported scholars and other scholars in Indian history.

Table 4 shows language-wise distribution of ICHR publications. English books constitute 42.52% of ICHR Publications followed by Hindi books (13.95%), and, Marathi and Tamil languages (7.3% each). Table 4 also indicates that ICHR has

Table 4—Language-wise distribution of ICHR publications

Rank	Language	No. of titles	Publishing years
1	English	128	1972-2012
2	Hindi	42	1973-2002
3	Marathi	22	1976-2007
3	Tamil	22	1975-2009
5	Bengali	17	1977-2011
6	Urdu	16	1975-1995
7	Punjabi	15	1993-2011
8	Kannada	11	1979-2012
9	Malayalam	8	1978-2009
10	Assamese	6	1993-2001
11	Gujarati	5	1978-2003
12	Persian	3	1985-1993
12	Telugu	3	1988-1993
14	Konkani	1	1995
14	Nepali	1	1995
14	Oriya	1	1995
	Total	301	

Source: Catalogue of ICHR Publications, December 2012

undertaken publishing activities during last ten years period (2003-2012) in only eight Indian languages such as in English, Hindi, Marathi, Tamil, Bengali, Punjabi, Kannada, and Malayalam.

Indian Council of Philosophical Research (ICPR)

ICPR, established in 1977, is the autonomous research institution under the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India. It provides lead in fostering scientific research in all aspects of philosophy including Indian philosophy and culture. ICPR has similar mandates as of ICHR. Similar to ICHR, ICPR collaborates with Indian publishing houses for co-publishing its ICPR Publications. It publishes *Journal of Indian Council of Philosophical Research* (since 1983, ISSN: 0970-7794) for publishing research papers submitted by ICPR-supported scholars and other scholars in philosophy.

TERI Press

TERI Press is the publishing wing of TERI (The Energy and Resources Institute, New Delhi) and its subsidiary TERI University. TERI, established in 1974, is one of the most distinguished non-government research institutes and civil societies in India. In recent time, TERI had enhanced its portfolio as a think tank institute for Global South in the areas of energy, environment, sustainable development and climate change. TERI has been closely associated with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), which won Nobel Peace Prize in 2007. TERI Press has strong focus on publishing monographs, edited volumes (collection of papers in a thematic topic) and academic journals in the areas of energy, environment, sustainable development, climate change, governance, public policies, and regulatory affairs. It also has a series of books for school children and young learners. TERI Press also publishes books for awareness raising, sensitization, advocacy and outreaching on different aspects of societal problems related to TERI's thematic areas of work. TERI Press receives publishing proposals from its research fellows, research partners, research collaborators and other research affiliates. Some of their publications were part of agreed outcomes of their collaborative research projects, academic discourses and international events such as conferences, seminars, workshops, and summits.

National Institute of Science Communication and Information Resources (NISCAIR)

NISCAIR is an academic and research institution under the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR). It has been the publishing wing of CSIR since 1952. It is also a part of Academy of Scientific & Innovative Research (AcSIR), a designated university under CSIR. NISCAIR publishes popular science books, popular science magazines, monographs, and academic journals in different areas of science, technology and information management. It has entered into open access publishing, as it is designated a nodal agency for implementation of CSIR Open Access Mandate. For knowledge dissemination to larger communities, it maintains different open access portals, viz., NISCAIR Online Periodicals Repository (NOPR, <http://nopr.niscair.res.in>) providing open access to all 17 research journals and 3 popular magazines; National Science Digital Library (NSDL, <http://nsdl.niscair.res.in>) providing open access to e-books and other learning modules; and CSIR Knowledge Gateway (<http://knowgate.niscair.res.in/jspui/>) providing open access to research papers contributed by CSIR scientists. Recently, NISCAIR has significantly reduced publishing new books and monographs. NISCAIR journals are well established within their respective subject disciplines. Many of these journals are indexed in Scopus and Web of Knowledge. It's one of the earliest journals *Annals of Library and Information Studies* recently completed its 60 years of journey, which established its niche amongst LIS journals published from the Global South.

University of Kerala Press

University of Kerala Press, based in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, was established in July 1938 (as Department of Publications of the Travancore University) with a systematic publication activity for disseminating academic research. Monographs and reference books published by this Press are written in English, Malayalam as well as in Sanskrit languages. In its recent online book list includes 46 titles in English, 90 titles in Malayalam and 13 titles in Sanskrit (as on 10th April 2015). Its impressive reference collection includes Hortus Malabaricus – a reprint from 12 volumes publications of seventeenth century (1678-1693) by Dutch explorers on Kerala's flora.

CEPT University Press

CEPT University Press, based in Ahmedabad, started publication activity in 2011 for disseminating academic research. So far they have published eleven titles in English language. They also distribute faculty publications, published by other publishers.

Knowledge dissemination and use of online tools

The knowledge products and learning resources produced by university presses are often announced, promoted and marketed offline and online. The offline methods include printed book catalogue, print advertisement, book exhibition, book fair, and book reviews. As for online, website of a publisher is the first point of reference where a user gets detailed information about a particular knowledge product. ISBN of a particular book helps in locating that book in nearest libraries through online union catalogue such as OCLC WorldCat or getting further details about that book through Google Book search or purchasing that book through online bookstore such as Amazon.in or Flipkart.com.

Table 5 gives the level of online presence of university presses in India. It indicates that only a few Indian university presses have dedicated websites. Others have web pages for their publishing wing within their parent institutions' websites. Some publishers have the list of available books on their websites, although full bibliographic details are not always provided.

Co-publishing with commercial publishers is very pragmatic approach for disseminating knowledge products to larger audiences as commercial publishers have better marketing arm than non-profit academic press. Academic presses such as IAS, PHISPC, ICHR and ICPR have been co-publishing their monographs and edited books with reputed commercial publishers located in India. Co-publishing also helps in making their books available through e-commerce sites and online bookstores. Examples of popular online bookstores are Amazon.in, Flipkart.com, Infibeam.com, Uread.com, Swb.co.in, Bookadda.com, Indiabookstore.net, Crossword.in, Homeshop18.com, Ebay.in, Indiaplaza.com, Landmarkonthenet.com, Ombooks.com, Snapdeal.com, etc.

Table 5 gives the bibliographic information available on websites of Indian university presses. Information on submission of book proposals, authors' guidelines and contact information, user

Table 5--Use of online tools by university presses in India

Name	Website	List of available books in web catalogue	Book description	Availability of ISBN (given in website)	Co-publishing	Third-party E-commerce
IIAS, Shimla	http://www.iias.org/recent-publications	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
VBGV	http://vbgv.in	Yes	No	Yes	No	No
The Asiatic Society	http://www.asiaticsocietycal.com/publications/index.htm	Yes	No	Not Available	No	Yes
Calcutta University Press	http://www.caluniv.ac.in/publication/index.html	Yes	No	Not Available	No	No
PHISPC	www.csc-india.in/publication.html	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
ICHR	www.ichrindia.org/publications.html	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
ICPR	www.icpr.in/publications.html	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
TERI Press	http://bookstore.teriin.org	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
NISCAIR	http://www.niscair.res.in/ScienceCommunication/ScholarlyBooks/scholarlybooks.htm	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
University of Kerala Press	http://www.keralauniversity.ac.in/publication-information.html	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
CEPT University Press	http://cept.ac.in/university-press/cept-university-press	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

generated book reviews in publisher's blog or social media site, meet the authors online and chat with the authors, and e-mail-based alerts or RSS feeds on newly launched books or books related events are not available on university presses website.

Conclusion

Previous authors have discussed the need for better budgetary support and autonomy to university presses in the United States and other western countries^{4,8}. University presses the western world are focused on developing knowledge products based on changing needs of the users. Many of these publishers have migrated to publishing e-books and e-journals for getting new generation users who mostly access knowledge products using their smart phones, handheld devices and laptop computers. They have been collaborating with different e-book platforms, such as Project MUSE, EBrary.org, and Jstor.org for greater global dissemination of their literature. They also have invested in social media space for reaching out to their clienteles and engaging users through online interactions and linked data.

ICT-enabled knowledge dissemination is a key to achieving professional excellence in university presses across the world. They even come with innovative ways of reaching out to new audiences and encouraging existing clienteles to engage with the contents.

Many university presses in India are now opting for co-publishing with commercial publishers. However, some Indian university presses such as VBGV continue to publish on their own. Most Indian university presses do not even have a marketing team though they prefer to participate in national and international book fairs. For example, VBGV and TAS participate in Kolkata International Book Fair and New Delhi World Book Fair. Most Indian university presses do not organize book launch events for promoting newly published books to their target audience.

University presses in India have been shut down that imply low interest of academic communities in sustaining this model of knowledge production and knowledge dissemination. All the universities in India that were established during the British colonial rule had their own university presses. Now, many of the university presses cease to exist or have been reduced to publishing only text-books for their undergraduate or postgraduate students.

On the other hand, some Indian universities classified as "University with Potential for Excellence" and "Institutions of National Importance" by the UGC have started new university presses. These new university presses such as Jadavpur University Press and CEPT University Press are embracing new technologies for making themselves visible in the cyberspace and to connect with

worldwide academic communities. Existing university presses should also gradually make them visible in the cyberspace and should also engage with worldwide academic communities using Web 2.0 tools and social media sites.

Acknowledgement

Unpublished version of this paper was presented in the *Conference on Framing 'Asian Studies': Geopolitics, Institutions and Networks*, at International Institute for Asian Studies (IIAS), Netherlands during 18-20 November 2013. The Author is grateful to Leiden University, Netherlands for providing a generous travel grant for participating in the conference.

References

- 1 Archaeological Survey of India, *Santiniketan*, In: Tentative Lists of World Heritage Sites, (UNESCO, Paris) 2010. Available at: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/tentativelists/5495/> (Accessed on 13 May 2014).
- 2 Das A K, Sen B K and Dutta C, *ETD Policies, Strategies and Initiatives in India: a critical appraisal*. Presented in ETD 2007 Symposium, Uppsala, Sweden, June 2007. Available at: <http://eprints.rclis.org/9944/> (Accessed on 13 May 2014).
- 3 Gupta D K, and Gupta N, Analytical study of the ETD repositories and government initiatives for depositing ETDs in India, *Library Management*, 35 (4/5) (2014) 308-319.
- 4 Holzman A, Armato D and Callaway M, Essay on the realities of university presses. Available at: www.insidehighered.com/views/2012/09/10/essay-realities-university-presses (Accessed on 13 May 2014).
- 5 Johnson H, Association of European University Presses Launches, *Publishing Perspectives*, (2010). Available at: <http://publishingperspectives.com/2010/10/association-of-european-university-presses-launches/> (Accessed on 12 June 2014)
- 6 Joshi S S, Shodhganga – windfall for researchers: role of Indian universities in its development, *Indian Journal of Library & Information Science*, 8(1) (2014).
- 7 Kejariwal O P, *The Asiatic Society of Bengal and the Discovery of India's Past, 1784-1838*, Delhi: Oxford University Press, 1988.
- 8 Mullaney T, University presses: a view from the academy - challenges of university presses in a changing world, *Chicago Tribune*, 2013. Available at: http://articles.chicagotribune.com/2013-06-14/features/ct-prj-0616-university-presses-20130614_1_american-university-presses-printers-row-journal-publishers (Accessed on 23 November 2014).
- 9 Ray P P, Publication of Tagore's song offerings, the Gitanjali: a study, *Annals of Library and Information Studies*, 60 (1) (2013) 15-21.
- 10 Ray P P, Quality assessment of copyright free Tagoreana: a study, *Annals of Library and Information Studies*, 58 (3) (2011) 257-269.
- 11 Sen B K, Growth of scientific periodicals in India (1788-1900), *Indian Journal of History of Science*, 37(1, Supl.) (2002) S1- S92.
- 12 Sen B K, Growth of scientific societies in India (1784-1947), *Indian Journal of History of Science*, 48(4) (2013).
- 13 Sengupta S S, Current Status of shodhgangotri: repository of Indian research in progress, *Library Philosophy and Practice* (2013). Available at <http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/libphilprac/997/> (Accessed on 23 November 2014).