

Information & Research Resources on Indian Cinema: A Global Survey of Printed, Digital and Online Materials

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Abstract

India is the largest film producing industry in the world and its cinema is becoming increasingly popular in various countries around the globe. Bollywood is a powerful medium that provides useful and entertaining information on history, civilization, variety of cultures, religions, socio-economics and politics in various regional languages. More and more people, irrespective of their ethnicity, watch Bollywood films in many parts of the world. Recently a popular Indian movie-Slumdog Millionaire has received eight Oscar awards, and thus, scholars and academicians are showing keen interest, and are actively involved in teaching and research on different aspects of Indian cinema particularly Bollywood. During the last two decades there has been spurt in publications on Indian cinema. To support teaching and research, several libraries have developed good collections of printed and microforms resources. In recent years, we have witnessed a huge proliferation of digital and web resources, and information is now accessible on Indian cinema more easily and promptly through the Internet. The author received a research grant from the University of Illinois, USA to develop an online resource guide on Indian cinema, and undertook a survey of various institutions and libraries in USA, India, Canada and London (UK) for the collection of various data. In this paper information has been provided on major institutions of cinematic studies and research. An annotated list of databases, printed, digital as well as online resources has been developed that will serve as most up-to-date reference resource for people seeking information on Indian cinema.

Introduction

Bollywood is the largest film producing industry in the world. In recent years, there has been growing interest and awareness of Indian cinema, and as such many universities, colleges and other educational institutions have developed and introduced several courses. There are quite a large number of students and scholars who are pursuing study and research on various facets of cinema leading to Doctorate, Master and Bachelor degrees. There is dearth of

indexing or abstracting sources in this area for the purpose of academic studies.

Indian cinema and culture is a vital aspect of South Asian programs, and we have witnessed that there has been growing interest in the scholarly study of Bollywood and Indian cinema among South Asian diaspora. In recent years movies produced in India have received international attention. Most recently, there have been successful efforts in the co-productions of Hindi as well as English movies by Hollywood and Bollywood producers and directors. Many Indian actors are working in Hollywood films and similarly a number of American and British actors are also appearing in Bollywood movies. The majority of Indian films are now produced with English subtitles, and thus many people around the globe love to watch and get acquainted with Indian history, culture and society through the movies. Faculty, students and scholars have developed keen interest in the study and research on different aspects of cinema. So far no bibliographical source with international coverage has been compiled on Indian cinema and thus many patrons have suggested in producing a guide to help their research. When completed, this resource guide will greatly support research programs in South Asian studies, and will serve as an exhaustive and most up-to-date bibliographical reference on Indian cinema. This publication will assist graduate and under-graduate students as well as faculty and other researchers in locating information on various aspects of films produced in and about India.

Libraries with Cinema Collections

- **National Film Archives of India, Mumbai**, along with the Film Institute of India in Pune developed to become the national resource center for film and film related material. Since then, its staff has had the arduous task of tracking down and acquiring any film and related material, which has

a particular focus on the history and heritage of Indian cinema. This Archives act as a center for the dissemination of film culture in the country, and to promote Indian cinema abroad. Its Research and Documentation Section has a very large collection of material relating to every period of Indian cinema. It contains more than 1,15,561 still photographs. Prints of all unique photographs have been made so that they are available to researchers, authors etc. Censorship records and other material are used to reconstruct the multiple filmographies of Indian cinema. Among the publicity items are more than 11,639 film posters of various sizes, 10,133 song booklets, lobby cards, press clippings and old disc records. The Documentation Centre attempts to collect ancillary material for every film title certified by the various Film Certification Boards in the country. Films are made in many languages at various centers in India, and considering the large number of films produced in the country, the task of acquiring and documenting this material is voluminous. The section maintains press clipping files of film reviews, film personalities and other important aspects of Indian Cinema. http://nfaipune.nic.in/main_page.htm

- **Film and Television Institute of India Library, Mumbai** was established in 1960 at Pune. Since then it has truly lived up to its avowed objective in the field of imparting training in film making and television program production. Currently FTII is considered as a Center of Excellence not only in India but also in Asia and Europe. Films made by the students of the Institute are entered in festivals both in India and abroad. Many of them have own National and International awards. The Institute has a spacious book library with a substantial collection of books related to film, television, theatre, fine arts, literature etc. The Institute also subscribes to a number of technical and general periodicals published in the country and abroad. The Institute has a film and a video library with a good collection of films and videos from all over the world. <http://www.ftiindia.com/newftii/index.html>
- **Whistling Woods International Library** is the Asia's largest and most reputed institute for film, animation, television and media arts developed in Film City, Mumbai by the reputed film producer and director Subhash Ghai. This provides world-class education in all technical and creative aspects of film-making and television through 2-year, full-time residential programs in 8 specializations namely Acting, Animation, Business of Film & Television, Cinematography, Direction, Editing, Screenwriting & Sound. Its well equipped library provides printed and online resources on cinematic studies. <http://www.whistlingwoods.net/main.asp#>
- **Asian Academy of Film & Television, Noida** has adopted a comprehensive training method with equal importance on the practical training of film making and acting. Asian Academy of Film & TV, has been imparting education and training in the art and craft of film making in television presentation since 1993. The academy was planned as an alternative to formal film schools and has since come a long way making a unique place for itself amongst the best global centers of education of its kind. Growing to be certified as the first ISO 9001:2000 film school in this part of the world in less than a decade since its inception, the Academy was also approved as an international level training center by the 125 year old City and Guilds of the United Kingdom in the year 2002. The Academy has also done pioneering work of generating training a world class material in the form of books and video recordings on the various techniques of film and television production both for the benefit of its students and the practicing film and television professionals. The Documentation Center of the academy has produced a number of books on the art & screen presentation. <http://www.aaft.com/main.html#>
- **M.G.R. Film and Television Institute, Chennai** is an advanced institute for Film Techniques and Aesthetics that imparts training in various aspects of Film Production, TV and allied subjects and to award Diploma to successful candidates. It also to help appreciate the power of the medium of Film for entertainment and education and make use of them. Its library contains good collections of printed materials on various aspects of film production. http://www.tn.gov.in/misc/film/admission2007/mgrftvi_prospectus.pdf
- **The National Documentation Centre on Mass Communication (NDCMC)** of the Research, Reference and Training Division, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, Government of India is located in New Delhi, and brings out services like *Current Awareness Service*, an annotated index of select articles on mass media published in newspapers and journals being subscribed by the Centre; *Bulletin on Films*, an abstract of various developments in the film industry in India; *Reference Information Service*, the background papers on subjects of topical interests in the field of mass media. <http://rrtd.nic.in/rti.pdf>
- **Films Division of India Library, Mumbai** was established in 1948. For the past 50 years, the organization has maintained a record of Indian history on celluloid. Nothing less than a mega-film on the films itself, Films Division of India holds 8000 titles on Documentaries, Short Films and Animation Films in its archives. These films range from events of Socio-cultural importance to political events. It is the main film-medium organization of the Government of India and is well equipped with

trained personnel, cameras, recording and editing facilities. This infrastructure is put to use to assist in-house as well as freelance film makers and producers. The Films Division of India has within its archives, a recorded legacy of our glorious past. With the infrastructure available, it is not merely a store-house of this legacy, but also an active participant in making it. <http://www.filmsdivision.org:8080/fromrecreate/jsp/home.htm>

- **Satyajit Ray Film & Television Institute, Kolkata** was established in 1995 by the Government of India as an autonomous academic institution under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. It is a National Centre offering post-graduate diploma courses in Film and Television. Besides offering regular full time courses, the Institute has plans to undertake project development, funding and production of fiction and non-fiction films. In addition, research work on film and television related issues are in the offing. The library of the Institute is located in a two-storied building, equipped with a large reading hall, a multi-booth viewing room and a music room. Along with books and magazines on cinema, television, media, technology, performing arts and related subjects, the library also has a rich collection of videos in different formats as well as audiocassettes and CDs. The library is equipped with user friendly electronic resource facilities like computerized catalogue and circulation mechanism. The library offers extensive reference service. The Institute has a small film library which houses collections of Indian and foreign films – the largest being the Cine Central Collection of 400 foreign feature films and 914 short and documentary films. The Federation of Film Societies of India (Eastern Region) Collection has 36 feature films and 38 short films, and the SRFTI – NFDC collection has 66 feature films. These film prints are available to faculty and students for reference. <http://srfti.gov.in/>
- **National Film Development Corporation of India** is the central agency established to encourage the good cinema movement in the country. The primary goal of the NFDC is to plan, promote and organize an integrated and efficient development of the Indian film industry and foster excellence in cinema. Over the years NFDC has provided a wide range of services essential to the growth of Indian cinema. The NFDC (and its predecessor the Film Finance Corporation) has so far funded / produced over 300 films. These films, in various Indian languages, have been widely acclaimed and have won many national and international awards. There are efforts to develop an Indian Film Industry Database. <http://www.nfdcindia.com/>
- **Directorate of Film Festivals** was set up by the

Government of India in 1973, to organize International and National Film Festivals within the country. It facilitates India's participation in festivals abroad, arranges programmes of foreign films in India, Indian films abroad and holds the National Film Awards function. As a vehicle of cultural change, DFF promotes international friendship, provides access to new trends in world cinema, generates healthy competition and in the process, helps to improve the standards of Indian Cinema. The Objectives of the Directorate are: to promote good Indian Cinema within the country and abroad, provide international exposure to outstanding Indian films, and screen in festivals, films by outstanding International Directors. Its other activities include: International Film Festival of India (IFFI), National Film Awards and Festival (NFF), Participation in festivals abroad Cultural Exchange Programmes (CEP) in India & abroad, other film programmes, Selection of Indian Panorama Films, Special programmes Print collection & documentation. <http://mib.nic.in/informationb/MEDIA/filmfestival.htm>

Printed Resources

There are many published documents on various aspects of Indian Cinema. Some good and comprehensive Encyclopedias, directories, filmographies, and other reference sources have been published in recent years that provide useful information about Bollywood. There is an utmost need to develop an up-to-date bibliographical resource to help researchers round the globe to locate information on all subjects of Indian cinema. Some of the popular sources are listed here:

- *International Index to Film Periodicals*- New York: R. R. Bowker, 1972
- Rajadhyaksha, Ashish and Paul Willemen. *Encyclopaedia of Indian cinema*. London: British Film Institute, 1999. New rev. ed. 658p.
- *Encyclopaedia of Hindi cinema*. New Delhi: Encyclopaedia Britannica (India), 2003. 659p.
- Narwekar, Sanjit. *Directory of Indian film-makers and films*. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Press, 1994. 500p.
- Banerjee, Shampa and Anil Srivastava *One hundred Indian feature films: an annotated filmography*. New York: Garland, 1988. 205p.
- Ramachandran, T.M. and S. Rukmini. *70 years of Indian cinema, 1913-1983*. Bombay: CINEMA India-International, 1985. 649p.
- Ojha, Rajendra. *Screen World Publication's 75 glorious years of Indian cinema: complete filmography of all films (silent & Hindi) produced between 1913-1988*. Bombay: Screen World Publication, 1988.

- Pati, Pramod and V.N. Gulawani. *Films Division catalogue of films, 1949-1972*. Bombay: Films Division, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Govt. of India, 1974. 655p.
- Cunha, Uma Da. *India on film: a catalogue of films on India for teaching and special interest*. New Delhi: Educational Resources Center, University of the State of New York, State Education Dept., 1973. 80p.
- Ojha, Rajendra, Ed. *Hindi Cinema Yearbook. 2000- ???*
- *NFDC India Film Catalogue*. Bombay: NFDC, 1994.
- *Directory of Indian documentary*. Mumbai: Mumbai International Film Festival for Documentary, Short & Animation Films, 1998. 71p.
- Burra, Rani. *Indian cinema 1980-1985*. New Delhi: Directorate of Film Festivals, National Film Development Corp, 1985. 153p.
- Hamraaz, Har Mandir Singh. *Hindi Film Geet Kosh is a comprehensive dictionary of songs of films produced by Bollywood*. This work has been published in five volumes in 1988. DETAILS???
- Agnihotri, Awtar, Ed. *Artists and their films: Modern Hindi cinema*. 3 vols set
- Roy, Rajat. *Filmography of the sixty eminent movie makers*.
- **Vidyanidhi: Digital Library and E-Scholarship Portal** is a project of Indian doctoral theses database established to evolve as an online digitized resource funded by the Ford Foundation and Microsoft. It is developing a repository for Indian doctoral thesis, and presently provides access to metadata of Indian thesis and Universities. Few full text theses [ETDs] are presently available in its database. The project welcomes universities and researchers to participate in this program that is based at Department of Library and Information Science, University of Mysore (India) (<http://www.vidyanidhi.org.in/home/index.html>).
- **Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts Digital Library, New Delhi** contains several digital images, audio and video recordings, animations, and electronic books related South Asian arts and culture. More information and details are available at their web site: http://www.ignca.nic.in/dgt_0001.htm.
- **India Digital Library** is a digital library of books, which are free-to-read, searchable, predominantly in Indian languages, available to everyone over the Internet. Soon it is expected that this portal would provide a gateway to Indian Digital Libraries in science, arts, culture, music, movies, traditional medicine, palm leaves and many more. This project is a collaboration between different Indian institutions and universities and Carnegie Mellon University under Universal Digital Library Project <http://www.dli.gov.in/>

Digital Resources

- **The South Asian Diaspora Literature and Arts Archive (SALIDAA)** is a three-year digitization project (2001-2004) supported by the Big Lottery Fund. Till October 2004 the archive have included more than 3000 digitized items. The Big Lottery Fund's £50 million UK-wide digitization program is designed to bring the learning material and resources currently contained in galleries, libraries, museums and universities directly into homes and communities. The range of material being digitized includes archaeology, maritime, architecture, fine art, social and oral history. This project aims to showcase the richness and diversity of contemporary South Asian literature and arts in United Kingdom by digitizing a variety of text-based and visual material accompanied by descriptive and contextual information. Although not comprehensive, the SALIDAA provides a representative sample of the artistic and cultural contribution made by South Asian people. As a future development, one of the main priorities for SALIDAA is to add material in South Asian languages as well as audio-visuals, and to extend the coverage to include films. We will also aim to cover the rest of Britain and collect material which pre-dates 1947 (<http://www.salidaa.org.uk/salidaa/>).
- **Books** A list of digitized books on South Asia available free on the web can be accessed at http://door.library.uiuc.edu/asx/online_books.htm.
- **Newspapers** There are two popular sites that provides links to all newspapers published in South Asia http://door.library.uiuc.edu/asx/online_newspapers.htm, and <http://oldsite.library.upenn.edu/vanpelt/collections/sasia/webpapers.html>
- **SALIN - South Asian Libraries & Information Networks** is an online journal that presents the review of South Asian libraries, information networks, programs and services <http://www.universitypunjabi.org/pages/dlis/salin/salin.htm>
- **Serials** Web based access to some of the select online journals can be found at: <http://door.library.uiuc.edu/asx/serials.htm#Online>

Online Resources and Networks

- **International Index to Film Periodical: FIAF** Index to Film Periodicals is a bibliographical index offering in-depth coverage of the world's foremost academic and popular film journals from 1972 to

the present day. It has many entries on Indian Cinema. <http://fiaf.chadwyck.com/home.do>

- **Portal to Asian Internet Resources (PAIR)** is a cooperative Project of the Ohio State University Libraries, the University of Minnesota Libraries and the University of Wisconsin-Madison Libraries. This provides a user-friendly, searchable catalogue through which patrons have quick and easy access to high quality web resources originating in Asia, and South Asia. Resources are identified, evaluated, selected and catalogued by area library specialists. The catalogue offers an entry point to quality Asian/ South Asian materials that too often are neither easily identifiable nor usable due to the limitations of existing search engines. Materials support research and teaching in higher education and will benefit scholars who do not have ready access to the expertise of area library specialists and collections of major research libraries as well as business, government and media professionals and other audiences (<http://webcat.library.wisc.edu:3200/PAIR/index.html>).
- **SARAI - the South Asia Resource Access on the Internet** is hosted by the Columbia University, and is one of the best sources for finding web based information in South Asian studies. It provides useful links to reference and bibliographical resources, e-journals, e-news, e-books, and also International Directory of South Asian scholars (<http://www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/indiv/southasia/cuvl>).
- **INFLIBNET - the Information and Library Network Centre** is the product of University Grants Commission of India, involved in creating infrastructure for sharing information among academic and research institutions. It is a good source for books, serials and theses databases available in university libraries in India (<http://www.inflibnet.ac.in/index.jsp>).
- **CSAL - the Center for South Asian Libraries** is an American overseas research center developed to facilitate scholarly research and teaching on South Asia through improved preservation of and access to the heritage of India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, and Sri Lanka. It provides research support facility for American scholars by providing infrastructures and facilities to enhance research effectiveness and the exchange of scholarly information (<http://dsal.uchicago.edu/csdl>).
- **AIIBIP - the All India Index to English Books in Print** is the first electronic version of Indian Books in Print that lists thousands of books not found in elsewhere, along with their prices. A Directory of Indian publishers with complete addresses and contact details is also included (<http://www.nisc.com/factsheets/qebip.asp>).
- **BAS - Bibliography of Asian Studies** is on-line version of the Bibliography of Asian Studies that contains records on all subjects, especially humanities and social sciences, pertaining to East, Southeast, and South Asia published worldwide from 1971 to the present (<http://ets.umdl.umich.edu/b/bas>).
- **DELNET - the Developing Library Network** provides a Union Catalogue of books, Union list of current periodicals, CD-ROM Databases, Database of Indian specialists, Database of periodical articles, Union list of video recordings, Urdu manuscripts' database, Database of theses and dissertations on India (<http://delnet.nic.in/>).
- **ISID - Index to Social Sciences Periodicals** is the On-line Index to over one hundred Indian Social Science journals and press clippings files of national English dailies. (<http://isidev.nic.in/odb.html>).
- **Centre for the Study of Culture & Society Database, Bangalore** was established in 1996 by a group of scholars interested in developing new approaches to studying culture in India. This interest has been energized by our sense that the social sciences and humanities disciplines as they exist are no longer adequate to the task of engaging seriously with the problems of our time. Today both the political frameworks of the post-colonial nation-state (democracy, secularism, development) and the institutional structures they endorse (among others, our universities and research centres) are clearly in crisis. The CSCS Library and Media Archive provides facility of browsing by Record Type (Book, Journal, Magazines, Pamphlet, Report, Video CD, Video DVD, Video NTSC, Video VHS), Language and Author, To find more information and search "Library: Exhaustive" <http://www.cscsarchive.org/>
- **Global Resource Guide to Indian Cinema** Dr. Rajwant Singh Chilana, Associate Professor of Library Administration at the University of Illinois, USA has received research grant for his project on "Developing a Global Resource Guide to Indian Cinema". It is a compilation of annotated bibliographical reference sources on Bollywood (Indian movies). Once this project is completed, it will be published so that researchers all around the world will have access to current data on the topic. The main purpose of this study and research will be to identify various printed, unpublished and electronic resources dealing with Indian cinema with special reference to Bollywood, and conduct an extensive literature survey for compilation of the resource guide. Due to lack of indexing resources in this area, the author has planned visits to a number of institutions and libraries in India, Canada, UK and USA for the collection of up-to-date information and compile an international guide that will be used for research by the faculty, students and public.

As most of the literature on the topic is available in Indian libraries, efforts have been made in collecting, annotating and organizing information from various special and university libraries in New Delhi, Mumbai, Madras, Calcutta, Pune and Jaipur. The libraries of National Institute of Films and National Academy of Indian Films have been thoroughly consulted for completion of this research project. The British Library

in London and the Library of Congress, Washington has excellent collections on Bollywood, and thus will be visited to access various publications for this compilation. This work will include monographs, composite works, journal articles, conference proceedings, theses, dissertations, research papers, project reports, and electronic resources produced in the field until December 2009.

The Information Age (also known as the Computer Age, Digital Age, or New Media Age) is a historic period beginning in the late 20th century and characterized by the rapid shift from traditional industry that the Industrial Revolution brought through industrialization to an economy primarily based upon information technology. The onset of the Information Age can be associated with the development of transistor technology, particularly the MOSFET (metal-oxide-semiconductor field-effect transistor) 1 116 ICAL 2009 VISION AND ROLES OF THE FUTURE ACADEMIC LIBRARIES Information & Research Resources on Indian Cinema: A Global Survey of Printed, Digital and Online Materials Rajwant S. Chilana, M. Sc. MLS, Ph.D. Associate Professor of Library Administration & South Asian Studies Librarian Acting Head-Asian Library University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Urbana, IL 61801, USA Abstract India is the largest film producing industry in the world and its cinema is becoming increasingly popular in various countries around the globe. Bollywood is a powerful medium that provides useful and e