Bibliographical Control in Thailand

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Bibliographical control in Thailand dates back to the nineteenth century when Chas. S. Sveistrup, librarian of the Royal Vajirajan Library, compiled and published in Bangkok a Catalogue of Books of the Royal Vajirajan Library in 1892 by order of Prince Damrong Rajanuphap, the then chairman of the library committee. The catalog, comprising the library holdings of English books, was said to be the first bibliography initiated in Thailand.

The first Thai language bibliography, a bibliography of Buddhist manuscripts entitled a Catalogue of Books in the Royal Vajirajan Library, Part I Pali Section B.E. 2459 was also published by the library in 1916 for distribution at the cremation ceremony of Prince Somnot Amorabhund, chairman of the library committee from 1910–15.

The subsequent period saw only a few more catalogs published by this library. Apparently the bibliographical form of these early catalogs is not standardized. It was not until the establishment of the first library school at Chulalongkorn University in 1955 that bibliographical works began to flourish when the techniques and methods of compiling bibliography were first introduced into its professional training program.

The landmark book in the field of bibliography compiled in Thailand is a Bibliography of Material about Thailand in Western Languages, compiled and published by the Central Library, Chulalongkorn University in 1960; it is one of the best known comprehensive tools for research on the various aspects of Thailand. The book is now out-of-print, but a Xerox copy is available at the University Microfilm, Inc., Ann Arbor, U.S.A.

Bibliographies compiled or published in Thailand number around 180 titles, including the national bibliography, bibliography of government publications, bibliography of cremation books, current bibliography, bibliography for school libraries, author bibliography, bibliography of special subjects, lists of theses, publishers' lists, library accession lists, lists and union lists of serials, and indexes to Thai periodical literature.

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Association is the only periodical containing an annotated list of selected new books published in Thailand.

In addition, current publications may be found in the accession lists of academic and research libraries. Each publisher also publishes irregularly his trade bibliography, with listings of only authors and titles of books published. There is not as yet a comprehensive trade bibliography comparable to the Publisher's Trade List Annual.

**BIBLIOGRAPHY FOR SCHOOL LIBRARIES**

Efforts have been made by the two Departments of the Ministry of Education to compile standard bibliographies for school libraries. Some titles are as follows:


**Author Bibliography**

So far, there are five titles of author bibliography published to commemorate a certain anniversary of each author as the following:


The Bank of Thailand Library issues weekly mimeographed indexes to articles in English language periodicals on economics and related subjects from 1957 to date, and monthly abstracts to Thai economic journals beginning from 1971.

An Index to Thai Periodical Literature is also published in every issue of NIDA Bulletin (monthly) by the National Institute of Development Administration.

The Thai National Documentation Center has extensive bibliographical services, including indexing, abstracting, translating and compiling bibliographies.

**Conclusion**

Major problems of bibliographical control and service in Thailand are threefold. First, the Printing Law which requires the deposit of two copies of publications published in Thailand at the National Library, excludes government publications and books published for distribution; moreover the enforcement has been neglected by publishers. This shortcoming makes it impossible to compile a national bibliography. Second, there is no co-operation among libraries in the compilation of bibliographies so as to avoid duplicate efforts. Third is the lack of financial support for large scale bibliography projects.