Suggests an organisational set-up for the Indian National Bibliography. Recommends that each instalment of the Bibliography should consist of independent, but co-ordinated volumes of fascicules for each of the languages in which books and periodicals are published in the country. The concerned language fascicules to be produced by the appropriate States and to be co-ordinated by the National Central Library. Examines the impracticability of multi-lingual bibliography in a single sequence in relation to marketing, classification and cataloguing, time factor, etc. Stresses the need for following an appropriate catalogue code to suit our needs and a versatile analytico-synthetic scheme for classification. Suggests the bringing out of another experimental fascicule of the Bibliography arranging the entries by CC numbers to make an objective comparative study of the helpfulness of the arrangement of the entries.

1 INTRODUCTION

It is a matter for gratification that the Government of India has arranged for the production of a National Bibliography of the current publications of India, on a periodical basis. However, the way in which the work is planned and organised does not appear to be happy. An alternative scheme, likely to be more economical, efficient, and prompt is suggested in section 2 of this paper and its subdivisions. The reasons for the alternative scheme are set forth in section 3 and its subdivisions. Some technical items, which need attention immediately or eventually, are also touched upon in the later sections.

2 ORGANISATIONAL SET-UP SUGGESTED

The considerations set forth in section 3 and its subdivisions indicate an organisational set-up along the following lines. The set-up is made elastic enough to meet the changes in historical geography likely to occur in India, and the new responsibilities which the bibliographical organisation of the country will have to discharge, if India is to fall in line with the world-trend in the matter. It may be stated here that this trend has been prompted and influenced not a little by Indian research in this subject during the last two decades. The essential feature of the proposed organisational set-up is the making of each instalment of the Indian National Bibliography consist of independent, but co-ordinated, volumes or fascicules for each of the languages in which books and periodicals are published in the country. The agency proposed makes full use of the resources and facilities obtaining in each of the constituent states and avoids all avoidable duplication of work as between the Centre and the States.

21 One Language, One State

Each of the seven languages - Tamil, Malayalam, Kannada, Telugu, Oriya, Bengali, and Assamese - is the only state language in its
state; and it is also confined more or less to one state. The linguistic fascicules or volumes of the Indian National Bibliography for these seven languages are best left to the care of the respective State Central Libraries. Madras and Andhra Pradesh have already State Central Libraries maintained in accordance with the Madras Public Library Act (see Sections 4 and 19 of the Madras Pub-Library Act of 1948). Rules 7(d) and 7(ei) under the Madras Act provide for the State Central Libraries taking responsibility for the respective Copyright Lists and State Bibliographies. A similar arrangement will come into force in the other states, as and when they have Library Acts. Till this happens, the Registrar of Books or any other corresponding officer of each of the states may be temporarily entrusted with the task of producing the linguistic volume or fascicle for the state. How far Punjab will admit of a similar set-up needs examination. The publication of a few books in a language outside its own linguistic state can be taken care of quite easily.

22 Two Languages, One State

Bombay is the one state which comprehends two different linguistic areas Marathi and Gujarathi. But the Government of Bombay has already established different Regional Libraries for these two languages at Poona and Ahmedabad respectively. These libraries have copyright privileges; and they already prepare their respective catalogues for their copyright collections. The concerned language fascicules can be easily produced by them.

23 One Language, Many States

Hindi is the one language which spreads over several constituent states. It is a moot point whether each of these states should produce its own Hindi fascicle, or whether all these states should agree to maintain a single Hindi Regional Centre for producing a single common Hindi fascicle. Economy will indicate the latter alternative, convenience of users - readers as well as booksellers - will also support a single common Hindi fascicle. The geographical contiguity of the Hindi States will minimise the consequences of the largeness of the area of the region.

24 Languages Scattered All Through India

Books and periodicals in English and Sanskrit are being produced in equal measure in several of the constituent states. It would help economy in production and convenience in use if the English and Sanskrit fascicules of the Indian National Bibliography are produced in one All-India Centre. The location of this centre should, ultimately, be at the National Central Library to be established. The arrangement for the Urdu fascicle should perhaps be made along similar lines, unless it happens that most of the Urdu publications are produced in one or two states only.

25 Co-ordinating Function

The elements of heterogeneity incidental to decentralisation of the production of the different linguistic volume and fascicles can and should be eliminated by proper co-ordination. The appropriate agency for this essential corrective by co-ordination is the National Central Library. A directive about this work of co-ordination is given in sections 381 and 391 of the draft Union Library Act, occurring in pages 191 and 192 of Ranganathan's Library development plan: Thirty-year programme for India, with draft library bills for the Union and the constituent states, 1950 (Dehi University publications, library science series, 2). These sections read as follows:-

"381 The National Bibliographical Bureau may admit into its work other agencies in the country like the Department of the Government, the State Bibliographical Bureaus of the constituent states, and the learned bodies in the country, on such conditions as may be mutually agreed upon".

"391 The National Bureau of Technical Service may collaborate with similar bureaus in the State Central Libraries of the constituent states, and co-ordinate the technical treatment of books in the entire library system of the country".

There is also a similar directive in sections 552 and 562 of the draft State Library Act, occurring in pages 394 and 395 of the same book.
These sections read as follows:—

"The State Bibliographical Bureau may collaborate with similar bureaus and agencies of the other states and the Union Government, and undertake such bibliographical work as may fall to its share by mutual agreement among the participating bureaus and agencies".

"The Bureau of Technical Service may collaborate with similar bureaus of the other states and of the Union Government, and undertake such technical work as may fall to its share by mutual agreement with the participating bureaus".

26 Man-Power and Finance

A preliminary piece of work on the man-power and financial resources needed for the several state fascicules was done in 1951 by Shri K. D. Puranik and S. P. Phadnis. The idea of the economic co-ordination of the resources of all the states and of the Union had not taken shape in that year. Subject to this remark, the figures arrived at by the authors may prove to be of value. This paper occurs in pages 151 to 157 of the Public provision and documentation problems: Papers for discussion at the Ninth All-India Library Conference (1951) led by S. R. Ranganathan. These figures will need correction in the light of the advance in the ideas about the subject and of the change in the value of money and its purchasing power.

3 PROS AND CONS

31 Wrong Analogy

The organisation for the Indian Bibliography set up about a year ago appeared to have been influenced by the experience of nations having only one language as the main medium for books. Nor has the vastness of the area of India, as compared to the area of such countries, been apparently given due weight. The prevalence of ten different scripts and even a larger number of languages of literary status should obviously make the organisation for the production of National Bibliography in India differ from the one for a smaller country with a single language and a single script. We must beware of wrong analogy.

32 Right Analogy

The right analogy is to be looked for in a quasi International Bibliography, say of a continent. From the point of view of National Bibliography, the polyglot nature of India makes it a continent. A considerable professional thought has been turned, during the last three centuries, on the preparation of an exhaustive bibliography of books in several languages. A multilingual national or regional bibliography is not best built on a monolithic basis or in a single sequence - whether alphabetical or classified. When the script of all the languages is one and the same, a monolithic bibliography may be possible; but it will not be practicable at a reasonable cost. Nor will it be helpful from the angle of the common user. It is now practically accepted that the cheapest, the most serviceable, and the most practicable form of multi-lingual bibliography is one in several volumes or fascicules, each of which is devoted to one and only one language. It is not necessary for India to fritter away its all-too-small library finance and man-power in starting the experiment over again contrary to the above-mentioned finding arrived at after years of thought and practice.

33 Impracticability of Multi-Script Bibliography

With the methods of printing now in vogue, it is physically impossible to print in one sequence, or even in one volume, the entries in ten different scripts. Any attempt to force a single script on the Indian National Bibliography will be wasteful and rouse undesirable controversies. Recourse to transliteration into a single script is also beset with many technical difficulties, which have not yet been solved satisfactorily. The resistance to a single script will be even more formidable if the alien Roman script is adopted. Surely it will be an affront to cherished national sentiments. The small percentage of us who have been brought up on the Roman script should not overlook the formidable difficulties which will be put in the way of the masses by its adoption. We should not close our eyes to the difficulties of the masses of our country in acquiring the reflex action necessary to read through the entries in an alien script. Thus a single bibliography
Unserviceability of Multi-Lingual Bibliography

Even if all the languages have the same script, a single bibliography for the current books in all the languages will serve little useful purpose. Such a bibliography has not been seriously attempted anywhere. However, it has been subjected to some intellectual experiment and theoretical investigation. The finding has been against it. An exhaustive current national bibliography has to serve three main purposes. It has:

1. to serve the cultural purpose of being a record of all the literary output of the country;
2. to serve the economic purpose of being a location register of publishers in the lands of book-sellers; and
3. to serve the social education purpose of being the source for book-selection for libraries as well as for individual readers.

It is the last of these uses that is the widest, the most immediate, and the most potent for the betterment of society. Hardly any reader could read all the thirteen literary languages of India. It would be irritating, if not scaring, to a reader to find the entries of the books in his own language scattered, and perhaps even smothered, by a plethora of books in the other languages. A measure of this irritation and unserviceableness can be got if we remember that a monthly installment of the Indian National Bibliography will have to cover about 5,000 books, that the publication in any one language will be only about 400, and that their entries will be diluted among 13 times as many entries in unwanted languages.

Perhaps even booksellers would prefer to have separate fascicles for the different languages. The cultural purpose of listing all the publications in the country will not be thwarted in any way by making the national bibliography consist of separate volumes of fascicles for each of the languages.

35 Marketing the Bibliography

To serve the last two of the purposes to be served by the National Bibliography, its current issues and cumulative volumes should admit of wide marketing. As a matter of fact, the publication of the National Bibliography is nearly self-supporting in most countries. India should not make its national bibliography a permanent liability. Nor is it sound marketing principle to expect any person to pay forcedly for materials in which he has no interest. Few will be the readers, book-sellers, publishers, or even libraries who will be interested in buying the bibliography covering the books in all the thirteen languages of the country. Moreover, the cost of an omnibus national bibliography - even the monthly subscription for it - will be too high for many of the probable buyers. On the other hand, the cost of each of the linguistic volumes or fascicles, making up the national bibliography, will be well within the means of most of the buyers. Thus the problem of finding a market also indicates the organisational set-up for the Indian National Bibliography to be based on the concept of independent but coordinated linguistic volumes and fascicles.

36 Facility for Classification and Cataloguing

Assuming that the National Bibliography is produced in the form of separate volumes or fascicles for each language, let us examine the agency for their production, which can command the greatest possible facilities in the technical work of classification and cataloguing. This technical work will now and then require consultation with scholars in the language concerned. Facilities for this will be available in a centre within the linguistic region more readily and fully then in a distant All-India centre. This is an important detail in organisation, which should not be lost sight of.

37 Facility for Physical Production and Distribution

The facility for the printing of a linguistic volume or fascicle will be greatest in the linguistic state or region concerned. It is organisationally unsound to have the printing press
for all the thirteen languages of the country in one and the same place. It is desirable to have the printing press for each of the languages to be had in the linguistic centre concerned.

Again the largest number of copies of a linguistic volume or fascicle of the National Bibliography will have to be distributed only within the linguistic region concerned. Therefore, the cost of physical distribution and the pressure on the postal and the transport system of the country will be the least, only if the centre for its production is within the linguistic region.

38 Time Factor

Section 4 describes the scheme for supply of printed catalogue cards to all libraries for the books of Indian origin, acquired by them. The time-lag in the supply of catalogue cards to libraries has been reduced to 24 hours by the British National Bibliography. Apart from the careful organisation and mechanisation of the work of making copies of the catalogue cards on demand, the centre for bibliography being within a night's rail journey from the various libraries is decisive in making the supply of the cards so prompt. India is a vast country of great distances. The distance of many of the libraries from an All-India centre will be such as require a rail journey of 48 hours, even by the fastest trains. On the other hand, the distance within most of the linguistic regions can be covered more or less within one night. Thus, except for the cards for books in Sanskrit and English, which will be best produced in an All-India centre, the cards for the books in the current languages of India can be supplied without time-lag from a centre within the linguistic region concerned. And, in due course, it is books in these languages that will be in greatest demand in the majority of the libraries.

Again the books published within a constituent state will reach its State Central Library more quickly and unerringly than the distant National Central Library. The enforcement measures for the delivery of books will also be more expeditious on a state-basis than on All-India basis. Therefore the time-lag in the preparation of the linguistic volume or fascicle will be less if it is done by the State Central Library.

4 SUPPLY OF PRINTED CATALOGUE CARDS

Our organisation for the National Bibliography should be sufficiently far-sighted and broad-based to allow of the supply of printed catalogue cards to the various libraries. This will result in considerable economy in the professional library-man-power of the nation. Indeed, this will lead to the saving of 79% of the classifying and cataloguing man-power of the nation. This has been proved in section 93 of the Headings and canons (1955) of Ranganathan.

41 Achievement in Great Britain

Within six years of its establishment in 1950, the British National Bibliography has implemented this measure of national economy. Since 1956, it is printing off to order whatever catalogue cards are requisitioned by the libraries in the country. There is no need to hold space-consuming stock of printed cards. It is only the master stencils that are stored. This is an improvement of what the Danish Bibliographical Centre was doing about a decade ago; they used to print the cards in advance and keep a large stock, involving all the risk of error in the anticipation of the sale of particular cards.

42 Pre-Natal Printing of Catalogue Cards

There is a still more ambitious programme to be realised. It is denoted by the term "Pre-Natal Preparation of Cards". This programme was first conceived and named in this way on 12 August 1948 in my address to the cataloguers and classifiers of the Library of Congress in its Whittall Pavilion. In this programme, the agency for national bibliography will get proof copies of the books about to be published and release the catalogue cards in printed form simultaneously with the release of the book. In my meeting with the Editor and the staff of the British National Bibliography in December 1956, an assurance was given that even this ambitious programme would be put into effect in about two or three years. I wish that this wish of mine is
realised in our own country too in due course. It is only the State Central Library that can command the convenience to do this work in respect of the books in the state language concerned; and moreover, we should reasonably expect the books in the state languages to be far greater in number than the books in English or Sanskrit. Thus the eventual assumption of centralised and even pre-natal centralised release of the different linguistic volumes and fascicles of the national bibliography and of the supply of catalogue cards demands decentralisation of the work of national bibliography on a linguistic basis.

5 UNIFORMITY IN CATALOGUING

One of the acts of co-ordination by the National Central Library should be to persuade the State Central Libraries to adopt cataloguing codes, which cohere with one another. Coherence, and not sameness, is suggested because sameness in every detail in the rendering of headings and bodies of entries is not possible in all the languages. The codes of cataloguing for the different languages can be alike only in respect of the choice of the headings and bodies for the entries. In respect of rendering and style of writing, the most that can be attempted is to make them all conform to certain norms of a broad nature. The methodology for securing coherence in the catalogue codes for the different languages and cultural groups has been described in chapter 8 of the Headings and canons. The methodology has also been demonstrated to some extent in the Classified catalogue code for the English language and the Anuvarga-suchi-kalpa for the Hindi language.

51 A False Step

It has been stated that the Indian National Bibliography is being based on the ALA cataloguing rules for author and title entries. If it be so, it is unfortunate. In the first place, it has hardly sufficient rules to deal with Indian personal names. As a matter of fact, the latest edition of this code takes its rules for Indian names, partially though, from the Classified catalogue code. Secondly, the ALA cataloguing rules has many faults and redundancies. In fact 18 rules have been shown to be faulty; and 52 rules have been shown to be redundant. This was realised in the meeting of the International Committee on Cataloguing held at Brussels in 1955. It is a matter for regret that there should be a persistence, even after 1955, of the pre-Gandhian mood of accepting without question any practice coming from abroad, without any critical thought. Apart from sentiments of self-respect and patriotism, the Indian National Bibliography should base itself on the Classified catalogue code on the purely non-sentimental grounds that (i) it is the only complete code known for a classified catalogue, (ii) it is far more free of faults than the ALA cataloguing rules, and (iii) that it is already exercising appreciable influence on other codes, in spite of the sentimental resistance of other nations to accept the influence of a foreign country and particularly a country like India which is just emerging from its long centuries of sleep and political subordination.

It is well-known that the ALA cataloguing rules is now in the melting pot. To overlook this fact and commit the Indian National Bibliography, which is just being started, to that out-moded code is regrettable, to say the least. Any Indian who wishes well of his country will grant that it is early enough to give up this trend.

52 Subject Entries

It is well-known that there is no current code for subject headings except the Classified catalogue code of India. In fact, this code has mechanised the procedure to choose subject headings. This mechanisation has been called Chain Procedure. This procedure has been adopted by the British National Bibliography. It was adopted at the very commencement in 1950, after a careful comparison of all the alternatives possible. Here are the words on this topic of the Editor of the British National Bibliography; those are taken from his paper on Our debt to India in the Commemoration volume Library science in India (1955).

"In 1949, I had the honour to be entrusted with the editorship of our new British national bibliography. The four years spent in studying the works for Ranganathan, the extraordinary sense of power induced by discussions with him
on his visits to England, and the discipline of writing - in collaboration with Palmer - the exposition of his system of classification proved a wonderful apprenticeship for the task.

"Britain has favoured the classified catalogue for many years and some examples already existed on which the British national bibliography might have been modelled. I had decided, however, to introduce three techniques into the new National Bibliography which I had learnt from Ranganathan and which, so far as I know, had not been systematically used in Britain before. These were: detailed featuring, chain indexing, and the imposition of the facet formula on the DC Schedules.

"All three of these techniques had been fully discussed by Ranganathan by 1949 in his several text books. The alphabetical part of the British national bibliography, like the systematic part, owes its success to the theories of Ranganathan upon which it is built and without which even the variations that we have introduced could not have been consciously done.

"An important and interesting by-product arose from the decision to use features in the British national bibliography... and the demand for subject headings of the conventional sort has diminished.

"We of the British national bibliography are pleased to acknowledge our debt to India and in particular to Dr. Ranganathan by whose works and inspiring friendship we have progressed to a new conception of the classified catalogue."

Thus in the matter of subject headings in the Indian National Bibliography, the organisation will do well to give up all outmoded techniques given in the cataloguing books of the West and follow the Chain Procedure prescribed in India's Classified catalogue code.

6 CLASSIFICATION

It is a matter for gratification that the Indian National Bibliography will be published in a classified form. The All India Library Conference recommended that the entries should carry both the Decimal Classification Number and the Colon Classification Number. The experimental fascicule since published has carried out the recommendation. The entries, however, are arranged by DC Numbers. Even as it is, it is clearly evident that arrangement by CC Numbers will be more helpful. But a more satisfactory and scientific approach is to produce another experimental fascicule arranging entries by CC Numbers. Then only we shall have sufficient data to assess in a reliable way the relative helpfulness of the two methods of arrangement. Till now a comparison of this kind has not been made on a large scale. This preliminary experiment on the Indian National Bibliography provides an opportunity to do it. The authorities will do well to produce the parallel fascicule and arrive at their final decision by an objective comparative study of the arrangements.

61 Enumerative vs Analytico-synthetic Scheme

It was accepted in the World Congress of Libraries and Documentation Centres held in Brusselles in September 1955 that it was too late in the day to continue an enumerative scheme of classification and that all future work on classification would have to be analytico-synthetic implementing facet-analysis. Decimal Classification, designed in America in the seventies of the last century is an enumerative scheme. Colon Classification designed in India in the thirties of the present century, is the first and perhaps still the only one which is all-through analytico-synthetic. Perhaps it is wise to give the Decimal Number to show deference to the pioneer Decimal Classification and give the Colon Number out of deference to the current trend in classification.

In India, the Insdoc List, being published by the Indian National Scientific Documentation Centre, had adopted both the Colon Classification and the improved version of the Decimal Classification called Universal Decimal Classification. In view of the sequence of subjects inherent in the Colon Classification being in better consonance with the sequence preferred in the scholarly world than the sequence inherent in the Decimal Classification, the Insdoc has been arranging the entries in its fortnightly List, in accordance with the Colon Numbers. It is hoped that a similar practice will be followed by the Indian National Bibliography also.
62 Informed Approach

The capitulation to the pre-Gandhian preference to things foreign has to be consciously resisted. This resistance will be made easier in the matter of Classification Scheme, if an informed approach is made to it. One means of getting at an informed approach is to study the experience of the British national bibliography, which is the latest of National Bibliographies of considerable coverage. This experience is laid bare fully by its editor in his contribution Our Debt to India already referred to. Here are some extracts:

"The first problem was how to make DC Number co-extensive with the subject of a book. This problem arises frequently with the DC not only because of the lack of numbers for new subjects, but because of the structure of the classification which makes it impossible to construct numbers for multi-faceted subjects."

"Even had the DC Board been agreeable to allowing the British national bibliography to add its own digits to basic DC Numbers, this would not have solved the problem because the DC notation in most cases makes expansion impossible at the appropriate place. We solved the problem by adding (a special symbol)."

"Alphabetical arrangement of foci after (the special symbol) is negation of a systematic order. This, of course, is a grave difficulty. The (special) symbol is nothing more than a makeshift. It has brought a temporary lease of a new life to DC and made it possible not only to introduce new subjects, but, what is perhaps even more important, to superimpose on the enumerative structure of DC the pattern of the facet formula. Probably few of those who use the British national bibliography realise that its order is determined by Ranganathan's Facet Formula, but I am convinced that the success that the Bibliography has enjoyed is due to the rhythm that this pattern imposes upon its arrangement and to which the enquirer's mind instinctively responds."

The fact is that modern trend in literary warrant demands changing over from DC to a scheme like the Colon. But England is handicapped and has to hug on to DC and prop it up because of its having widely adopted DC during the last seventy years. Is there any such handicap for the Indian National Bibliography? Except on grounds of uninformed approach to the problem, it is difficult to understand why India should take on itself this vicarious suffering.

63 Realistic Approach

More than fifty percent of India's publications today relate to the indological field - Indian literature, Indian linguistics, Indian religion, Indian philosophy, Indian geography, Indian history, and Indian law. Decimal Classification makes no pretension whatever in providing the necessary numbers for indological subjects. Being of American origin, it is naturally biased towards America and deficient - unbelievably deficient - in Indian subjects. Our university, college and school libraries, which form the dominant section of the developed libraries in India today, are rich only in occidental books. Therefore the mind of the library profession is prevented from realising the peculiar nature of the totality of India's own publications, which baffle the capacity of the Decimal Classification. This factor is responsible for an unrealistic approach to the choice of classification scheme for the Indian national bibliography, which has to face the music of indology. The authorities concerned should be aware of the dangers of this unrealistic approach, and avert the incidence of a fiasco or a crash.

7 CONCLUSION

Thus the authorities must consider with care (i) the inappropriateness and unhelpfulness to the public of using Roman script for the National Bibliography; (ii) the helpfulness of making the Indian national bibliography consist of separate linguistic volumes and fascicules; (iii) the desirability of entrusting State Central Libraries or their equivalents with the linguistic volumes and fascicules, and the National Central Library with the fascicules in Sanskrit and English; (iv) organising the work in such a way that the project of National Bibliography can eventually be self supporting; (v) adopting India's Classified catalogue code instead of the Anglo-American code and (vi) arranging the entries in the classified part of the Bibliography according to Colon Numbers and giving also Decimal Numbers for some years.