

Preserving the Portuguese and French Colonial Periodical Legacies in post-colonial India and the Library as an archival repository

by Liladhar R. Pendse
University of California, Los Angeles, USA
lpendse@library.ucla.edu

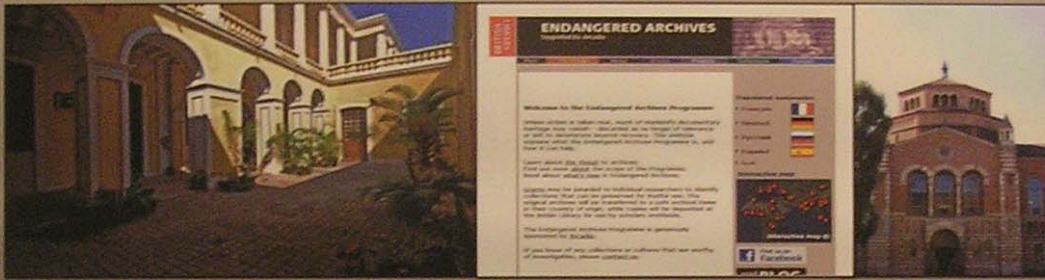
Project Description:

The Bibliography of Indo-Portuguese Periodicals Database Project was made possible by the generous support of the Librarians Association of the University of California (LAUC). This project is the outcome of a LAUC University wide research grant for the project, "India Portuguesa: Improving Access To Portuguese Language Periodicals from Portuguese India". The database includes the titles from 1821 through 1923. There is also a digital component to the project that will allow the users to browse through early periodicals of Portuguese India. All images are copyrighted under a Creative Commons license. The main purpose of this project was to inventory all Portuguese language periodicals that were published in Portuguese held territories of India. We will be soon begin our work on the French language Periodicals of Colonial India.



Portuguese and French were the dominant languages of interchange in Portuguese and French India through most of the nineteenth century. Since printing in India was relatively cheap, anyone with an opinion might and often did publish a statement of his views. Often such publications were of limited editions and were not collected by many libraries in India. Yet these publications provide us today with a broad spectrum of writings by Indians, French and Portuguese on all the major and many minor issues that stirred them in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

In January of 2009, The UCLA Graduate School of Education and Information Studies and the UCLA Library received a preservation grant through the Endangered Archives Program at the British Library. This program involves cooperation between the library of the French Institute of India, Pondicherry and the University of California, Los Angeles.



© French Institute of Pondicherry

© UCLA Library, UCLA Liladhar R. Pendse

Some Examples of French and Portuguese Periodicals that might need preservation:



The political disenfranchisement of Indo-Portuguese and French-Indian cultures in the post-independence India and the high acid paper used to produce the periodicals have made these periodicals literature highly vulnerable to heat and humidity. There are over 200+ different titles that were published in Goa and Pondicherry. Below are some examples of the Portuguese and French language periodicals from India.



© Liladhar R. Pendse

Preservation Strategy:

1. Create a sustainable digitization infrastructure/ hardware base at the French Institute of Pondicherry, India.
2. Use California Digital Library Standards and create images in redundant file formats following the LOCKSS principle such as uncompressed TIFF or JPG using Minolta PS 5000C scanner.
3. These files will be backed up using both the online means and on physical drives and archival gold discs.

