

Local History Collection in Public Libraries of South 24 Parganas: A Study

Sudeshna Moitra^{1*} and Chaitali Dutta²

¹Dhruba Chand Halder College, Dakshin Barasat, South 24 Parganas - 743372, West Bengal, India;
dch15library@gmail.com

²Department of Library and Information Science, Jadavpur University, Jadavpur - 700032,
Kolkata, West Bengal, India

Abstract

Public library has the social responsibility to meet the local community requirements for knowledge, information, education, culture, recreation, and so on. The responsibility includes preserving local history materials of a particular locality. This paper reflects the present scenario of collection, preservation, dissemination, use pattern of local history materials and user demand for such collection in the Government-sponsored public libraries (District Library, Sub-divisional Libraries and Town Libraries) in South 24 Parganas district in West Bengal. Every library was visited personally to interview the Librarian/In-charge and data were collected through a structured questionnaire. Library users were also interviewed through a separately structured questionnaire by applying random sampling method. Collected data were analysed to find out the present situation and issues related to building local history collection and rendering effective associated services. Findings reflect the major hindrances responsible for the state of sources of local history in the South 24 Parganas. Some recommendations have been made.

Keywords: Local History, Local History Collection, Public Libraries, South 24 Parganas, West Bengal

1. Introduction

According to the UNESCO Public Library Manifesto (1994), public library is 'People's University' (IFLA/ UNESCO, 1994). The Manifesto defines 'Public Library' as "...the local gateway to knowledge, provides a basic condition for lifelong learning, independent decision-making and cultural development of the individual and social groups". Public library is solely responsible for providing information and knowledge to all the sections of the society irrespective of age, sex, caste, religion, race, nationality, language and social status. Public library provides support for formal and informal education, personal development, leisure and recreation (Kumar, 1992). Geographical and historical information of the locality, contribution of the sons of soil, invaluable documents relating to the development of the locality; local cultural possessions are all components of local history. There lies the responsibility of the public library which has a crucial role in cultural development of the

society as well as to let the new generation know about their ancestry (Gorman, 2007).

1.1 South 24 Parganas: An Overview

The name 24 Parganas derived from the number of mahals or parts or Parganas, which were given to the East India Company as *Zemindari* or land-lordship, by the then *Nawab* of Bengal, Mir Jafar in 1757 just right after the fall of *Nawab* Siraj-ud-Daulah in the battle of *Plassy*. The *zamindari* was started from the south of the then Calcutta and ended at the southern border of the then *Hatiagarh pargana* or *Kulpi* (Mandal, 1999). In 1793, the entire Sunderbans area was incorporated in 24 Parganas by the act of Permanent Settlement of Lord Cornwallis (O'Malley, 1914). In 1905, administration of Sunderbans was permanently included in the administration of 24 Parganas. Lastly in 1986, mainly to ease the administration, 24 Parganas was bifurcated into North 24 Parganas and South 24 Parganas (Choudhuri, 2013). This is the largest

*Author for correspondence

district in the state of West Bengal covering 9960 sq. km. area in total, having a total population of 81,61,961 and population density of 819 per sq. km. A significant part of the total population belongs to Islam religion, other pre-dominant religion is Hinduism. South 24 Parganas is the largest district in terms of Scheduled Caste (SC) population in West Bengal State (Government of West Bengal, 2011).

The district is an irregular parallelogram in shape, situated between 21°29'00" and 22°33'45" North latitudes and 88°3'45" and 89°4'50" East latitudes (Government of West Bengal, 2009). The district is an active as well as a mature part of Gangetic delta and has some unique geographical features, as south-most part forms the mangroves of Sunderbans (the largest mangrove forest on the earth), skirting the waves of Bay of Bengal. The entire district is filled with sluggish rivers in the northern part and tidal rivers in the south. The district has both typical metropolitan living with high population and complete urban infrastructures in Kolkata-adjacent areas, as well as typical rural living with poor communication and transport systems due to plenty of rivers and dense forests. The South 24 Parganas has 5 sub-divisions, namely; 1. Alipore Sadar, 2. Baruipur, 3. Canning, 4. Diamond Harbour, and 5. Kakdwip. There are 29 Community Development Blocks (CDBs) and 7 Municipalities, total number of villages under CDBs is 1,994 of which 48 villages in the extreme interior Sunderbans are inhabitable (Government of West Bengal, 2009).

Due to its unique geographical and physical features, South 24 Parganas has a rich and diversified local history and culture. This culture flows from generation to generation in terms of languages, local folk traditions, folk songs, occupation, social gatherings, religion, and so many other perspectives. The responsibility of preserving this rich Local History (LH), lies with the public library system. Public libraries are responsible for building an appropriate Local History Collection (LHC).

1.2 Objectives

- To determine the present status of LHC and the types of Local History Materials (LHMs) in the public libraries,
- To find out the present infrastructure in public libraries to maintain LHC,

- To examine the services rendered in this regard and extension services and/or activities adopted by the public libraries to popularize LH study,
- To identify the issues and specific requirements in public libraries to build and maintain LHC,
- To ascertain user demand and user satisfaction in LH study, and
- To suggest measures for improvements.

1.3 Scope and Limitations

The public library system of South 24 Parganas comprises of a total number of 156 Government-sponsored public libraries, with 1 (one) District Library (DL) at its apex; among the other 155 libraries, 18 are Town Libraries (TLs), 30 are Primary Unit Libraries (PULs), and 107 are Rural Libraries (RLs) (Government of West Bengal, 2018). For this study, the District Library, 10 Sub-divisional Libraries (SDLs), 9 TLs, and 6 Century-old Libraries (COLs) of South 24 Parganas have been chosen.

2. Literature Review

There have been a few studies on LHC in public libraries. One study suggested that the central objective of a library-based LHC is to provide an information service to all sectors of the community while providing for the security and conservation of unique materials (Pearson, 1988). Moreover, this service is performed in favour of and in active participation of the community therein. Many studies discussed the present status and future directions emphasising on the necessity of LHC development and their maintenance. Various methods of building LHC from the ground stage involving the local community by the public libraries of Colorado district have been described (Harden, 2001). Research has been conducted to find out the problems of LH collection development in the context of changing socio-economic scenario in Hungary (Kappel, 1996). Another study (Raju, 1985) explained how LH has become an integral part of education, culture, research, and economy for the local people through District Libraries (DLs) in Andhra Pradesh, India. Studies were also conducted on different categories or formats of local history of an area, which can be preserved in public libraries. Different categories of LHMs, viz. photographs, maps, newspapers, etc. form a significant segment of National Collection of Australia's documentary heritage and there is a crucial need for the

automation of their bibliographic description (Martin & Heath, 1994). Different kinds local history materials which a public library can collect and preserve, including manuscripts, out-of-print and rare books, letters and personal memoirs, newspaper clippings, census reports, pamphlets, still photographs, historic maps, local maps and diagrams, posters, charts, handbills/leaflets, and many more have been identified (Kargbo, 2007). One study minutely describes number of local information sources, such as geographical description of the locality, agriculture and industry-related information, evidences and descriptions of local movements, information produced in local formal and informal institutions, local administrative authorities, and human sources of information, all constitute substantial fragment of the LHMs (Chattopadhyay, 2011). Different art forms and designs viz. drawings, paintings and water colours, local maps and city plans, topographical prints, designs of small craftsmen, tradesmen and manufacturers, etc. were considered to occupy a significant position among the LHMs (Girvan, 1985).

Public libraries have been collecting documents of local interest including manuscripts, maps, wills, newspaper cuttings, inventories, registers, letters, pictures, minute-books, handbills, jury panels, certificates, petitions, indictments, accounts books, treaties, acts, local newspapers and writs, etc. it is noteworthy to mention, that the local studies library in Cambridge maintains a repository of newspaper cuttings and indexes since 1770 (Petty, 1981). There has been a general appeal to local historians and other collectors to make donations of materials to supplement to the public library is a well proven strategy to form full-fledged LHC under the limiting fund and manpower (Fellows, 1985).

A significant element of LHMs is Oral History (OH), and many researchers have been conducted (Chen, 1999; McKether, 2011; Gregg, 2000).

Another major source of local history is *Genealogy or family history* concerned with the families of prominent local personalities, their ancestral roots, their lineages and reconstructing their past. A significant study (Nichols, 2012) identified various tools that Genealogists can use including oral interviews, study of historical records, and analysis of pedigree and so on. Another research (Leubbert, 1997) studied the genealogy collection at the Missouri State Archives where earliest documentary evidences date back to 1770s and most of these invaluable

genealogy collections were preserved as microforms. It also identified diverse categories of genealogy collections and surveyed how these rich collections become helpful to thousands of researchers every year. A few studies have been conducted on technical processing of LHMs in public libraries. An important study (Kojima, 1987) stressed that evidences of local events and other LHMs, which constitute 'special collections' of a public library, should be organized according to a special classification scheme. That study also suggested a special subject heading list which can be useful for LHM cataloguing.

3. Methods

3.1 The Survey

In this study survey and interview were adopted. Each of the libraries was visited times and data were collected with the help of three carefully constructed questionnaires – the general questionnaire, library professionals' questionnaire, and users' questionnaire. The first part of the questionnaire solicited general information including whether the library has any LHC. When a library confirms the presence of separate LHC then the second part of the questionnaire comes into effect.

Librarians and library staff members were interviewed to record their perception. Regular users were requested to respond to another questionnaire (with both closed as well as open-ended questions). Respondents were chosen by the librarians based on their regularity i.e., those who visit the library at least twice a week. 5 respondents from each age group were questioned for this purpose (N = 375). (Note: Some TLs were more than 100 years old. These libraries are counted only once in the category of 'Town Library', and not in the category of 'Century-old library').

3.2 The Sample

The major categories of Public Libraries were: 1. District Library (DL), South 24 Parganas; 2. Sub-Divisional Library (SDL); 3. Town Library (TL) - including century-old town libraries, and 4. Century-Old Library (COL). The Complete list of the 26 libraries under investigation is given below in the Table 1, arranged in a chronological order based on the year of establishment and categorized into periods of 25 years each.

Table 1. Sample public libraries according to the year of establishment, age and administrative status

Chronology of establishment	Name of PLs (Estd.)	Sub Div.	Age of PLs (yrs.)	No. of PLs			
				COL	TL	SDL	Total
1876-1900	a. Mudialy Library (1876) - Garden Reach	A	142	√	√	√	3
	b. Bandhav Library (1877) - Joynagar	B	141	√	√	-	
	c. Rajpur Sadharan Pathagar (1877) - Rajpur	B	141	√	√	-	
1901-1925	d. Hemkali Pathagar (1902) - Gobindapur	B	116	√	-	-	11
	e. Vidyabhusan Library (1902) - Subhasgram	B	116	√	-	-	
	f. Behala TL (1903) - Behala	A	115	√	√	√	
	g. Barisha Sadharan Pathagar (1904) - Barisha	A	114	√	√	√	
	h. Joychandi Pathagar (1904) - Srikrishnapur	A	114	√	-	-	
	i. Prativa TL (1906) - Sarsuna	A	112	√	√	√	
	j. Purandar Smriti Mandir Pathadar (1910) - Mallikpur	B	108	√	-	-	
	k. Baharu Shyamsundar PL (1912) - Joynagar	B	106	√	√	-	
	l. Madarat Bandhav Pathagar (1913) - Baruipur	B	105	√	-	-	
	m. Karanjali Unnati Bidhayani Pathagar (1916) - Karanjali	B	102	√	-	-	
	n. Kodalia Haranath Binapani Library (1917) - Kodalia	B	101	√	√	-	
1926-1950	o. Bakhrahat Public Library & Free Reading Room (1926) - Bakhrahat	D	92	-	√	-	7
	p. Sarangabad Bandhav Library (1934) - Budge Budge	A	84	-	√	-	
	q. Canning PL (1933) - Canning Town	C	83	-	√	√	
	r. Baruipur PL (1935) - Baruipur	B	83	-	√	-	
	s. Brati Sangha Pathagar (1946) - Budge Budge	A	72	-	√	√	
	t. Deshgaurab Pathagar (1947) - Garia	A	71	-	√	-	
	u. Vivek Sangha TL (1950) - Jadavpur	A	68	-	√	√	

1951-1975	v. District Library (1956) - Bishnupur	A	62	-	√	-	3
	w. Sagar Town Library (1958) - Gangasagar	K	60	-	√	√	
	x. RKM Vivekbharati Path Bhawan (1965); Sarisha	D	53	-	√	√	
1976-2000	y. Stalin-Einstein Satabarshiki Smarak Pathagar (1979) - Diamond Harbour	D	39	-	√	-	2
	z. Baruipur TL (1981) - Baruipur	B	37	-	√	√	

Abbreviations: PL = Public Library; COL – Century-old Library; TL = Town Library; SDL = Sub-divisional Library; A = Alipore Sadar; B = Baruipur; C = Canning; D = Diamond Harbour and K = Kakdwip

Each library was assessed in both quantitative and qualitative aspects. Collected data were carefully analyzed and interpreted to fulfill the objectives of the present study.

4. Observations and Discussion

4.1 Inadequate Infrastructure

4.1.1 Staff Shortage

This is a common issue in most public libraries surveyed. In many cases, one person acts as ‘Librarian’ in two libraries. Even some lower level also was working in more than one library. Bandhav Library, Joynagar and Karanjali

Unnati Bidhayani Pathagar, Kulpi are closed because there are no staff members at present. Table 2 shows the current scenario of staff.

- *Staffing pattern for TL: Professional* (1 Librarian); *Semi-professional* (1 Lib. Assistant); **Non-professional** (1 Duftary cum Book Binder + 1 Durwan cum Night watchman)
- *Staffing pattern for DL: Professional* (1 Librarian) **Semi-professional** (2 Lib. Assistant) **Non-professional:** (2 Lib. Attendant + 1 Peon/Duftary cum Book Binder + 1 Driver + 1 Cleaner + 2 Durwan cum Night watchman)

Table 2. Ideal staffing pattern and current scenario

Category	Staff pattern and Name of the respective PLs					
All staff	None					
7 out of 10 staff	District Library (1 Librarian + 1 Lib. Assistant + 2 Lib. Attendant + 1 Peon/Duftary cum book binder + 1 Cleaner + 1 Durwan cum Night watchman)					
3 out of 4 staff	Brati Sangha Pathagar Baruipur TL					
2 out of 4 staff	With Librarian	Purandar Smriti Mandir Pathadar Baruipur PL ¹ Hemkali Pathagar ¹	Without Librarian	Baharu Shyamsundar PL ¹ Kodiala Haranath Binapani Library Prativa TL Rajpur Sadharan Pathagar		
1 out of 4 staff	Only Librarian	Joychandi Pathagar Deshgaurab Pathagar RKM Vivekbharati Path Bhawan ² Madarat Bandhav Pathagar ¹ Vidyabhusan Library	Only Librarian Assistant	Mudialy Library ¹ Behala TL ¹ Bakhrat PL & Free Reading Room Sarangabad Bandhav Library ¹ Sagar TL ³ Vivek Sangha TL	Only Gr. D Staff	Bandhav Library ¹ Stalin-Einstein Satabarshiki Smarak Pathagar Canning PL Barisha Sadharan Pathagar
No staff (closed)	Karanjali Unnati Bidhayani Pathagar					

¹ Additional charge; ² Extension of service after retirement; ³ Casual staff recruited

4.1.2 Inadequate space

Only a few TLs have spaces marked as 'Local History Section'. The District Library and the Baruiপুর Town Library have small spaces on the first floor of their library buildings, where LHCs are kept and marked. Kotalia Haranath Binapani Library, which is both a TL and a COL, has a beautiful museum on Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose on the first floor. Since Kotalia is the birthplace of Netaji and his ancestral house is just adjacent to this library, the museum carries much significance as LHC.

4.1.3 Poor Maintenance and Preservation

Since LHMs are rare and cannot be reproduced, utmost importance should be given to their proper preservation and maintenance. But most of the libraries do not have even minimum provision for that. Scattering of LHMs in different places in the library stack room, lack of awareness about their maintenance, absence of preservation initiatives, lack of proper knowledge about proper preservation media and maintenance procedures, etc. are the real issues.

4.2 Operational Drawbacks

4.2.1 Lack of Proper LH Collection Development Policy

Collection Development Policy (CDP) of a public library must include selection and collection of cultural material and other types of information for future generation. All the public libraries under study have a 'Library Committee' responsible for decision-making. In majority of the libraries, these committees are not properly constituted, and most of the members cannot take judicious decisions regarding the collection of local history materials because of lack of proper and adequate knowledge about the importance of this type of collection. In most of the libraries, there is no properly documented 'collection development policy' on local history. As a result, there is a major gap that hinders developing a full-fledged and effective CDP where LHC can get due importance.

4.2.2 Lack of Appropriate Knowledge about LHMs

Materials on local history can be of various kinds. The LHC of a public library at the town level should keep and

preserve most of these materials for its users. These may be categorized as follows:

- Documents of local interest viz. books, manuscripts, rare and out-of-print books, wills and deeds of local property transfer and associated registration documents, handbills, leaflets, pamphlets, etc.
- Minute-books and resolution books of meetings, account books, certificates of local administrative bodies; treatises, acts, writs and petitions, jury panels of local legal administrative bodies.
- Pictorial materials viz. postcards, still photographs, printed pictures, film and video strips, transparencies, posters, etc.
- Pictorial expressions like local maps, historic maps, map of the locality at ancient period, city plans, topographical prints, indicative diagrams for the local travel and tourism, charts, etc.
- Letters, diaries, personal memoirs, pictures and photographs of the local significant and famous persons.
- Different forms of art, art designs and drawings, artistic depictions made by local artists and craftsmen.
- Repository of newspaper clippings related to significant local events and collection of locally published newspapers.
- Physical and social geographical descriptions of the locality, information about local agricultural and animal resources, local industry-bases, description about local economic resources.
- Descriptions, evidences and all relevant information about local movements in historic and modern times, information produced through local formal and informal institutions.
- Oral history from people properly collected and preserved in user-friendly digital storage media.
- Family history or 'genealogy' of prominent persons who were either sons of the soil or became inhabitants due to some other reasons.

The present scenario of different categories of LHMs in the sample public libraries is presented in Table 3.

Table 3. Availability of LHMs in different categories of public libraries

LHMs	Category of PL			
	DL	SDL	TL	COL
Books	√	x	√	√
Souvenir	√	x	√	√
Manuscript	x	x	√	x
Local Magazine	x	x	√	x
Local. Bulletin	x	x	√	x
Local. News Tabloid	x	x	√	x
Leaflet	x	x	√	x
News paper clippings	x	x	√	x
Map	√	x	x	√
Photographs	x	x	√	x
Paintings	x	x	√	x
Relics/Sculptures	x	x	√	x
Artifacts	x	x	√	x
Spl. collection	x	x	√	√
Govt. plans & deeds	x	x	√	x
Total types	3	0	13	4

Present status of general and extension services related to LHC as retrieved from sample survey questionnaire (Table 4).

Table 4. General library services and extension services provided at sample public libraries

Category and names of PLs	Library Services					Extension Services					
	Lending	Reading	Reference	ILL	Referral	OPAC	Lecture & Talk	Rally	Exhibition	MLS	Leaflet distribution
District Library	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
RKM Vivekbharati Path Bhawan	No service (No users)					No service (No users)					
Mudialy Library	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
Bandhav Library	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
Rajpur Sadharan Pathagar	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
Behala Town Library	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√

Barisha Sadharan Pathagar	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
Prativa Town Library	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
Baharu Shyamsundar Public Library	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
Kotalia Haranath Binapani Library	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
Bakhrat Public Library & Free Reading Room	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
Sarangabad Bandhav Library	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
Canning Public Library	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
Baruipur Public Library	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
Brati Sangha Pathagar	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
Deshgaurab Pathagar	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
Vivek Sangha Town Library	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
Sagar Town Library	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
Stalin-Einstein Satabarshiki Smarak Pathagar	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
Baruipur Town Library	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
Hemkali Pathagar	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
Vidyabhusan Library	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
Purandar Smriti Mandir Pathadar	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
Joychandi Pathagar	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
Madarat Bandhav Pathagar	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
Karanjali Unnati Bidhayani Pathagar	No service (PL closed)					No service (PL closed)					

Abbreviations: ILL = Inter-Library Loan; MLS = Mobile Library Services; OPAC = Online Public Access Catalogue

4.3 Administrative Issues

4.3.1 Lack of Funds

The West Bengal Directorate of Library Services fixed the annual budget of public libraries in the district. According to this, the Government sponsored DL receives an annual grant of Rs. 85,500, a Government sponsored TL receives Rs. 25,500 and a Government sponsored Rural library receives Rs. 12,500 to run the entire activities throughout the year (source – <http://www.banglarginthagar.nic.in>). There are no special grants to support develop and maintain LHC in a public library. The break-up of annual grant is presented in the Table 5.

Table 5. Present break-up of annual grant (Rs.)

Sectors of allocation	Govt.-sponsored DL	Govt.-sponsored TL/SDL	Govt.-sponsored RL
Books	50,000	15,000	8,000
Mobile services	15,000	Nil	Nil
Furniture	5,000	3,000	1,500
Binding and preservation	5,000	2,500	1,000
Contingency	12,500	5,000	2,000
Total	87,500	25,500	12,500

5. Conclusions and Suggestions

The recommendations based on the observations made during the survey are:

- Most of the public libraries do not have a clear idea of what LHMs are. This is the major problem. Proper knowledge about LHMs should be provided through appropriate training programmes and workshops.
- A clear CDP should be adopted in every PL to build LHC.
- Every public library should have an active and working governing body so that administrative decisions regarding proper CDP can be taken.
- Majority of the libraries do not have proper infrastructure to maintain and display LHC. Adequate space for displaying LHMs, cataloguing system, etc. should be provided in every library.
- Preparation of district LHC at a glance/guide book to avoid duplication of LHMs in nearby

public libraries should be initiated. This can be a useful option for serving LH demands of users.

- Most of the libraries do not have minimum provisions for maintenance and preservation of invaluable LHMs. Utmost care should be taken in preservation policies.
- Digitization of LHMs is the need of the hour. No library has taken such initiative to keep its LHC alive. Proper initiative should be taken to train librarians of public libraries about digitization of library materials, particularly LHMs.
- Lack of fund is a major constraint to build LHC. This is also associated with administrative reluctance in this regard. Proper planning, policy formulation and execution, reform in budgetary allocation, etc. should be among the priorities.
- Almost all the libraries are suffering from severe staff shortage. Libraries either do not have librarians, or librarians are working in more than one library, or a peon-cum-night watchman is the only person to run a library, and so on. Adequate qualified staff should be recruited.
- Strategies to sensitize public library users about the importance of LH collection should be adopted.
- It is important involve LH experts (local historians) in training programmes and workshops for librarians, etc. to orient them.

6. Acknowledgement

Corresponding author is grateful to Mr. Rafik Sekh, Librarian, Shibnath Shastri Pathagar, Joynagar-Majilpur, South 24 Parganas, for his unconditional help and generous support throughout the survey work.

7. References

- Chattopadhyay, T. (2011). Local history collection: An important source of information, *SRELS Journal of Information Management*, 48, p. 695-702.
- Chen, H.H. (1999). Information creating library: The application of oral history (in Chinese), *Bulletin of Library and Information Science*, 30, p. 82-93.
- Choudhuri, K. (2013). Chabbish Pargana: Uttar-Dakshin-Sundarban. 3rd ed. Kolkata: Dey's Publishing House; 552p.

- Fellows, R. (1985). Local history and genealogy collection development, *APLA Bulletin*, 49, p. 9.
- Girvan, M. (1985) Art and design in the local history collection, *Art Libraries Journal*, 10, p. 52-54. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S030747220000420X>, <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0307472200004090>.
- Gorman, M. (2007). The wrong path and the right path: The role of libraries in access to, and preservation of, cultural heritage, *New Library World*, 108, p. 479-89. <https://doi.org/10.1108/03074800710838236>.
- Government of West Bengal (2009). District Human Development Report: South 24 Parganas. Development and Planning Department, West Bengal; 2009. 337p.
- Government of West Bengal (2009). District Statistical Handbook: South 24 Parganas. Bureau of Applied Economics and Statistics, West Bengal; 2009. 105p.
- Government of West Bengal (2011). District Census Handbook: South 24 Parganas. Directorate of Census Operations, Series 20: Part XII-B, West Bengal; 2011. 614p.
- Government of West Bengal (2018). Department of Mass Education Extension and Library Services. West Bengal Public Library Network. Govt. Sponsored Libraries of West Bengal. Accessed on 15.10.2018. Retrieved from: www.wbpublibnet.gov.in/sites/default/files/sites/default/files/uploads/district_library/gov_South24Pgs.pdf.
- Gregg, A. (2000). Planning and managing an oral history collection, *Australasian Public Libraries and Information Services*, 13, p. 173-79.
- Harden, J.J. (2001). Outreach: not out of reach or gardening tips for growing a local history repository from the ground up, *Colorado Libraries*, 27, p. 19-22.
- IFLA/UNESCO Public Library Manifesto (1994). Retrieved from <http://www.ifla.org/publications/iflaunesco-public-library-manifesto-1994>.
- Kappel, J. (1996). Local collections in Hungary: Problems and solutions of collection development, *Local Studies Librarian*, 15, p. 7-10.
- Kargbo J.A. (2007). Libraries and local history in Sierra Leone, *Library Review*, 56, p. 563-72. <https://doi.org/10.1108/00242530710775962>.
- Kojima, T. (1987). Local materials in public libraries (in Japanese), *Toshokan Zasshi/ Library Journal*. 81, p. 17-22.
- Kumar, K. (1992). Role of public libraries in the promotion of literacy, *Library Herald*, 30, p. 155-61.
- Leubbert, P. (1997). Information sources for local and family research, *Missouri Library World*, 2, p. 20-22.
- Mandal, K. (1999). Dakshin Chabbish Parganar bismrita adhyay. Kolkata: Naba Chalantika; 224p.
- Martin, M and Heath, A. (1994). Mainstreaming local studies: Integrating and automating intellectual management of local studies materials, *Australasian Public Libraries and Information Services*, 7, p. 29-44.
- McKether, W. (2011). Doing more with less: How a library expanded its oral history collection, *Behavioral and Social Sciences Librarian*, 30, p. 142-53. <https://doi.org/10.1080/01639269.2011.591277>.
- Nichols, M. (2012). Fostering family and local history in libraries: The Hawkesbury experience, *Australasian Public Libraries and Information Services*, 25, p. 66-70.
- O'Malley, L.S.S. (1914). Bengal District Gazetteers: 24 Parganas. Calcutta: The Bengal Secretariat Book Depot; 268p.
- Pearson, G. (1988). The development and role of local history collections in Australian public libraries. *Australasian Public Libraries and Information Services* 1. Retrieved from <http://search.proquest.com/docview/57149349?accountid=16284>.
- Petty, M.J. (1981). The role of the local studies library, *Local Historian*, 14, p. 460-67.
- Raju, A.A.N. (1985). Need for the development of local history collection at the District Central Libraries in Andhra Pradesh, *Herald of Library Science*, 24, p. 273.