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**RESOURCES AND INFORMATION  
SHARING OF LEGISLATION**

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## RESOURCES AND INFORMATION SHARING OF LEGISLATION

### CONCEPT OF RESOURCE AND INFORMATION SHARING

Resource and information sharing in its most positive aspect means reciprocity, in applying a partnership in which each member has something useful to share with others and which each is willing and able to make available when needed.

The contemporary concept of inter-institutional sharing of learning and other libraries resources in the context of consortia and network has become central focus of interest and activity of library and information authorities almost all over the world. The networks created to facilitate the exchange and co-operative use of publications have drawn their attention. The enter-prises of resources sharing is focused to an enhanced and easy access to information. The system stands as a mechanism for linking a patron with the required resource for the use of available knowledge.

The planning, organising and implementing a resource sharing network is inescapable in a developing economy like ours, since our resources are extremely limited. Its successful operation will ensure provision of convenient access to resources by users. It is an obvious consequence that resource sharing can not be accomplished unilaterally, rather it requires concerted effort of a number of libraries and entails changes in functions and attitudes on the part of users, librarians and administrators. It typically includes in application of procedure and technologies which exceeds the financial means of single libraries and required the commitment of nationally supported activities.

No library, however resourcesful it may be, can hope to be comprehensive and self-sufficient at any time. Even the library of Congress, the world's biggest library, is not self-sufficient. For many reason, no library can have all the literature which may be in demand by it's users. The advancement of knowledge and proliferation of printed materials have made it absert for any library to conceive

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of a self-dependend and self-subsisting library. There has been a tremendous increase in scientific and technical knowledge during the last few decades, so much so that, the phenomenon has been terned as "knowledge explosion". It is increasingly becoming difficult for a library, however large its resources may be, to acquire and maintain all reading materials to satisfy the needs of the readers. The modern concept of librarianship which stresses not on the volume of literature in a library, but the rapidity with which the library serves and disseminates knowledge has gained prominence since the mid-19th century.

Library cooperation basically means the sharing the resources and information of one library and making them available to the users of another library. Cooperation among libraries is essential in Bangladesh, because the resources of the country are limited. Dearth of foreign currency is a critical issue for the development of libraries and library services to meet the information needs of readers.

BANGLADESH PARLIAMENT

LIBRARY OPERATION AND SERVICES

In comparison to other Parliamentary Libraries in South Asia and no doubt other libraries in Bangladesh as well, the Parliament Library is a quite good one in most respect. It is served by nine professionally qualified staff. It is housed in very good space within the premises of Parliament House. By virtue of an Asia Foundation-sponsored modernisation programme of a decade age, has some useful equipments at hand. It's collection including book, newspaper, journals, parliamentary proceedings, manuals, gazettes and various govt. documents and reports are more than 70,000 volumes and it is well organised and maintained. Nonetheless, the library is facing many limitation in term of its capacity to meet the informations requirements of Members of Parliament. At present library mainly provides the reference & lending services to the members of Parliament as well as the officers & staff of the Parliament Secretariat. This library also provides the reference services to the officers of the other branches of government and the outside research workers. The library also provides photocopy service to its users.

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But the legislature of the parliamentary democracy is to watch the working of the various governmental and others institutions which are ultimately subordinate to its authority. Many of these institutions are now-a-days engaged in function of industrial, commercial, economic and even scientific & technological nature. It is therefore, necessary that the legislator should have

some specialised knowledge of this matters. Otherwise their scrutiny and spervision may not be affective. But it is neither possible nor it is expected that all legislators should have the special knowledge and expertise required of them for proper discharge of their duties. Many of them may have special knowledge in one or two subjects but it is too much to expect them to have specialised knowledge & upto date information on each and every matter that comes up for discussions in Parliament.

The everage legislation, in the midst of his multiferious duties to his constituents, has also neither the time nor the patience to do own study and research or to equipe himself for this task in Parliament. But in order to be effective, he must be in possession of, and receive continuously, relevant or right kind of information and statistics in good time and in precise form. At time he would need them at an unexpectedly short notice not only for a future debates but also while the debate is actually going on in the Hosue. He has also varying information needs. The information problem is therefore, not merely one of information supply or increasing the flow information; it is more a problem of selective information management.

But at present Parliament Library has no arrangement at all for providing any research service to the members. Majority of the Members are new-comers to Parliament. So that, they need for expert & specialist information and research services for them. Providing the means for Members of Parliament to be able to carry on informed

public debate and to effectively perform legislative work is a primary obligation of the Parliament Secretariat. To fulfill this mandate, the Research Section and Documentation Section is going to be established in conjunction

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with the library, to constitute the "Legislative Information Centre" under the on going Parliamentary Development Project sponsored by the Asia Foundation. Under the project the modernization of Library is comprised of four major facets,

- (i) expansion of reference & general information services and recruitment of additional staff & training of library, research & documentation staff.
- (ii) establishment & development of professional Cadre of research specialist, analyst for the provision of substantive legal and analytical assistance to members in the pursued their legislative work.
- (iii) the introduction of computer technology for indexing books, foreign documents, gazettes, parliamentary debates, daily bulletines, summeries of Sessions, bills, laws, articles of the newspaper & periodical, etc.
- (iv) introduction of vedio programme.

The biggest advantage to the sharing of resources among the libraries is the savings in a library's book and serials budget. Once established a system of borrowing and lending of book could

surely save money over purchasing and cataloging a book or the long-term commitment that comes with subscribing to serials. But in Bangladesh resource sharing could not come into reality yet due to the lack of computerization in most of the libraries of Bangladesh. By this time inter-library loan system has already been established here in small scale. But Parliament Library has the access to borrow or lend any publication from any library according to the requirement of the Members of Parliament, Parliamentary Committees and senior officials of the Parliament Secretariat.

Bangladesh Parliament Library has the reciprocal exchange programme with three countries like Australia, India and United Kingdom for last twenty years. In addition after the commentment of the 1st APLAP Conference in South

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Korea the Bangladesh Parliament Library is receiving some parliamentary publications from Australia and South Korea according to our discussions in the conference on the mutual exchange of our publications of the APLAP's Member Parliaments.

I firmly believe that we the member of APLAP can easily help each other and share our resources & information primarily through the exchange of our parliamentary publications and video cassettes on parliamentary & committee activities to fulfill the demand of our Members of Parliament as well as all other users of our libraries.