

University of Nebraska - Lincoln

**DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln**

---

Library Philosophy and Practice (e-journal)

Libraries at University of Nebraska-Lincoln

---

November 2018

# Public library development and its use as a part of culture in West Bengal: An analysis

Debabrata Maity

maitydebabrata6@gmail.com

Follow this and additional works at: <http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/libphilprac>



Part of the [Library and Information Science Commons](#)

---

Maity, Deabrata, "Public library development and its use as a part of culture in West Bengal: An analysis" (2018). *Library Philosophy and Practice (e-journal)*. 1927.

<http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/libphilprac/1927>

# **Public library development and its use as a part of culture in West Bengal: An analysis**

**Debabrata Maity, Librarian, Khejuri College, Baratala, Khejuri, Purba Medinipur**

**Email: maitydebabrata6@gmail.com**

**Abstract:** Culture as defined by Tylor is that complex whole including beliefs, art, religion, values, norms, ideas, law, taught, knowledge, custom and other capabilities acquired by a man as a member of a society. Culture is the totality of human experience acquired during transmission of heritage from one generation to another and to learn the ways of learning, eating, drinking, behaving, walking, dressing, and working etc.

The culture of Bengal encompasses the Bengal region in south Asia, mainly including Bangladesh and the Indian states of West Bengal, Tripura and Assam (Barak Valley), where the Bengali language is the official and primary language. Nineteenth-century (mainly the period of Raja Ram Mohan Roy to Rabindranath Tagore) having a great concentration of scholars, social and religious reformers, scientists, literary giants, patriotic orators etc. brought renaissance in Bengal and transform it from the 'medieval' to the 'modern'. Social reformers established many libraries as community learning space started with The Calcutta Public Library, in the year 1836, the first modern public library in South Asia. From that era role of public library and its purpose of use have changed time to time. A brief description has given about the public library movement and the changes of public library use in the cultural context of present West Bengal.

**Keywords:** Public library and culture – West Bengal, public library development in West Bengal, Public library in West Bengal – changing scenario

## **1 Introduction:**

The word 'culture' is used in noun or verb sense has its root on the Latin word 'colere' means 'tend, cultivate' ("Culture," 2018). Along with some other disciplines of humanities and social sciences (used mainly in noun sense), sociology and anthropology have great provision to deal with human culture as a part of curricula as well as scope of study. In context of social science culture includes people's life style which being well shaped by their thinking, acting and the materials surrounding them. Culture mainly has two types - non-material culture or material culture. "The concept of material culture covers the physical expressions of culture, such as technology, architecture and art, whereas the immaterial aspects of culture such as principles of social organization (including practices of political organization and social institutions), mythology, philosophy, literature (both written and oral), and science comprise the intangible cultural heritage of a society" (Macdonis & Gerber, 2011, p. 53). Sir Edward Burnett Taylor, an English anthropologist defined "Culture or Civilization, taken in its wide ethnographic sense, is that complex whole which includes knowledge, belief, art, morals, law, custom, and any other capabilities and habits acquired by man as a member of society" (Edward, 1871, v.1, p.1).

Culture of Bengal means the culture of those regions where mother tongue of native people is Bengali. Bengali is the official and primary language in Bangladesh and within India it covers West Bengal, Tripura and Assam (mainly in Barak Valley). Some people of Bihar, Orissa and Andaman and Nicobar Islands also use Bengali language as their basic communicating language.

According to James B. Minahan (Minahan, 2012) Bengal has a recorded history of 1400 years and it was the richest part of Medieval India and hosted the subcontinent's most advanced political and cultural centers during the British Raj. Nineteenth-century (mainly the period of Raja Ram Mohan Roy to Rabindranath Tagore) having a great concentration of scholars, social and religious reformers, scientists, literary giants, patriotic orators etc. brought renaissance in Bengal and transform it from the 'medieval' to the 'modern'. During the independence era undivided Bengal Province was divided into East and West by the British ruler. Eastern part came to known as East Pakistan, later as Bangladesh and from the date of independence of India (15<sup>th</sup> August, 1947) the Western part was attached with India as a state of it naming as West Bengal. Social reformers established many libraries as community learning space started with The Calcutta Public Library, in the year 1836, the first modern public library in South Asia. From that era role of public library and its purpose of use have changed time to time. In this paper, within the political area of modern West Bengal a brief description has given about the public library development and discussion has made about the timely changes of public library use in cultural context of the Bengal community.

## **2 Public library in brief:**

Ranganathan defined public library as "A library owned and maintained by the public of its area for the socialization of its books and kindred materials for free service to the people of the area" ((Ranganathan, 1950, p. 274) .The definition, aims and objectives of public library has been clearly identified time to time by IFLA through its Public Library Manifesto (3<sup>rd</sup> version in 1994, originally framed in 1949 and revised in 1972) and various publications. As per the Manifesto "the public library, the local gateway to knowledge, provides a basic condition for lifelong learning, independent decision- making and cultural development of the individual and social groups" (IFLA, 2016, p. 1).

## **3 Public library development in West Bengal - brief history:**

At earlier period of Indian history including Bengal teaching was an act of oration. There were very few hand-written documents that were made by mainly written on palm leaf. Students like to go 'Gurukul' for learning. So existence of library was an imagination. Some people liked to store 'punthi' for their personal property and use.

### **3.1 Up to 18<sup>th</sup> century:**

Though before the British, the Dutch and the Portuguese came to Bengal and started a change in socio-economic condition of India, but settlement of the English in Bengal in and around 1690 strongly helped to spread of modern western education and to develop public library in Bengal and later to India (Majumder, 2008). Hick's Gazette and Calcutta Gazette inform us about the existence of a few circulation and subscription libraries in Calcutta for the British settlers. A. K. Ohdedar in his book, *The growth of the library in modern India 1498-1836* has provided information about some libraries at the period of early British rule. In the Old Fort a circulation library was run by Mr. John Andrews; there was two circulating libraries in Calcutta, one was run by Mr. Shakell and the other by Messrs, Macdonald and Arnot (Ohdedar, 1966). In 1787 these two libraries were purchased by one Messrs. Cock, Maxwell & Co. and a big general library was opened under the name 'Calcutta Circulating Library'

(Ohdedar, 1966). The Protestant Missionaries came to Bengal during the 18<sup>th</sup> century had also developed their own libraries for preaching purposes.

### 3.2 Nineteenth century to independence era:

Bengali renaissance started with Raja Ram Mohan Roy (1772–1833) and ended with Rabindranath Tagore (1861–1941) had a unique blend of religious and social reformers, scholars, literary giants, journalists, patriotic orators and scientists, which marked the transition from the 'medieval' to the 'modern' ("Bengali Renaissance," n.d.). The first phase of Calcutta's emergence as an intellectual centre was completed by the foundation of three renowned institutions namely, The Calcutta Madrasah in 1781, Asiatic Society in 1784 and Fort William College in 1800. Calcutta (now Kolkata) was the national headquarters for colonial British rulers up to 1911. During that period many public libraries were established in which some libraries by only community effort, some by colonial rulers or by support from local zamindars (royal families), social reformer and intellectual personalities which largely helped educated youth, neo-literate to enrich knowledge and provide continuous education. Uttarpara Joykrishna Public Library, established in 1854 by Joykrishna Mukhopadhyay became first free public library in Asia from 15<sup>th</sup> April, 1859. According to Anup Kumar Das, "Public libraries became a community space for social functions, intercultural interactions, debating on contemporary issues, and sometimes with political motives of raising awareness against the governing practices and abuses of the British colonial rulers" (Das, 2015, p. 371).

With the help of list of century-old libraries in West Bengal available at the West Bengal Public Library Network's website Das explains that most of the century-old libraries are concentrated in Calcutta (28.7% share) and its surrounding districts- Hooghly (18.8% share), Howrah (14.9% share) and undivided 24 Parganas District (21.8% share) as parallel to the same districts where Bengal Renaissance mostly centred. Century-old libraries also exist in Murshidabad, Bankura, Birbhum, Burdwan, Coochbehar, Malda, Nadia, East Medinipur and West Medinipur district (Das, 2015).

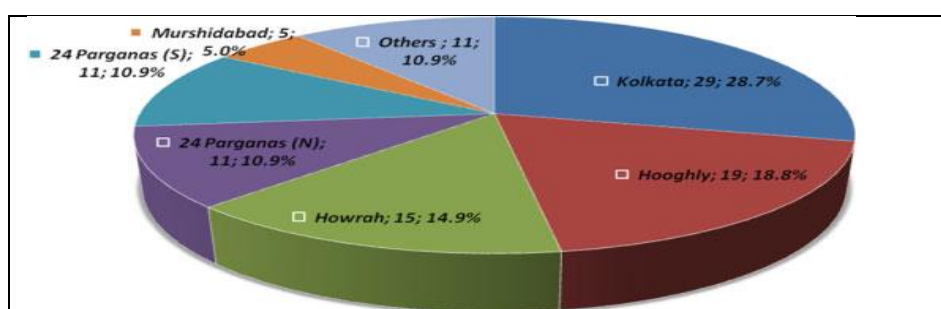
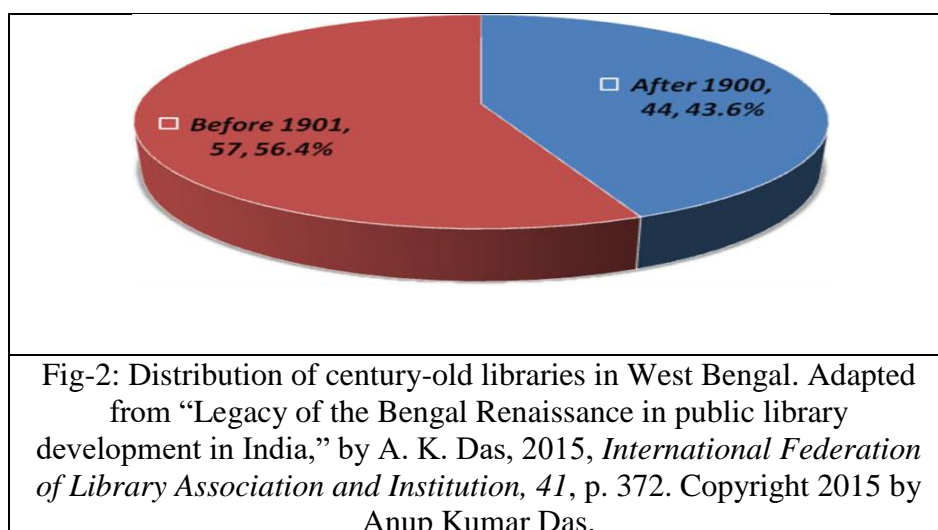


Fig-1: Distribution of century-old libraries in West Bengal. Adapted from "Legacy of the Bengal Renaissance in public library development in India," by A. K. Das, 2015, *International Federation of Library Association and Institution*, 41, p. 371. Copyright 2015 by Anup Kumar Das.



Following are some important factors for public library development in Bengal:

### 3.2.1 Calcutta Library Society:

Calcutta Library Society was established in an around 1818 mainly to serve British resident settled in Calcutta. It had very little contact with the local community. The library was closed at least 15 years of functioning (Roychoudhury, 1989).

### 3.2.2 Calcutta Public Library (CPL):

Being established in 1836 Calcutta Public Library was the first public library in India, which was run on a proprietary basis. Any subscriber paying Rs. 300 at one time or in three instalments was considered a proprietor (both Indian and European). Dwarkanath Tagore was the first proprietor of Calcutta Public Library. Poor students and others were allowed to use the library free of charge for a specified period of time. It is important to highlight that “Such a tidy and efficiently run library was rare in Europe during the first half of the nineteenth century” (National Library of India, n.d., Calcutta Public Library, Para. 2). After the 1857 the Europeans lost interest in the library and its condition deteriorated to a great extent. Lord Curzon, the then Viceroy of Bengal purchased its collection and merged it with the Imperial Library in 1903 (Nair, 2004).

### 3.2.3 The Imperial Library (IL) and amalgamation of CPL and IL:

In the year 1891 The Imperial Library was founded by combining a number of Secretariat libraries. Among these, the library of the Home Department was more important, which contained many books formerly belonging to the libraries of East India College, Fort William and the East India Board in London. The library was restricting in access only for the superior officers of the Government (National Library of India, n.d.).

In the early years of the twentieth century, Lord Curzon, Governor General of India thought to open a library in Calcutta for public use and he found that the IL and CPL were not used as expected because of their limited access and lack of amenities, which directed him to merge the collection of CPL with IL, subject to certain terms. The new library, also called Imperial Library, was formally opened to the public on 30 January, 1903 at Metcalf Hall, Calcutta. After Independence the Government of India changed the name of the Imperial Library to the

National Library with the enactment of The Imperial Library (Change of Name) Act, 1948 (National Library of India, n.d.).

### **3.2.4 Bengal Library Association:**

Establishment of Bengal Library Association had great influence in public library movement not only in Bengal but within whole country. At Albert Hall, Calcutta a meeting was held on 20<sup>th</sup> December, 1925 presided by J. A. Chapman, librarian of the then Imperial Library. The meeting ended with the formation of Bengal Library Association with Rabindranath Tagore as its first president.

### **3.2.5 Influence of some important movements:**

#### **➤ Brahma Samaj movement:**

On 20 August, 1828, The Brahma Samaj was started by Raja Ram Mohan Roy and Debendranath Tagore. The Brahma Samaj movement, a part of the first wave of religious reform movements marked the beginning of the Bengal Renaissance in the Indian subcontinent. Many eminent writers and educationalist including Rabindranath Tagore were born in Brahma families. Many important schools and colleges were founded by the Brahma Samaj in British colonial rule and later in 20<sup>th</sup> century. Many public and academic libraries adjoining educational institutions were established by the core members of Brahma Samaj surrounding Calcutta. The Sadharan Brahma Samaj Library, founded in 1895 became a prominent public library in Calcutta (Das, 2015). According to Kopf, the Brahma Samaj continues to influence eastern India, helping to construct a library based society, educating and preparing citizens with liberal minds (Kopf, 1979).

#### **➤ Ramakrishna Mission movement:**

This movement was part of second wave of religious reform movement during the part of late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Ramakrishna Mission is named after Ramakrishna Paramahansa and founded by Ramakrishna's chief disciple Swami Vivekananda ("Ramakrishna Mission," n.d.). It is an Indian socio-religious organisation which forms the core of a worldwide spiritual movement known as the Ramakrishna Movement or the Vedanta Movement. The Mission is affiliated with the monastic organisation Ramakrishna Math founded by Ramakrishna Paramahansa himself in Kolkata, India. Both these twin organisation have headquarter at Belur Math, Howrah and members are share between 'Two'. Same as Brahma Samaj movement new educational institutes were set up by the followers of Ramakrishna Movement and public libraries and academic libraries adjoining to academic institute were set up with the aim of spreading the teachings and spiritual philosophy of Ramakrishna-Vivekananda and other reformers of Bengal Renaissance. According to a statistic of the year 2013, Ramakrishna Mission maintains 269 libraries including 140 public libraries and 129 school/college libraries in its different branch centres across India (Ramakrishna Mission, 2013, as cited in Das, 2015).

#### **➤ Influence of Swadeshi movement:**

L. M. Bhole in his book *Essays on Gandhian Socio-Econic* has identified five phases of the Swadeshi movement, in which first three phases (first phase -1850 to 1904, second phase - 1905 to 1917, third phase - 1918 to 1947) are up to the year of Indian independence and later two phases (forth phase -1948 to 1991, fifth phase -1991 onwards) included to post independence era (Bhole, 2000, as cited in "Swadeshi Movement," n.d.). Swadeshi Movement was a nationalist movement in British colonial rule. Many young people

participated in the movement following the principles of *swadeshi* (i.e. self sufficiency). Second phase of the movement started due to the announcement of the partition of Bengal in 1905 by Lord Curzon, the Viceroy of India. During the Swadeshi movement of British colonial rule many secret societies were founded in Bengal and they maintained their own libraries for motivating young people to take part in freedom struggle. The Calcutta Anushilan Samiti had a library of 4000 books and Mymensingh Suhrid Samiti had a good library collection, out of which a list of 230 titles was preserved in the home political files of the colonial government (Sarkar, 1973).

➤ **Influence of some educational and research institutes:**

It is hard to say that there was direct impact of contemporary educational institute and their adjoining libraries on public library movement. But especially the spiritual academic institutes with adjoining academic libraries helped to form the foundation of secular western education which hurried Bengal Renaissance and helped to bring socio-economic and religious changes in Bengal. Such of important institutes are highlighted here. Among the multidisciplinary academic institutes establishment of the Calcutta Madrasah in 1781, Asiatic society in 1784, Fort William College in 1800, Hindoo College in 1817, Serampore college in 1818, Sanskrit College in 1824, General Assembly's Institution (now Scottish Church College) in 1830, Hoogly Mohsin Collage in 1836, University of Calcutta on 24 January, 1857 and St. Xavier's college in 1860 etc., had great importance in Bengal educative society. On the other hand establishment of some special institutes with its libraries e.g. Botanical Garden in 1786, Calcutta Medical College in 1835, Geological Survey of India in 1851, Bengal Engineering College in 1856 and Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science in 1876 are also important to mention.

### **3.3 After independence era:**

➤ **West Bengal Public Library Act:**

One of the major important landmarks in West Bengal public library development is *The West Bengal Public Libraries Act, 1979*. Though in 1931 Kumar Munindra Deb Roy with the help of Dr. S. R. Ranganathan drafted a bill for Bengal and continuous efforts were made under the leadership of Bengal Library Association to introduce Public Library Bill in the legislature, but it took thirty two years after independence when West Bengal Assembly passed the Act. The Act has further been amended in 1982, 1985, 1993, 1994, 1998 and 2003. By the act a detailed provisions has given to establish new public libraries and to regulate, guide, control and supervise libraries as also to provide for a comprehensive rural and urban library and information service in the State of West Bengal (Government of West Bengal, Mass Education Extension Department, Directorate of Library Services, 2003).

➤ **Current scenario:**

As per the information available at the website of West Bengal Public Library Network (WBPLN), public libraries are listed into three categories i.e. Govt. library (12 libraries), Govt. Aided library (7 libraries) and Govt. Sponsored library with 2459 libraries (Government of West Bengal, Department of Mass Education Extension & Library Services, West Bengal Public Library Network, n.d.). Table-1 shows district-wise distribution of Govt. Sponsored libraries. It is also found from the table that 824 and 974 public libraries were established during the time span of 1940-1959 and 1960-1979 respectively, where as only two libraries were founded after 1999. The State Central Library is the apex of West Bengal public library system. Besides this, other libraries are of mainly four levels i.e. district library,

sub divisional library, town or upgraded town library and rural or gramian or area or primary unit library. There are also some club, class or society libraries especially in Kolkata e.g. Gopal Nagar K. M. A. Club & Library, Lebutala Dipressed Classes League Pathagar and MD. Hanif Memorial Urdu Literacy Society & Library etc.

Table-1: District-wise distribution of Govt. Sponsored public libraries in West Bengal

Name of the District	Establishment Year							Data Not Avail-able	Level				No of Total Libr-ary
	Up to 19 <sup>th</sup> cent-ury	1900	1920	1940	1960	1980	2000		Dist-ri-ct	Sub Div.	Town / Upg-raded Town	Rural / Prim-ary Unit	
Darjeeling	-	-	-	11	69	16	-	3	-	2	4	93	99
Jalpaiguri	-	1	1	36	60	11	-	1	2	-	9	99	110
Cooch Behar	-	1	2	32	60	13	-	1	-	-	8	101	109
Uttar Dinajpur	-	-	2	14	19	19	-	-	-	1	3	50	54
Dakshin Dinajpur	1	1	-	19	30	6	-	-	1	-	4	52	57
Malda	-	2	8	32	52	11	-	-	1	-	8	96	105
Murshidabad	1	5	9	42	72	16	-	13	1	3	8	146	158
Birbhum	-	3	6	31	21	62	-	1	1	1	9	113	124
Burdwan	1	4	22	89	81	13	-	2	3	3	18	188	212
Nadia	-	3	6	46	44	9	-	2	1	-	9	100	110
Hoogly	8	20	20	63	40	7	-	-	1	-	22	135	158
Howrah	6	11	13	68	35	2	1	-	1	2	10	123	136
Kolkata	1	5	12	32	24	13	-	9	-	-	8	88	96
North 24 Pgs	2	12	14	64	73	54	-	2	1	-	38	182	221
South 24 Pgs	3	11	19	45	62	16	-	-	1	-	18	137	156
Purba Medinipur	-	3	2	46	53	17	-	-	1	1	5	114	121
Paschim Medinipur	-	-	3	55	68	29	1	2	1	2	13	142	158
Bankura	-	2	8	49	43	28	-	-	1	1	6	122	130
Purulia	-	-	1	43	53	20	-	-	1	1	4	111	117
SPM Area-Darjeeling	-	-	-	7	15	6	-	-	1	1	3	23	28
Total	23	84	148	824	974	368	2	36	19	18	207	2215	2459

#### 4 Public library use in West Bengal- changing scenario:

Though the main purpose of modern public library is to meet the information needs of local community, but in Bengal accessory purposes of public library development and its use has evolved through some significant changes due to large impact from political, social and religious movement. Before the progress of printing industry in India books are mainly written on palm leaf. So making of a single copy of book was a patient and time taking job, which clearly indicates the cause of absence of public library. Few hand written books were collected by royal families or stored under the superintendence of religious institutions. The art of printing first started in India in 1556 and in Bengal it started in Hoogly in 1778. The Serampore Mission Press (1800-1837) established by William Carey and other Baptist missionaries had great impact in producing many books in earlier decades of nineteen



century. Books were published almost in forty five languages and near to 212,000 books were published during the period of 1800-1832. It also published first Bengali newspaper *Samachar Darpan* from 1818 ("Serampore Mission Press," n.d.).

At the initial stage of library development in Bengal a few circulation and subscription libraries were started only for British settlers. Preaching was an important issue that helped to progress public library's existence and activities. The Protestant Missionaries developed libraries for preaching. Bengal origin religious issues including Brahmo Samaj movement, Ramkrishna Mission movement etc attracted people to use public libraries for getting religious instructions. Many libraries were developed by the concerned propagators having a major aim of preaching. During the period of Swadeshi movement public libraries became centre of inspiring young people against the British. *Anandamath* written by Bankim Chandra Chattopahyay in 1882 created a background for Sannyasi rebellion. Peoples are inspired by the politicians to read books on socio-political movement, political leaders' biography, radical movements, radical ideologies etc. Establishment of CPL in 1836 and enactment of the Public Libraries Act 1850 by the British put deep impact on Indian educated people that resulted in the establishment of public libraries as a trend of that period. Some libraries were devoted as a wing of local club or social associations or societies. Burrabazar Family Literary Club (1857), Mahomedan Literature Society (1863), Hindu Literary Society (1876), Bagbazar Reading Library (1883) were of some the new libraries having good reading room facility for Indian users.

At modern age one of the major reasons for using public library in West Bengal is to get opportunities for self education. Due to the progress of ICT people's reading habit is changing towards e-resources and public libraries are at present termed as 'Knowledge Centre', 'Information Kiosk' and 'Community Information Centre'. To meet the changing needs initiations have taken by WBPLN to create online union catalogue and digitization of rare books. State Central Library is now connected in internet with some district and town libraries. Libraries are changing to hybrid in nature having both printed and digital resource. To help the students few district libraries has started career guidance coaching programme. Digital archive of rare books has been made for scholar and interested people and through its online portal WBPLN is disseminating people's life and livelihood related information from various government departments (Government of West Bengal, Department of Mass Education Extension & Library Services, West Bengal Public Library Network, n.d.).

## 5 Conclusions:

Public libraries are all time treated as social institutions and well known as people's university that developed by the concept of 'for the people, by the people and of the people'. As a knowledge dissemination centre it provides 'right knowledge to the right people in the right place at the right time'. People from a whole community can use public library to meet their different information needs. Like other cultural institutions such as museum, archives, art galleries etc. public libraries also bring effective changes in competences, attitude, behaviour and skills of its users. It serves society as an auxiliary educational institution and preserves materials of cultural importance for future generation. But the focal point of this discussion is that whether public library development and its use should be treated as a part of human culture or not. From the earlier stages of its progress in Bengal, it is found that public libraries came into existence keeping in view of some important needs of contemporary society and it has been changed from a store house of some handwritten and printed books to

a information dissemination centre holding various type of resources, from restricted access to whole community access, from a proprietary and subscription based institute to a open access institute and its use has moved through as knowledge cultivation centre, preaching centre or centre with political and patriotic activity in past to community information centre, non-formal education centre and centre with cultural heritage etc., at present. It can be said that habit of library use is nothing but a part of life style and development of public library can be treated as a good indicator of progressive society. In this context, development and use of public library must be treated as a part of human culture.

## Reference:

Bengali renaissance. (n.d.) In *Wikipedia*. Retrieved April 1, 2018, from [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bengali\\_renaissance](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bengali_renaissance)

Culture. (2018). In *English Oxford Living Dictionaries*. Retrieved from <https://en.oxforddictionaries.com/definition/culture>

Das, A. K. (2015). Legacy of the Bengal renaissance in public library development in India. *International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions*, 41(4). Retrieved from [https://www.ifla.org/files/assets/hq/publications/ifla-journal/ifla-journal-41-4\\_2015.pdf](https://www.ifla.org/files/assets/hq/publications/ifla-journal/ifla-journal-41-4_2015.pdf)

Edward, T. (1871). *Primitive culture: Research into the developent of mythology, philosophy, religion, art and custum*. London: John Murray.

Government of West Bengal, Department of Mass Education Extension & Library Services, West Bengal Public Library Network. (n.d.). Library list. Retrieved April 5, 2018, from <http://www.wbpublibnet.gov.in/>

Government of West Bengal, Mass Education Extension Department, Directorate of Library Services. (2003). *The West Bengal Public Libraries Act, 1979 (With Amendments 1982, 1985, 1993, 1994, 1998 and 2003)*. Retrieved April 4, 2018, from [http://www.wbpublibnet.gov.in/sites/default/files/sites/default/files/sites/default/files/uploads/pdf/library\\_act.pdf](http://www.wbpublibnet.gov.in/sites/default/files/sites/default/files/sites/default/files/uploads/pdf/library_act.pdf)

IFLA. (2016, September). *IFLA/UNESCO Public Library Manifesto 1994*. Retrieved April 1, 2018, from <https://www.ifla.org/publications/iflaunesco-public-library-manifesto-1994?og=49>

Kopf, D. (1979). *The Brahmo Samaj and the Shaping of the Modern Indian Mind*. New Delhi, Atlantic

Macionis, J. J., & Gerber, L. M. (2011). *Sociology* (7th Canadian ed.). Toronto: Pearson Prentice Hall.

Majumdar, K. (2008). *Paschimbange sadharan granthagar vyabasthar prasar o Bangiya Granthagar Parisad (in Bengali) [Development of public library services in West Bengal and bengal Library Association]*. Kolkata: Bengal Library Association.

Minahan, J. B. (2012). *Ethnic Groups of South Asia and the Pacific: An encyclopedia*. Santa Barbara, Calif: ABC-CLIO.

Nair, P. T. (2004). *Origin of the National Library of India*. Kolkata: The National Library.

National Library of India. (n.d.). Historical background. Retrieved April 1, 2018, from [http://www.nationallibrary.gov.in/nat\\_lib\\_stat/history.html](http://www.nationallibrary.gov.in/nat_lib_stat/history.html)

Okdedar, A. K. (1966). *The growth of the library in modern india 1498-1836*. Calcutta: World Press.

Ramakrishna Mission. (n.d.). In *Wikipedia*. Retrieved April 5, 2018, from [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ramakrishna\\_Mission](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ramakrishna_Mission)

Ranganathan, S. R. (1950). *Library Development Plan: Thirty Years Programmes for India, with Draft Library Bills for the Union and the Constituent States*. Delhi: University of Delhi Press.

Roychoudhury, P. (1989). Public library development in West Bengal. In R. K. Saha (Ed.), *Library movement in India*. Calcutta: Bengal Library Association.

Sarkar, S. (1973). *The Swadeshi Movement in Bengal, 1903–1908*. New Delhi: People's Publishing House.

Serampore Mission Press. (n.d.). In *Wikipedia*. Retrieved April 5, 2018, from [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Serampore\\_Mission\\_Press](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Serampore_Mission_Press)

Swadeshi movement. (n.d.). In *Wikipedia*. Retrieved April 4, 2018, from [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Swadeshi\\_movement](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Swadeshi_movement)