INTRODUCING THE
South Asia Archive

Uncover the history of South Asia as you’ve never seen it before with digital access to 4.5 million pages of research materials

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The South Asia Archive

Instant access to a wealth of content

Introducing the South Asia Archive, the largest online resource for South Asian studies scholars, lecturers and students.

Through the digitization of 4.5 million pages of research material spanning the Indian sub-continent, the South Asia Archive provides quick and easy access to a large collection of research documents.

A truly interdisciplinary resource, the South Asia Archive spans the Humanities and Social Sciences – from economics, politics and law, indology, archaeology and anthropology, to cultural studies, history and education.

Keep reading to discover more…

FREE TRIAL

If you would like a closer look at the South Asia Archive, you can register to receive a 30-day free trial for your institution at:

www.southasiaarchive.com

This archival information which was lost to the people of India will come alive because of this project and millions of researchers across the world will now be able to access this information.

Kapil Sibal, Indian Minister of Communications and IT
At a Glance

Spanning the period of the mid-18th to mid-20th century, the South Asia Archive brings together documents from across the Indian sub-continent, including India, Pakistan, Burma, Afghanistan, and Bangladesh. Documents are in a mix of English and vernacular languages, with 15% of the Archive’s content comprising material written primarily in Bengali, although also including some content in Sanskrit. The Archive is incredibly diverse in its reach, with materials of interest to those studying across all main areas of the Humanities and Social Sciences.

Importantly, the Archive was compiled by a team of expert editors, ensuring it contains only the content that will be most valuable to researchers. Many of the texts in the Archive are rare and may not be familiar to many readers. With this in mind, expert commentaries have been provided for all serials to help guide users, enabling them to feel confident as they expand their research.
Content Highlights

With 4.5 million pages of content across such diverse subject areas, the South Asia Archive has something for almost everyone to get excited about. Given this huge scope, any selection of ‘stellar’ content is highly subjective in nature. However, to attempt to illustrate the types of documents included in the Archive, below are highlighted documents from some of the key publication types.

1. Journals and Serial Publications


2. Rare Books

- Over 1500 books, including series such as ‘The Bibliotheca Indica’, a collection of oriental works published by the Asiatic Society of Bengal. You will also find translations of the ‘Upanishads’, commentaries on Sanskrit grammatical, philosophical and legal treatises.
- Subjects are varied, with books on everything from religion and literature to law and agriculture.
3. Reports

- Thousands of reports and proceedings from colonial and post-colonial India, including volumes of the 1901, 1911, 1931 and 1951 Indian Census documents, incorporating the provinces of Burma, Bengal, Assam, and Bombay among others.
- Again, a broad range of subjects are covered which include archaeology, industry, parliamentary debates and concerns, and law case reports.
- Reports include the near complete set of the Calcutta Riots of 1946 and gazetteers from a range of districts and territories, providing a fascinating insight into colonial India.

4. Legislations, Acts, Regulations

- A varied collection of documentation from the colonial period, invaluable for any work on colonial Indian history.
- Includes a large number of proceedings from across a range of Indian Government departments.

As research and scholarship enter the digital age, the South Asia Archive provides one of the biggest breakthroughs ever for those in the field, especially at a time when there is so much rising concern about the future of the physical archives in the subcontinent.

Emeritus Professor Brian Stoddart, Former Vice-Chancellor of La Trobe University, Australia

If you would like more detail about the publications included in the Archive, please email: support@southasiaarchive.com or contact your sales representative.
Featured Themes

The rich collection of material allows for exploration and research across the following themes:

Partition/Independence
- Periodicals and journals providing contemporary reaction (‘Calcutta Gazette’, ‘All India Reporter’, ‘The Eastern Economist’ etc.).
- The Act of Indian Independence itself.
- Documents relating to the wider partition of the region, for instance Bengal.

Crime, Riot and Resistance
- Reports and documents relating to the running and condition of prisons throughout India and Bengal.
- A variety of law journals including the ‘All India Reporter’.
- Texts of the Tagore Law Lectures.
- Documents relating to the Calcutta Riots of 1947.

Colonial Knowledge and Colonial Governance
- Manuals for civil servants (e.g. ‘Manual For the Guidance of Officers of the Excise and Salt Department’ or ‘A Manual for the Guidance of Officers in the Partition of Estates’).
- Reports of government departments, including in commerce, agriculture and shipping.
- 1941 Indian Census.

Print and the Production of Culture
- Proceedings of Calcutta literary society.
- Copies of significant literary journals of the day, including early examples of Bengali journals Masik Basumat and Bharatbarsa.
- Fully digitised copies of a number of contemporary novels.

Religious and Moral Discourse
- Extensive issues of ‘Modern Review’ 1907-1953.
- Various reports including the ‘Report of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Committee, United Provinces’.

Constructions of Colonial Development
- The annual reports of the Ministry of Industry and Supply, and the Department of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics.
Gender and Society in Colonial India: Race, Education and Reform

- A number of reports on women’s education, including ‘Central Advisory Board of Education. Report of the Women’s Education Committee on primary education of girls in India, 1936’, ‘Development of Female Education in England and Utilization of Western Methods of Education in Bengal’.
- A run of the journal ‘The Journal of the National Indian Association, In Aid of Social Progress in India (1881-1884)’.

The Archive benefits from:

- 4.5 million pages of interdisciplinary content.
- A streamlined, user-friendly platform designed to aid quick content discovery.
- Advanced search functionality designed to help users find what they’re looking for in the fewest possible clicks.
- Large quantities of English-language material from all across the Indian sub-continent to sit alongside a large proportion of Bengali content.
- Sophisticated search term highlighting within documents, helping users discover the most relevant content.
- Ability to create personalized reading lists with live hyperlinks to be circulated to colleagues or students.
- A fast and simple document download process.
- Expert commentaries providing context and guidance for all serial publications.
- Sophisticated image viewing options giving users the flexibility to zoom in and out and skip between images as required.
- Potential for users to submit their own keywords and commentaries for documents within the Archive.
The South Asia Archive is a remarkable collection of documents, pamphlets, books, and journals on modern South Asia. The depth and diversity of this collection will be welcomed not only by scholars of the region; it will also be an asset to any university or college wanting to develop South Asian studies as an academic option for their students and faculty.

Professor Dipesh Chakrabarty, University of Chicago, USA

Supporting research and study in:
- Agriculture and Environment
- Anthropology and Archaeology
- Cinema and Media Studies
- Civilizational Studies
- Commerce and Industry
- Development
- Education
- Gender
- Government, Politics and Public Policy
- History
- Indology
- Language and Linguistics
- Law
- Literature and Fiction
- Religion and Philosophy
- Science, Technology and Medicine
- Sport, Leisure and Tourism
- The Arts and Art History
- Urban Studies

Publication types include:
- Journals and Gazeteers
- Reports and Proceedings
- Books
- Legislations, Acts, Regulations, Law Books/Cases
- Film Ephemera, Maps, Manuals
Enabling Research

When it comes to the availability of online historical resources, South Asian studies has, relative to studies in Western cultures, been poorly served. The South Asia Archive helps to transform research by making valuable sources accessible to the global scholarly community. It offers researchers:

- Instant access to an unparalleled volume of material, much of which was previously unavailable or could only be accessed through extensive travel and laborious searching through a multitude of physical archives.
- The opportunity to explore new lines of inquiry outside of traditional fields of research due to the diversity found within the collection.
- A unique indexing system which provides a superior level of searchability, enabling content to be scrutinized in more complex and sophisticated ways.
- User accounts from which to manage personal information, access saved searches and reading lists, and submit keywords and commentaries for moderation.
- Tools for cross-referencing material within the same collection via related content searches.

Choice Review, January 2014

This digital archive will prove an invaluable resource to those studying South Asian (specifically Bengali) history, particularly because of its helpful and relatively consistent organizational scheme. Summing up:

Highly recommended. Lower level undergraduates and above

VANI NATARAJAN, BARNARD COLLEGE
Supporting Librarians

Routledge provides a range of training and support options to help you and your institution get the most out of the South Asia Archive, including:

- Online training demonstrations and webinars for librarians and end users.
- Advice on incorporating the Archive into your collection using Marc 21.
- Access to simple administrative tools to manage institutional user rights.
- Counter compliant database reports and SUSHI protocol are available and supported, allowing librarians to monitor site usage.
- Internal marketing materials and support including posters, promotional cards and email templates.
- Guidance on how to ensure that the site portal displays your institution’s name and branding.

Contact your Routledge representative for further information, or visit [www.southasiaarchive.com](http://www.southasiaarchive.com)

Supporting Learning

Designed to operate as a teaching resource, the South Asia Archive is the ideal way to introduce undergraduates to research materials. It also affords postgraduate and doctoral students easy access to the documents they require without the need for travel grants or funding. The South Asia Archive:

- Offers 24/7 access, and is available remotely from any computer terminal linked to the institution.
- Is fully compatible for use on mobile tablets providing students with the flexibility to study on the move.
- Provides guidance for users in navigating through content, with recommended searches and related content suggested to aid content discovery for the less experienced researcher.
- Allows lecturers to create and share tailored reading lists, providing students with live hyperlinks to important primary sources.
- Helps students identify different methodological approaches to evidence based research.
- Can aid in the development of scholarly research skills, improving students’ confidence in analyzing both primary and secondary sources.
The digitization of source material on South Asia should greatly facilitate and stimulate scholarly research on one of the ancient cradles of civilization – now poised to be one of the centres of the rise of Asia in the twenty-first Century.

Dr Ishtiaq Ahmed, Professor Emeritus of Political Science, Stockholm University and Honorary Senior Fellow of the Institute of South Asian Studies (ISAS), National University of Singapore
Contact Us

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**USA, Canada & South America**
Tel: +1 800 354 1420 (toll free within USA)  
Tel: +1 215 625 8900

**UK & Ireland**  
Tel: +44 (0)20 7017 4258

**Europe, Middle East & Africa**  
Tel: +44 (0)20 7017 6203

**Australia & New Zealand**  
Tel: +61 (0)3 8842 2404

**Japan**  
Tel: +81 (0)3 5848 7061

**Asia Pacific**  
Tel: +65 6741 5166

**India**  
Tel: +91 (0)11 4315 5117

**Rest of World**  
Tel: +44 (0)20 7017 6350

**Unsure who to contact?**  
For general queries, please email: support@southasiaarchive.com