

# Collection Development in Roja Muthiah Research Library

*An Overview of the policies*



# Policy Statement

- Main objective of the RMRL Trust

To undertake and enable development of research libraries and archives relating to *south Indian studies with a view to serve the needs of scholars; to preserve and conserve documents of value for research; to gather and generate knowledge about libraries and archives; to disseminate that knowledge; to train librarians and archivists; to engage in international collaborative efforts for the betterment of services to readers; and to engage in research in the areas of humanities and social sciences.*



# Humanities and Social Sciences (*as per LCSH*)

- Humanities
  - branches of learning regarded as having a cultural character, including literature, the arts, history, philosophy, religion, etc
- Social Sciences
  - general and comprehensive works on the various branches of learning that deal with the institutions and functioning of human society, including anthropology, criminology and law, economics, education, history, political science, and sociology.



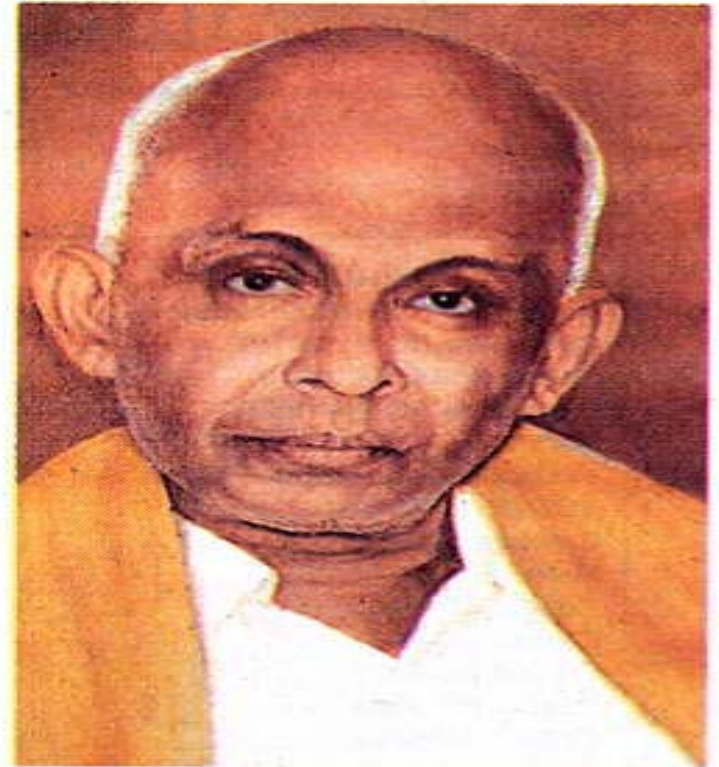
# Overview of the Library

- Library's Clientele
  - Research Scholars – Tamil Studies
  - Writers
  - Journalists
  - General public
  - Lawyers / Teachers / Doctors / Cinema & Theatre professionals
- History



# Roja Muthiah collection

- Classical Literature
- Medieval Literature
- Folk Literature
- Indigenous Medicine
- History of Tamilnadu
- Religious Literature
- Popular Culture



**Roja Muthiah Chettiar  
(1926 – 1992)**



# RMRL Collection

- Official Publications of British India
- Government Reports – Tamilnadu
- Legislative Assembly Debates
- Secondary Sources
  - Published works on various subjects such as Anthropology, Sociology, Political Science, History, Tamil Studies, Culture Studies, Art and Architecture, Ethnomusicology, Language and Literature etc.



# Collection development procedures

- Guidelines
  - Selection Team
  - Language & Script (Tamil, Grantha and English)
  - Period (from 1556 till date)
  - Geographical range (Tamil Publications and on Tamil Studies anywhere in the world – Subject is important)
  - Weeding out policy (only exchange of duplicates)



# Methodology

- Knowledge of Collections
  - District Gazetteers
  - Scholars
  - Friends
  - RMRL Users
  - Write-up about the Library and its initiatives





# Methodology...

- Target group
  - Senior and retired Scholars
  - Families of Scholars (*late*)
  - Big and Small book collectors
  - Individuals
  - Publishers
  - Book Fair – cheap publications – what other libraries don't buy



# Five levels of Collection *(a committee of ALA)*

- 5 – Comprehensive Level
- 4 – Research Level
- 3 – Study Level
- 2 – Basic Level
- 1 – Minimal Level



# SAUC & Library Surveys



# Guidelines Contd...

## – Formats

- Books
- Periodicals / News papers
- Pamphlets
- Booklets
- Handbills
- Audio (Gramophone, Spools and other formats)
- Photographs & Glass Negatives
- Video (CD, DVD or digital formats, documentaries)
- Manuscripts (palm leaves and paper)
- Microfilms / Fiche
- Digital Copies
- Interviews (tapes)
- Paper clippings
- Articles
- Research papers
- Annual reports
- Calendars
- Catalogues and Indexes
- Dissertations



# Consequences of the policy

- Space
- Funds
- Criticism



# Policies of other Libraries in collection development

- Science – ISBN
- Government – not less than 50 pages
- They look for eminent authors & history of authors
- Library of Congress collection – problems
- Library committees
- Book reviews –  
number of citations



# Advantages of written policies

- Not possible to violate – so focussed
- Allows legitimate acquisitions
- Allows users to know and comment on the policies
- Transparency



# Conclusion

- Written policy statements are essential
- There is a need for balance
  - Primary focus on current research needs and a larger vision for the future
- Monitoring emerging fields
- Selection should be participatory in nature
- The policies would need thorough review at regular intervals of time





# Citations for written models

- <http://www.bl.uk/collections/manuscriptscdp.html>
- <http://www.loc.gov/acq/devpol/webarchive.html>
- <http://www.dartmouth.edu/~cmdc/bibapp/cdpguide.html>

