

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL MANAGEMENT OF INDIAN ACADEMIC LAW JOURNALS

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Abstract

[Discusses the issues of legal education in the era of globalization. National law universities should bring out law journals and involve in research. Analyses Indian academic law journals geographically and institution wise. It proposes a bibliographical management of law journals through abstracting, indexing services as well as online databases like *LII of India*. Suggests national consortium of legal databases for national law universities as well as for other traditional law schools on the lines of UGC-INFONET and INDEST-AICTE]

1. Introduction

With the new scenario, emerging national law universities have become the prime universities of law in Asia. National law universities have geared up to raise the bar of legal education. In the past legal education was not satisfying as said by Dr. S. Radhakrishnan. *"Our college of law do not hold a place of high esteem either at home or abroad nor has law become an area of profound scholarship and enlightened research"*. Prof. Ranbir Singh, former Vice-Chancellor of NALSAR University of Law and now present Vice-Chancellor of National Law University Delhi says *"Our nation requires a considerable lot to be done in terms of rejuvenating the legal mentality so as to tackle several contemporary issues of national and international importance."*(1) Prof. C. Raj Kumar, Vice-Chancellor of O.P. Jindal Global University says that legal education and its importance to establish a rule of law society did not receive any priority or attention in the traditional universities. He says that *"We should pay attention in four important factors to improve the standard of legal education. They are 1. Global curriculum. 2. Global faculty. 3. Global degrees and 4. Global interactions."* National Knowledge Commission recommends reforms to make India a knowledge based economy and society. The Commission recognizes legal education as an important constituent of professional education. Mr. Pradeep Kumar Das says *"legal education makes man law-abiding and socially conscious. Legal education helps in bringing and establishing socio-economic justice."* (2)

We need quality legal education in the era of globalization because of the following reasons;

- Quality legal education can make accomplished judges and lawyers, and they are in fact social engineers.

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- Quality legal education with experience in moot court competition can make Indian advocates competent enough to argue in foreign courts. We need to have strong infrastructure as well as holding moot court competitions in all Indian law schools on various issues of law.
- We need to address the issue of pending cases in courts. National law universities and other Indian law schools should suggest clearing of backlogs, and how speedier justice could be delivered to the people without much hassle of time and money.

A worthwhile legal research is possible if one knows what actually has already been researched on legal issues. National Knowledge Commission on legal education feels that there has not been meaningful research in the past. The Commission Report on legal education emphasizes to improve quality of M.Phil and Ph.D. courses and a paper on research methodology be made mandatory for research scholars. (3) In this respect the role of National Law School of India University and NALSAR University of Law is laudable. The two universities are publishing twelve academic legal journals and newsletters, and holding national and international conferences is commendable. This could be considered as quite substantial contribution to Indian legal education.

The present inventory of academic journals is based on journals received in NALSAR Library. The author has come across sixty four Indian academic law journals. Usually these journals go unnoticed except a few journals which are being indexed in *Index to Indian Legal Periodicals*. There is demand to have an index for academic law journals as these cover high level researched articles. It is significant that such articles be covered by secondary sources. Indian legal scholarship has to be supported by indexes, bibliographies, abstracts and online databases. Such bibliographical tools should be brought out on regular basis so that scholars of law find it easier to search relevant research material through them. Online databases could be an answer.

During the last decade many law journals have been published by national law schools and traditional universities and colleges. The list of such journals is increasing every year. So far sixty four journals have been received in our library till date. These are not known to scholars of law. Indian academic law journals face the following troubles.

- Except few, the academic law journals have not been indexed in any Indian legal secondary sources.
- Academic law journals are not available commercially to other libraries through subscription as they are not priced publication.
- There is no guarantee whether its subsequent issues will be issued.
- There is no guarantee of issuance of the journals at regular intervals. Its frequency is generally not known.

- These are not covered by any digital media law databases in India except attempt made by LII of India recently.
- These journals have not applied for obtaining International Standard Serial Numbers (ISSN). ISSN being unique number identifies titles among the number of international journals. It helps libraries world wide to identify titles quickly.

Prof. R.N. Sharma, a well known library scientist says '*regardless of publication medium, serials (periodicals) remain the key tool for scholarship and the primary source of current information and topical news in all fields of endeavor.* (4)

However, whatever may be the reasons, the law journals should be available to researchers and to the judicial fraternity. The articles published in these journals are peer reviewed. Hence they are worth referring for legal research. If secondary sources are not brought in law the articles in journals shall remain buried for ever violating amended third law of S.R. Ranganathan i.e. "**every information its user**".

The following national law universities have been contributing comprehensively on the subjects of law by publishing number of journals.

1. National Law School of India University, Bangalore (six journals)
2. NALSAR University of Law, Hyderabad (six journals)
3. University of Delhi (three journals)
4. National Law University, Jodhpur (two journals)
5. Gujarat National Law University (two journals)
6. National University of Juridical Sciences, Kolkata (two journals)
7. National Law of India University, Bhopal (one journal)
8. Rajiv Gandhi National Law University, Patiala (one journal)
9. National University of Applied Legal Sciences. Kochi (one journal)

While analyzing the years in which the aforesaid journals were begun it gives us an interesting picture. Except a few journals like *Journal of Indian Law Institute (Delhi), Punjab University Law Review, Journal of Legal Studies (Jaipur) Delhi Law Review, Indian Journal of Criminology and Criminalistics, National Law School of India Review (Bangalore), Kashmir University Law Review (Srinagar) Andhra University Law Journal and Cochin University Law Review* other academic journals have not completed even ten years of life. More than fifty percent of journals are being published after 2005. This has happened after national law universities and other traditional law schools/departments grew in large number.

The following is the geographical distribution of academic law journals published from the States which are brought out by the Indian law schools.

Andhra Pradesh (10) Chandigarh (1) Delhi (6) Goa (1) Gujarat (3) Haryana (3) Jammu and Kashmir (1) Jharkhand (2) Karnataka (6), Kerala (4) Madhya Pradesh (3) Maharashtra (7) Punjab (4) Rajasthan (6) Uttar Pradesh (7) and West Bengal (5)

Note: The author has taken only those academic law journals which are received by NALSAR Library. There can be a few more journals which come out from other universities and colleges.

2. Index to Indian Legal Periodicals (with select foreign articles). Indian Law Institute, New Delhi, Volume 46, 2008.

The above index is only the secondary source pertaining to legal materials which indexes 200 Indian law journals. Its contents indicate that journals of political science, economics, and sociology are also covered. The index should make efforts to include academic law journals to enrich its content. A few academic law journals have completed more than five years. This will help the index to expand its database to 250 journals which will be useful to legal scholars to find the references about primary source material at one place. The index provides the list of periodicals indexed with their special feature on "Select Foreign Articles" which are arranged alphabetically under subject headings. (5)

3. Legal Information Institute of India (Liiofindia.org)

It is worthwhile beginning of electronic database pertaining to the field of law under open access category to view Indian legal databases freely. The database is open to public access prior to its launch in India in early 2011. *LII of India* contains fifty databases which includes 300,000 decisions from thirty seven Courts and Tribunals, Indian national legislation from 1836, over 800 bilateral treaties, Law Reform Reports and about 500 law journal articles which have appeared in the following thirteen academic journals. The Law Cite citator tracks cases and journal article citations. The database will add case laws, the State and Territory legislations when it is launched formally.

LII of India has been developed through cooperation of the following four leading Indian Law Schools (NALSAR University of Law, Hyderabad, National Law School of India University, Bangalore, National Law University, Delhi and Rajiv Gandhi School of Intellectual Property Law of Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur) in partnership with **AustLii**. The technical hub is at NALSAR in Hyderabad with initial development and ongoing support from **AustLii**.

Professor V.C. Vivekanandan of NALSAR University of Law is the Director of the said institute. The financial support has been provided by **AustLii** with additional support from Australian Research Council and Commonwealth Secretariat. It is a great breakthrough and first of its kind as an open access

database through which students, faculty and legal fraternity can access freely. The information is most authentic. It also paves way for research scholars to find out what has appeared in the Indian legal journals. It is just beginning and in times to come it becomes a very comprehensive law database. It will give big jolt to commercial databases which are monopolizing electronic law databases. This development justifies that dissemination of information and knowledge should be free to the people to enhance their knowledge. This database fulfills the gap and is step in right direction. Therefore it should be encouraged to have such databases. Under Journals and Scholarship, the *LII of India* covers the following Indian journals.

1. GNLU Journal of Law, Development of Politics
2. ISIL yearbook of International Humanitarian and Refugee Law
3. Indian Journal of Constitutional Law
4. Indian Journal of Property Law
5. Indian Journal of Intellectual Property Rights
6. Indian Journal of Law and Economics
7. Indian Journal of Law and Technology
8. NALSAR Environmental Law and Practice Review
9. NALSAR Law Review
10. NALSAR Media Law Review
11. NALSAR Student Law Review
12. NSL Yearbook of International Humanitarian and Refugee Law
13. NUJS Law Review

LII of India will develop its journal database comprehensively within few years which will prove to be a boon for Indian legal and foreign scholars to know about Indian legal scholarship. (6)

4. Networking and Resource Sharing

There is hardly any resource sharing practiced in Indian academic law libraries. These law schools have been subscribing to Indian and International legal databases like *Westlaw India*, *Hein Online*, *LexisNexis*, *JSTOR*, *Manupatra* and *SCC Online* (web edition). NALSAR University of Law had called a meeting of Indian law schools librarians and librarians of High Courts in collaboration with law database providers in 2006 to discuss the concept of LAWNET, a consortium of sharing law journals to economize subscription rate of accessing law databases by the law universities. However its proceedings could not be followed later, but the need was realized of its urgent need. (6) Recently INFLIBNET/UGC has provided the access to *Westlaw India*, *Manupatra* and *Hein Online*. Indian Law Schools should approach the Ministry Home and the

Ministry of Law, Government of India for various projects which will ensure financial health of the universities. (7)

5. Conclusion

It is estimated that in another decade there will be at least a dozen more national schools set up in different states. A few academic law universities will also emerge in private sector. The trend is visible as we find every year there is a new law university. A total number of national law schools may go up to fifty. Thus future of law universities is bright as they involve in legal research and teaching as well as engaged in specialized and interdisciplinary courses. Academic law universities should have their own legal consortium on the lines of INDEST-AICTE consortium so that each university can access legal databases freely. Moreover databases available in public domain should be enriched with Indian legal journals with full text facility. Also there is need of strong resource sharing among academic law librarians as well as a platform to discuss academic library issues of mutual concern. Let us do it together as it is high time to share our library resources as well as relevant information.

Bibliographical References

1. *NALSAR University of Law Prospectus 2008*. p.3 (Prof. Ranbir Singh wrote foreword under 'Welcome to NALSAR').
2. Pradeep Kumar Das. *Legal Education to Meet Challenges of Globalization*. Accessed on 18th February 2010.
3. National Knowledge Commission. *Report of the Working Group on Legal Education*. Report submitted by Working Group of Legal Education under the chairmanship of Justice M. Jagannadha Rao. It is a comprehensive report on overhauling of Indian legal education, and if its recommendations are implemented it will go a long way to improve legal education in India in due course.
4. R.N. Sharma. Development of Library and Information Science Periodicals in Asia with emphasis on South Asia: Problems and Solutions. *South Asian Libraries and Information Networks* (SALIN) an Electronic Journal. P. 1 Accessed Internet on 2nd March 2010.
5. *Index to Indian Legal Periodicals*. Prepared by Bhag Singh. New Delhi, Indian Law Institute, 2008. Volume 48.
6. *Legal Information Institute of India (LII of India)*. Information Accessed from Internet on 6th January 2012.
7. C.U. Navalgund. *Lawnet*. Paper Presented at Law Librarians Meet held at NALSAR University of Law, Hyderabad. May 2006. (unpublished)

8. S.D. Vyas Role of Academic Law Libraries with Special Reference to NALSAR University of Law, Hyderabad. *Library Herald*. 48, 1 (March 2010) 12-24.

Appendix

The following is a list of law journals which are received by NALSAR Library. There can be a few more journals which are published from national law institutions. The aforesaid study is based on the following journals.

1. *Aligarh Law Journal*. Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh
2. *Amity Law Review*. Amity Law School, New Delhi
3. *Andhra Pradesh Law University Journal*. Visakhapatnam
4. *Army Institute of Law Journal*. Mohali
5. *BILS Law Review*. Bangalore Institute of Legal Studies, Bangalore
6. *Benaras Law Journal*. Benaras Hindu University, Varanasi
7. *Chotanagpur Law Journal*. Chotanagpuur Law College, Ranchi
8. *Cochin University Law Journal*.
9. *Dehradun Law Review*. Law College Dehradun, Dehradun
10. *Delhi Law Review*. University of Delhi, Delhi
11. *Dr. Ram Manohar Lohiya National Law University Journal*, Lucknow.
12. *Environmental Law and Practice Review*. NALSAR University of Law, Hyderabad.
13. *GNLU Journal of Law, Development and Politics*. Gandhinagar
14. *GNLU Law Review*. Gandhinagar
15. *Guwahati University Journal of Law*
16. *ILS Law Review*. ILS Law College, Pune
17. *IP Laws News*. NALSAR, Hyderabad
18. *Indian Journal of Constitutional Law*, NALSAR University of Law, Hyderabad
19. *Indian Journal of Criminology and Criminalistics*. LNJP National Institute of Criminology and Forensic Sciences, Delhi.
20. *Indian Journal of Intellectual Property Law*. NALSAR University of Law, Hyderabad
21. *Indian Journal of International Economic Law*. NLSIU, Bangalore
22. *Indian Journal of Law and Justice*. North Bengal University, Darjeeling
23. *Indian Journal of Law and Technology*. NLSIU, Bangalore

24. *Indian Judicial Review*. NUJS, Kolkata
25. *Indian Law Review*. NLIU, Bhopal
26. *Jhunjhunu Journal of Legal Education*. Seth Motilal Law College, Jhunjhunu.
27. *Jindal Global Law Review*. Jindal Global Law School, Sonipat.
28. *Journal of Academy of Juridical Studies*. Tirupati
29. *Journal of Corporate Affairs and Corporate Crimes*. NALSAR University of Law, Hyderabad.
30. *Journal of Faculty of Juridical Sciences*. Mody Institute of Technology, Laksmangarh.
31. *Journal of Governance*. NLU, Jodhpur
32. *Journal of Indian Thought*. Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam
33. *Journal of Indian Law and Society*. NUJS, Kolkata
34. *Journal of Indian Law Institute*. Delhi.
35. *Journal of Law Teachers of India*. Delhi University, Delhi
36. *Journal of Legal Studies*. University of Rajasthan, Jaipur.
37. *Journal of Minority Rights*. A.K.K. New Law College, Pune.
38. *Journal of Rajasthan State Judicial Academy*. Jodhpur.
39. *Journal of Symbiosis Law College*. Pune.
40. *Judicial Review*. NUJS, Kolkata.
41. *Kare Law Journal*. Govind Ramanth Kare College, Margao
42. *Kashmir University Law Review*. University of Kashmir, Srinagar
43. *Kerala University of Legal Studies*. Kerla University, Thiruvananthpuram.
44. *Law Quest*. Mumbai University, Mumbai
45. *Law Review*. Jai Narain Post Graduate College, Lucknow.
46. *Law Review*. Government Law College, Mumbai.
47. *Maharishi Dayanand University Law Journal*. Rohtak.
48. *March of the Law*. NLSIU, Bangalore.
49. *Media Law Review*. NALSAR University of Law, Hyderabad.
50. *Minorities Law Review*. Pune.
51. *NALSAR Law Review*, NALSAR University of Law, Hyderabad.
52. *NALSAR Student Law Review*, NALSAR University of Law Hyderabad
53. *NLIU Law Review*. Bhopal.

54. *NUALS Law Journal*. Kochi.
55. *National Capital Law Journal*. Delhi University, Delhi.
56. *National Law School Journal*. NLSIU, Bangalore.
57. *National Law School of India Review*. NLSIU, Bangalore.
58. *Punjab University Law Review*. Chandigarh.
59. *Punjabi University Law Journal*. Patiala.
60. *RGNUL Law Review*. Patiala.
61. *Scholasticus*. NLU, Jodhpur.
62. *Trade, Law and Development*. NLU, Jodhpur.
63. *Vidhigya: The Journal of Legal Awareness*. Integrated School of Law, Ghaziabad.
64. *Vidyasthali Law Journal*. Vidyasthali Law College, Jaipur.

In addition to the above journals, the national law schools bring out the following newsletters dealing various aspects of law.

1. *CLT Newsletter*. NALSAR University of Law, Hyderabad.
2. *Centre for Advanced Study in International Humanitarian Law*. RGNUL, Patiala.
3. *Environment Law Newsletter*. NLSIU, Bangalore.
4. *Infosystem: IT and Law Initiative*. Symbiosis Society's Law College. Pune
5. *IPR Newsletter*. NLSIU, Bangalore.
6. *March of the IP Law*. NLSIU, Bangalore.
7. *NALSAR Aerospace Newsletter*. NALSAR University of Law Hyderabad.
8. *NLSIU-ENVIS Centre Newsletter*. Bangalore.