

***E-publications & Legal Deposit –
Pertinent Issues in Indian Context***

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Points covered

- **History of communication**
- **E-Publishing**
- **Legal Deposit & E-Publishing**
- **Indian Scenario**
- **Conclusion**

HISTORY OF COMMUNICATION

- **LANGUAGE**
- **SCRIPT**
- **PRINTING**
- **INFORMATION AND
COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY
(ICT)**

To publish means :

- 1 To prepare and issue (printed material)
for public distribution or sale**
- 2 To bring to the public attention;
announce**

What is e-publishing?

Electronic publishing is “ a generic term for the distribution of information which is stored, transmitted and reproduced electronically. ...”

Special Features of E-Publishing

- **Online - This indicates networked publications available on internet.**
- **Offline - Publications in digital forms stored on floppy disks, cartridge tapes etc.**
- **Electronic version of an established print form of document.**
- **Only electronic form of publication.**
- **Publication in both e-form and print form
(Named as Parallel Publication)**
- **Interactive databases such as Bibliographies, Statistical databases, Full text databases, Images and others**

Advantages of E-publications :

- **The time lag gets minimal.**
- **Easier to store and search.**
- **Simultaneous multiple use**
- **Access from anywhere in the world.**
- **Rapid revision & updation**
- **Media enhancement**

Problems of E-publishing:

- **Huge initial infrastructural cost**
- **Traditional mind set**
- **Access Vs possession**
- **Complicated copyright issues**
- **Piracy**
- **Loss of income due to unauthorized use**

What is a legal deposit ?

Legal Deposit is the means for gathering together the nation's published heritage and development. It is also a statutory provision, enforcing legal binding to publishers for depositing their works in designated institutions .

Need for Legal Deposit

- **For preserving for posterity**
- **For protecting the human right for information**
- **For advocating the National Policy of Freedom and Access to information**
- **For contributing to the UBC & UAP Programs**

Complications in legal deposit of modern era :

- **Apart from traditional print formats, availability of variety of the forms and media of the information carriers like, Microforms, Audio-visual materials, Musical scores, Networked multimedia materials, Radio & TV Broadcasting Material**
- **Electronic conversion of the information**
- **Dynamic nature of Electronic resources especially the online ones.**
- **Requirement of infrastructural facilities**

Efforts by Unesco :

- In 1981, UNESCO published Guidelines for Legal Deposit Legislation by Jean Lunn, wherein, major focus was on print material.
- These guidelines were enlarged and revised in the year 2000, by Jules Larivière; which addressed the issue of electronic formats. Countries which have included electronic media in their legal Deposit Act
 - Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Japan, Norway, South Africa and United Kingdom

Indian Scenario :

According to the Delivery of Books (Public Libraries) Act, 1954: No. 27 (amended by the Delivery of Books (Public Libraries) Amendment Act 1956: No 99), Indian National Library at Calcutta is made the official legal depository of the national output of India. It is entitled to receive a copy of every publication including news paper brought out by anyone anywhere in the country.

NO AMMENDMENT SINCE THEN.....

Considerations for Amending the Act:

- **Type of documents to be incorporated in the Act .**
- **Decision regarding the document appearing in many formats and media**
- **Defining the publisher for various forms,**
- **The depositories to be nominated for the task**
- **Set up of the infrastructure for the actual work**
- **Organization of the material**
- **Identification of the services and the users**
- **Provision for the punishment**

Conclusion :

The legal deposit legislation of various forms and media will require special attention and collective efforts, both at individual as well as national level in India. As India has got rich cultural heritage of literature, music and various art forms, which is being produced and preserved in electronic forms, there is an urgency for doing this. If not, it will be beyond control; and in words of Jules Larivière, *at the point of no return.*

Thank you!