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Comparative views and prospects for transatlantic cooperation: India and South Asia

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U. S. library resources on South Asia that were built around the limited needs of a handful of Sanskritics before World War II have made a long journey during the past half century. Since the inception of the Library of Congress Cooperative South Asia Acquisition Program (formerly called "PL-480" program), in 1962, libraries have built significant collections with financial support from governmental agencies and philanthropic foundations, to support teaching and research in all areas of social sciences and humanities. These collections have been supplemented by efforts to build retrospective collections and to microfilm rare materials in British and South Asian libraries and archives. Today, in cooperation with South Asian libraries, several projects are underway to preserve and digitize rapidly deteriorating materials so that these riches can be shared with the global scholarly community through electronic means.