

Gursimran Singh

Gursimran request-265763-ec6d4a2f@whatdotheyknow.com

22 May 2015

Dear Mr Singh

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 – REQUEST 1523

Thank you for your request for information, which we received on 27 April 2015. You asked us for a breakdown of all the scriptures we currently have or had in the past 20 years relating to Sikhism or the Sikh religion.

We have considered your request, and our response is given below.

The British Library holds Sikh scriptures within the collections of Asian and African Collections. The Sikh scriptural holdings are largely historical in nature and stem from the Oriental language collections of the British Museum and India Office Libraries. Sikh scriptural holdings include both manuscript and printed items. No Sikh scriptural items are known to have been acquired in the past 20 years.

Information relating to these holdings (both manuscript and printed items) is publicly available and accessible through consultation of published catalogues held in the Library's Reading Rooms in London, and via other libraries which hold the Library's published catalogues. These catalogues are listed below and where they are available online links have been provided.

Manuscript Sikh scriptural items may be listed in the following published catalogues (links are provided where they exist):

- J. F. Blumhardt, *Catalogue of Hindi and Panjabi manuscripts in the Library of the British Museum*. London, 1899 – available in pdf at: <https://archive.org/details/cataloguehindip00blumgoog>
- *Oriental Manuscripts Classed Inventory*; includes 19 Panjabi items acquired since 1899.
- C. Shackle, *Catalogue of the Panjabi and Sindhi manuscripts in the India Office Library*. London, 1977.
- A. Master, *A short title catalogue of Hindi manuscripts of IOL*. 1954.

Marcie Hopkins

Divisional Planning and Portfolio Manager – Collections

T +44 (0)20 7412 7981 marcie.hopkins@bl.uk

Printed Sikh scriptural items may be listed in the following published catalogues (links are provided where they exist):

- J. F. Blumhardt, *Catalogues of the Hindi, Panjabi, Sindhi, and Pushtu printed books in the Library of the British Museum*. London, 1893 – available in pdf at: <http://dsal.uchicago.edu/bibliographic/bmcatalogs/Z7049.I3B8.pdf>
- L. D. Barnett, *Panjabi printed books in the British Museum: A supplementary catalogue*. London, 1961.
- J. F. Blumhardt, *Catalogue of the Library of the India Office*. Vol. II; Part III. *Hindi, Panjabi, Pushtu, and Sindhi books*. London, 1902.
- Ganesh Gaur, *Catalogue of the Panjabi printed books added to the India Office Library, 1902 - 1964*. London, 1975.
- J. F. Blumhardt, *Catalogues of Hindi, Panjabi, Sindhi and Pushtu Printed Books in the Library of the British Museum*. London, 1893.
- J. F. Blumhardt, *Supplementary catalogue of Hindi books in the Library of the British Museum acquired during the years 1893-1912*. London, 1913 – available in pdf at: <http://dsal.uchicago.edu/bibliographic/bmcatalogs/Z7049.I3B81.pdf>
- L. D. Barnett and J. F. Blumhardt, *Second supplementary catalogue of Printed Books in Hindi, Bihari (including Bhojpuri, Kaurmali and Maithili) and Pahari (including Nepali or Khaskura, Jaunsari, Mandeali etc) in the British Museum*. London, 1957.
- J. F. Blumhardt, *Catalogue of the Library of the India Office*, Vol. 2; Part 3: *Hindi, Panjabi, Pushtu and Sindhi books*. London, 1902.

For acquisitions which are not covered by the published catalogues there are card catalogues which are also available on microfilm and microfiche, these can be consulted in the Asian & African Collections Reading Room at the British Library in London.

A few scriptural texts may also be traced by searching the British Library's online catalogue, [Explore the British Library](#).

Information about the Library's Sikh holdings is more generally available on our webpage 'Help for researchers: North Indian language collections' <http://www.bl.uk/reshelp/findhelplang/indlangnorth/index.html>.



THE BRITISH LIBRARY

96 Euston Road
London
NW1 2DB

T +44 (0)843 208 1144
www.bl.uk

THE WORLD'S KNOWLEDGE

For further assistance, general and specific enquiries about the Sikh collections can be addressed to the Asian and African Collections Reference Team by completing an online request using the link below, which will be passed on to the relevant subject specialist:

<http://www.questionpoint.org/crs/servlet/org.oclc.admin.BuildForm?&institution=13430&type=1&language=1>

If you are unhappy with our response to your request and wish to make a complaint or request a review of our decision, you should write to:

The Chief Executive
The British Library
96 Euston Road
London
NW1 2DB

Please note, complaints and requests for internal review received more than two months after the initial decision will not be handled.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you may appeal directly to the Information Commissioner at the address given below. You should do this within two months of our final decision. There is no charge for making an appeal.

Further information on the Freedom of Information Act 2000 is available from the Information Commissioner's Office:

Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
SK9 5AF

Telephone 08456 30 60 60 or 01625 54 57 45

Website www.ico.gov.uk

Yours sincerely

Marcie Hopkins

Marcie Hopkins
Divisional Planning and Portfolio Manager – Collections
T +44 (0)20 7412 7981 marcie.hopkins@bl.uk