

Archives on Contemporary History

The archives on contemporary history is a unique collection of materials pertaining to the Indian Nationalist Movement, especially on the revolutionary trends in the National Movement and Contemporary Political History of India. The Archives is located on the 6th floor of the Central Library of the Jawaharlal Nehru University. It is also known as PC Joshi archives since most of its collections were drawn from the personal Collections of Shri PC Joshi (1907-1980).

The Archives on Contemporary History was set up on 1 December 1970 by acquiring research material from Shri P.C. Joshi. The rich repository of materials in the Archives consists of documents and papers from P.C. Joshi's personal collection, who himself worked on and organized this Archives as the first step towards building up resources for the history of the Indian left movement.

The Archives is a research facility unit to provide basic documentary data, published and unpublished secondary source material and printed papers to bonafied researchers. The Archives is recognized as a major data – bank for the study of radical movements in India and on themes dealing with wide range of activities concerning revolutionary and liberation struggles in other parts of the world as well.

The Archives consists of rare magazines and journals, publications of the Communist Parties and various other left groups from several parts of the globe, books, pamphlets, photographs and copies of important files and letters relating to the Indian political parties. The Archives also subscribes to current newspapers and journals in various languages from different parts of India. There are currently nearly 25,000 documents/ collections. On an average, the collection is annually consulted by about 500 scholars from India and abroad.

The cataloguing style that he developed, along with K. Damodaran has been retained to the present. The documents in the Archives on Contemporary History are classified into 90 sections. Some of the collections are categorized on the basis of its subject matter and some of them are arranged in the chronological order bringing together the documents of each year into one section from 1917 to 1975.

The archives on contemporary history (ACH) is located on the 6th Floor of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Central Library. Archives has digitized 7500 documents from its collections and made them available online through online catalogue of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar Central Library. ACH is open on all working days i.e. Monday to Friday from 9.00 am to 5.30 pm.