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Music Libraries in Tamil Nadu, India.

The state of Tamil Nadu in South India is a culturally rich region, being home to the ancient tradition of Carnatic classical music as well as the city of Chennai, southern India's cultural and commercial capital. Music librarianship is still developing at a professional and institutional level, facing challenges of complex political bureaucracy, underfunding, and the absence of cohesive and transparent information science policies from the state and federal government. There are several music collections in the state ranging from public research libraries to smaller collections at private colleges, including:

- **Saraswathi Mahal Library**, Tanjore.
<http://web.archive.org/web/20041129095134/http://www.sarasvatimahallibrary.tn.nic.in>
Contains the archives of the medieval Maratha Royal Palace Library, including printed and manuscript copies of Western and Carnatic music. Archives are open to the public, and a process of digitisation and online cataloguing is in progress.
- **Anna Memorial Library**, Chennai.
<http://annacentenarylibrary.blogspot.co.uk/>
Holds a large collection of scholarly texts in Western music history, theory and analysis. Political problems have hindered development; the collection is open to the public for browsing, but currently there is no membership, online catalogue or lending facility.
- **Sri K. R. Sundaram Iyer Memorial Library**, Madras Music Academy, Chennai.
Attached to the Madras Music Academy, the central institute for Carnatic music education. Holds manuscripts, rare books and recordings of Carnatic musics. Catalogue available here:
http://musicacademymadras.in/backoffice/uploads/MA_Book_Catalogue_Records.pdf
- **Madras Music College Library**, Chennai
A small collection of books, magazines and recordings of Carnatic music. Also a museum of rare musical instruments from South India.

The KM Music Conservatory Library

KMMC is a private higher education music institution founded by Indian composer AR Rahman in 2008, offering a BA Hons Music programme in association with Middlesex University, UK, in addition to a range of independent part-time courses. Curriculum focuses

on three principal areas: Western classical music, Hindustani classical music, and music technology. More details are available here: www.kmmc.in

KM Music Conservatory Library is developing a collection of print and electronic teaching resources to support its full-time programmes in Western and Hindustani classical music. The library currently holds a small but expanding collection of print resources, primarily scholarly books in Hindustani music theory and history, Western music theory and musicology, performance practice and audio technology, and a range of vocal and instrumental scores for Western classical music. KMMC also subscribes to several online resources, including JSTOR and Naxos Music Online. Faculty responsible for developing the collection are aiming to enhance these academic resources, in particular for western classical music, within the constraints of a low budget (the conservatory is a private commercial enterprise receiving no state funding or charitable endowment).

Future possibilities

KMMC is pleased to communicate with music librarians or researchers in IAML who are interested in learning more about resources for music scholarship in South India. We are in the process of developing our cataloguing, lending and security facilities, and therefore form a useful case-study for those interested in the economic and logistical challenges of resourcing a western-style music degree programme in a developing country such as India. In recent years KMMC has offered work placements to music graduates from the U.S.A, including those pursuing graduate study in music librarianship.

KMMC faculty includes performers, composers and musicologists from India, Europe and North America with a range of expertise and research interests. We would be particularly interested in building connections with individuals or institutions interested in Hindustani and Carnatic music, and the historic and contemporary role of Western classical music in India. We also recognise the need for stronger regional connections between the various public and private music libraries in Tamil Nadu, and at a national level within India, and would be keen to play an active role in this process.