

Progress Report of 2016-17

UGC SAP-DRS Project of the Department of Instrumental Music, Rabindra Bharati University 'Indian Classical Music Mapping'

This financial year 2016-17 the project witnessed good progress in research and documentation. The reason was, the project received commendable work-support from the two newly appointed Project Fellows Ms. Suranjita Paul and Ms. Rajeswary Ganguly Banerjee, and the availability of set-up as it is now. The not so good news is, the project did not receive any funding support this year from the UGC as on date when the progress report and account submission in prescribed formats were sent to the UGC Office in November 2016.

However, we used all the already provided resources and happy to generate a good work-profile in the research-direct areas. Because of the absence of fresh UGC funding we failed to arrange events like seminars, or invite resource persons and the likes, or hire people for faster advancement in some areas.

Here are what we could do:

1. We have used more than 1.5 GB of internet space for hosting our research data.
2. We could so far successfully collect around 400 musical anecdotes that have direct connection with the project.
 - A. We audio processed the anecdotes, cleaned the noise, edited and normalized so that users can get cleaner and better audio. A good number of recordings were taken in noisy places.
 - B. We added Editorial Notes on detection of anomaly in an anecdote or for ascertaining date, period etc. in case of compulsory mapping data. We try to ascertain that with required research.
 - C. We created metadata for each anecdote.
 - D. For each anecdote we included the RBU stamp saying "*Data processed at SAP-DRS Lab, Department of Instrumental Music, Rabindra Bharati University*"
 - E. We have initiated a better search facility where a 'search term' can be filtered through the categories for obtaining results.
 - F. We have published some Approximate English Translations [in some cases paraphrased versions] of some anecdotes those were received in Bengali or Hindi.
 - G. Now we could successfully offer huge number of search options.
 - H. We must thank our resource persons, be it musicians, listeners, connoisseurs, instrument makers, musicologists, concert managers, music critics and people connected to other areas of Indian Classical Music in the city. They all told anecdotes without taking any charges. They are the primary source for building up such a collection of oral history that can go encyclopedic.
 - I. Google also included the published anecdotes in their search engine effectively.
 - J. Thousands of researchers, scholars, students and interested persons are regularly visiting the research site <http://kolkatamusicmapping.com>
3. As advised by the Advisory Body during its last meeting, we have taken up newspaper other than the Ananda Bazar Patrika that we took during 2015-16. We have taken Amrita Bazar Patrika since 1870. We could successfully filter-out music related news from 1870 to 1895 and 1940 January to January 1942. So far we have data-scanned 1273 issues that is approximately

19000 pages. We could successfully obtain some data related to our project. Total filtered archived images are 782.

- A. We are typing down the filtered newspaper contents for easier search and better visibility.
- B. Some of them has been published on the research site <http://kolkatamusicmapping.com/>

- 4. We have received some data those are interesting but do not directly relate to the project, e.g., relating to the cities other than Kolkata / Calcutta. We are planning to publish those data under a special heading at some later date as sub product of this research exercise.

Difficulties faced:

- 1. As is clear from the earlier statement, non-receipt of funding from the University Grants Commission is surely a serious hindrance to freely go forward.
- 5. As decided in the last meeting we requested the RBU administration that it is good if our research site kolkatamusicmapping.com/ may be moved to the RBU site. This is yet to be done. We were informed that the RBU site moving to a new CMS platform. When that gets moved then our SAP-DRS research site will be able to move to the RBU site.
- 6. We contacted some translators for translating our Bengali and Hindi Audio in English Texts. They found the offered rates too low. If the Advisory Committee kindly reconsiders the payable translation and transcription rates, then that will be immensely helpful.

Signed by:-

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