

# Library Landscape Assessment of Bangladesh



**Background:**

Several attempts have been made for evaluating the library systems in Bangladesh. However, in recent times there has not been any comprehensive survey to understand the overall nature of Library and Information Services (LIS), including libraries and non-government tele-centres. Nonetheless, the inadequacy of public information services is evident from the number of government public libraries—only 68, that too in urban areas. An assessment of the landscape of LIS is thus essential to ensure evidence-based development in this sector. This is where British Council with research support from IID is planning to initiate change for improving people's access to information, gain better understanding on the information needs of the people of Bangladesh and the current Library and Information Services (LIS) provision within the country.

**Objective of the Study:**

IID is conducting the study with the objective of exploring library services and online information services available in the country, analyzing the information need of the people and assessing the existing ICT infrastructure in the country in support of people's access to information and potentials of ICTs in improving the information services (both for library and online information access).

**Study duration and coverage:**

The study will be conducted over one year period and will be carried out nationwide with field survey among 7000 respondents in 35 districts. The study consists of urban, semi urban and rural population segments of Bangladesh.

**Study Output:**

The study is intended to fill the information gap and make a major contribution in aligning and mobilizing key stakeholders in library information service provision in Bangladesh as well as helping the stakeholders in play their vital role in supporting, prioritizing and executing interventions that will improve access to information across Bangladesh. The major outputs include-

- Preparation of an interim report On the basis of collected data through primary and secondary research and stakeholder consultation
- Preparation of a final report with suggestions incorporated from a national symposium with relevant stakeholders