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 44

Making Research More Accessible

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 ADDITIONAL RESEARCH
 BY ZAREEN NAWAR

When we think of conducting a research we immediately associate it with a great deal of reading and field work. Access to research materials becomes a crucial point for many researchers and it is surprising that many resource bodies are not known to the scholars. Long gone are the days when a researcher had limited library resources. By the grace of technology, materials are now available online. A researcher can go treasure hunting through the resources online. However, with this access, piracy becomes a critical issue. So, it is tremendously important to know what to access and where to publish.

The state of research work in Bangladesh has not been noteworthy. Where universities are expected to play vital roles in knowledge production through research, the number of published research papers compared to the number of universities in Bangladesh does not meet the expectations. Research and publication is one of the vital points in the process of global ranking of universities and research organisations. International recognition will only be possible if these institutions take necessary steps towards creating a research friendly culture.

An eminent researcher and urbanist Professor Nazrul Islam shed light on the basic essentials to conduct a research. If an organisation focuses on research, publication and dissemination then it must provide the researcher with adequate space and equipment, along with a rich library. Library resources need to be both physical and electronic. Research work begins with bibliographic research. Without a proper bibliographic research, a research paper

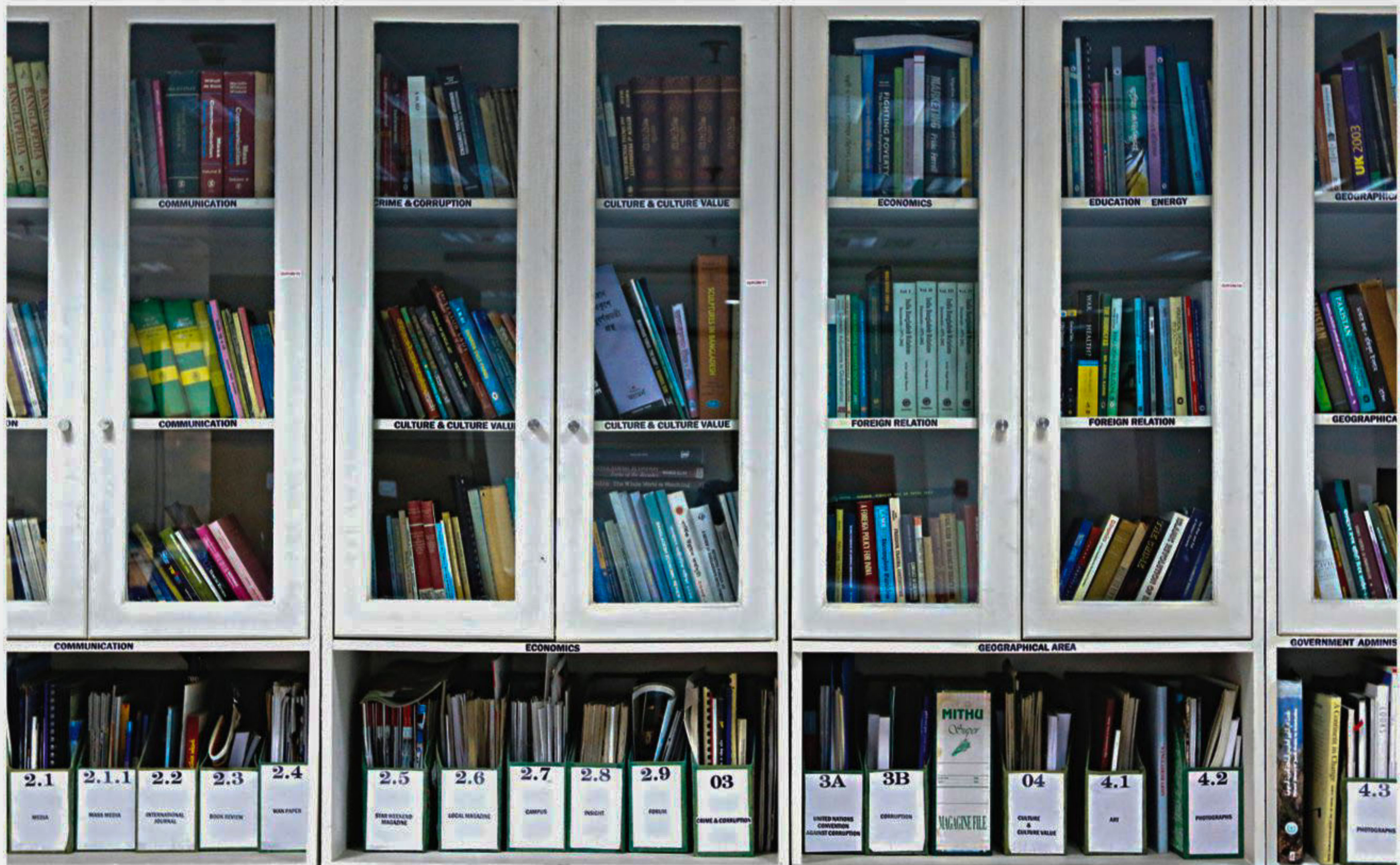


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would not be complete. Now the question is where could these data be found? For some disciplines data can be collected from recognised organisations for example, economists can find their necessary data from

Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics. They make it available both in print and online. It would be wise to select topics on which data is available. Data for social research are not readily available. There are however research councils

that may support researchers through funding or providing the necessary space and equipment. Professor Islam names the National Archive, Public Library, Central Library, UGC online resources, IPSA, and Bangla JOL as

resource places. Professor Islam also draws attention to the medium of language in the research scene. Among the small number

CONTINUED ON PAGE 45

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