

# Description and Rationale

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## Title

### **Digitization of Madras Legislative Council Proceedings and Debates**

## Project Description\*

The project aims to digitize Proceedings of the Madras Legislative Council from pre-independent era (1921-1937) and Madras Legislative Council Debates from pre-independent era (from 1938) to post-independent period (up to 1956). Volumes of Madras Legislative Assembly Debates from post-independent period (From 1960 -1966) are also planned to be digitized in the project as a continuation to the earlier project.

## Reasons for Consideration\*

The Madras Legislative Council and Assembly were formed by the British government, as the upper house and lower house of the then Madras Presidency. Post independence, after the formation of Republic of India in 1950, the Madras Presidency became the Madras State. Subsequently, the state was renamed as Tamilnadu in 1969 and the Council and Assembly came to be called as Tamilnadu Legislative Council and Tamilnadu Legislative Assembly respectively. In 1986, with the abolishment of Tamilnadu Legislative Council, Tamilnadu has become a unicameral legislature system. Roja Muthiah Research Library (RMRL) currently holds the published volumes of proceeding of Madras Legislative Council from 1921 to 1937, debates of Madras Legislative Council from 1937 to 1956. RMRL has also identified the volumes of debates of Madras Legislative Assembly from 1960 to 1966 and also few volumes from the pre independent era and added to its collection.

The proceeding of the councils would be a primary source for studying the discussions happened in the council sessions including discussion on budgets and question and answer sessions. These are very valuable resources to understand the then socio economic situation of this region on the view of the members of the council. The debate volumes also help us to study the discussions on the bills amended and the debates and arguments that went on for and against them during the middle part of twentieth century, a period which is politically significant for India. As the material span for more than 60 years including both pre independence to post independence period, this would be an important scholarly material to gain insights about the social history of the period. This period faced a lot of political changes and still a lot of researches are undergoing in understanding the socio political history of the period.

We have also identified and selected around 33 volumes of Madras Legislative Assembly Debates from post independent period. RMRL has already digitized the Madras Legislative Assembly Debates from pre-independent period till 1960 and these volumes are in continuation with these volumes. On digitization, these volumes will add value to researcher in getting grasp of the research material.

Considering the scholarly value and a need to preserve the content of the material for posterity the material would be taken up for digitization. Also, these materials have not been available in digital format elsewhere which raises the need for preservation.

## Authors

N/A

## Publishers

Government of Madras Presidency, Government of Madras State

## Proposal Contributors

Roja Muthiah Research Library, Chennai, India

## Details and Sources

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### Resource Types\*

- Government documents

### Regions\*

- South Asia

### Countries of Origin\*

India

### Major Languages

English

### Source Format\*

- Paper

### Target Format

Digital

### Identifiers

Only microfilm record in OCLC - 896614703

### Links

N/A

### Source and Holdings

Location	Format	Holdings/Range	Notes
Roja Muthiah Research Library,	Physical volumes	<b>Proceedings of Madras Legislative Council</b>	All are bounded volumes. Due to aging some of the

Chennai, Tamilnadu, India		<p>Continuous run from 1921 to 1937.</p> <p><b>Madras Legislative Council Debates</b></p> <p>From 1938 to 1956 (missing years, 1940-45, 1948 and 1950)</p> <p><b>Madras Legislative Assembly Debates</b></p> <p>Continuous run from 1960 to 1966</p>	volumes are in fragile condition.
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## Source and Holdings Notes

As all the material to be digitized are with Roja Muthiah Research Library, there is no need to source material from outside.

## Physical Details

RMRL's holding has 84 volumes of Proceedings of the Madras Legislative Council, 18 volumes of Madras Legislative Council Debates and 33 volumes of Madras Legislative Assembly Debates. Each volume has an average page count of 660. Thus the total number of pages to be digitized comes to approximately 89,100.

## Existing Reformatted Materials

## Intellectual Property Considerations

These volumes were published by the State Government for the usage of general public. All the content of the material are in public domain and are free from copyrights.