1. Critically review the main trends in STM publishing in India in the post-independence period.

Ans: In a paper presented at a conference on “Professional Publishing in Asia” held at New Delhi in January 2008, Mr. N.K. Mehra, leading STM publisher observed that India publishes around 7000—8000 STM titles every year. STM publishers are spread out across the small towns and cities of the country. STM books published in India are being adopted as classroom texts in other countries including USA and China and Indian STM books are being translated into Chinese, Russian, French, etc. Foreign publishers not only publish in India, but are also outsourcing publishing processes to India, depending on the strong delivery capabilities and experience of Indian BPOs in composition and editorial services (Mehra: 2008). In an article ‘Publishing of Science Books’, Mehra gives an assessment of the current STM publishing scenario in India, giving clear indications of the directions that STM publishing is taking. At the time of Independence there were a few Indian publishers bringing out STM books, but books were mostly imported from the UK. The 1960s witnessed the Indo-US textbook programme, with US publishers licensing rights to Indian publishers to reprint American books. Indian STM publishing started to expand from the 1960s onwards. Mehra especially notes the role played by regional publishers all over the country, who publish a small number of STM books yearly and market them in their region. National research institutions have also been active in STM publishing. From the 1970s onwards, STM publishing has made real progress with Indian publishers no longer fully dependent on reprint rights from foreign publishers. Indian publishers have been developing their own original programmes in their respective fields and publishing not only textbooks but also research monographs. In the post-liberalisation era (after 1991), major foreign publishers started operating from India. Indian STM publishing is now globally competitive and not restricted to an exclusively Indian readership. A welcome development has been that the Indian publishers now look at the global market and do not restrict their readership to the scientific community in India alone. Indian STM books are today competing globally with western publishers and have a strong presence in Asia, Africa, the Middle East and other regions. Foreign authors are now interested in publishing in India because of the advantage of affordable prices and the fact that publishers make their books available globally, soon after their release in India (Mehra: 2006: 304-309). It is clear that STM publishers worldwide see India as a growing market for STM books as well as an alternative provider of low cost publishing services.

2. Explain the typical structure of a scientific research publication.

Ans: All scientific papers have the same general format. They are divided into distinct sections and each section contains a specific type of information. The number and the headings of sections may vary among journals, but for the most part a basic structure is maintained. Typically, scientific papers are comprised of the following parts:

- Title
- Abstract
- Introduction
- Methods
- Results
- Discussion
- Acknowledgments
- Literature cited

Because scientific papers are organized in this way, a reader knows what to expect from each part of the paper, and they can quickly locate a specific type of information.

Let’s examine the content in each section of a scientific paper, and discuss why each section may be useful to you as a reader.

**TITLE.** The title will help you to determine if an article is interesting or relevant for your project. Well-written titles give a reasonably complete description of the study that was conducted, and sometimes even foreshadow the findings. Included in a title are the species studied, the kinds of experiments performed, and perhaps a brief indication of the results obtained.

**ABSTRACT.** Abstracts provide you with a complete, but very succinct summary of the paper.

An abstract contains brief statements of the purpose, methods, results, and conclusions of a study. Abstracts are often included in article databases, and are usually free to a large audience. Thus, they may be the most widely read portions of scientific papers.

**INTRODUCTION.** You will find background information and a statement of the author’s hypothesis in the introduction. An introduction usually describes the theoretical background, indicates why the work is important, states a specific research question, and poses a specific hypothesis to be tested.

**METHODS.** The methods section will help you determine exactly how the authors performed the experiment.