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A STUDY OF CURRENT DIGITAL PRESERVATION STATUS OF ANCIENT COLLECTION IN INDIA

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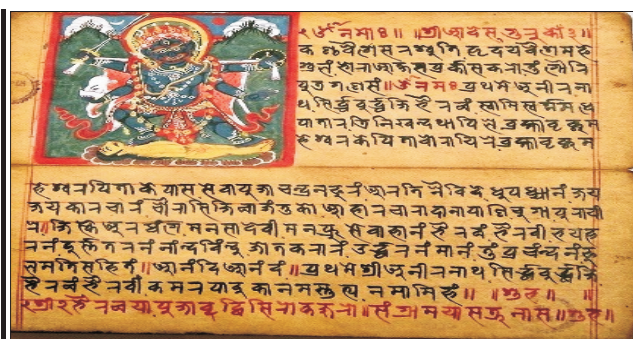
ABSTRACT

The paper caters the brief discussion on the digital preservation of manuscripts and their profits, status of digital preservation in the Indian scenario, digital preservation requirements, Initiatives in digital preservation of manuscripts in India, a type of digital preservation and also studies the digitization of manuscripts. Further, the paper shows the availability of manuscript resources in various Indian institutes. Finally the paper focuses on the profits of digital preservation of manuscripts.

KEYWORDS: Preservation, Digitization, Manuscript Preservation, Indian Manuscripts.

INTRODUCTION:

There is an enormous cultural heritage available in India in



various forms; some are tangible and some others are intangible. According to the survey manuscripts are found near about 5 millions, so India has the largest repository of manuscripts. In spite of manuscripts, a vast collection of other cultural materials is available in our various museums, library and archives. Over long time the government has decided to preserve these materials; before this decision preservation was never a focused discipline, so number of materials either evanesce or exported out of India. Never discuss about a preservation of tangible

format of ancient materials. The Concept of digital preservation has been started in India since fifteen years ago. National Digital Preservation Program (NDPP) of India was launched by the Ministry of Communications & Information Technology in 2008, which is responsible for digital preservation in India. Digital preservation is the process of maintaining digital materials across different generations of technology over time, irrespective of where they reside. (InterPARES) At the present time libraries and archives are facing a complex and persistent challenge of

preservation resources in the whole world. Every person is distressed because he wants to long lasting his creation (writing, painting, arts, etc.) since he try to create. Preservation of manuscript is a very serious challenge for the librarian through the world (Chopra, 1995). Digital resources have enormous potential for changing the way that information is used, and for developing new ways of preserving, collecting, storing, organizing, propagating and accessing knowledge (Witten and Bainbridge, 2003). Digital preservation of manuscripts now gives proper importance. Manuscripts are the first hand written resources which provide our glorious past and tell the story of our forefather. It is very useful importance in providing the basic and conceptual information about their

ancient culture and creation to the researcher. Due to various reasons, these manuscripts are now in poor and delicate tangible conditions. There are many universities, foundations and other institution is involved in digital preservation of these valuable manuscripts for future uses.

STATUS OF MANUSCRIPTS IN INDIA

There are an enormous number of manuscripts and ancient material available in India. It is very difficult to find out the perfect number of manuscripts, their language and scripts. According to survey of an Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (1980) manuscripts have existed in India in Various forms like a Palm leaf, birch bark, cloth, wood, stone and paper etc; these figures at 50 lakhs. A vast number of manuscripts lie found in various museums, archives, institutes and libraries. But experts expressed that the large number of manuscripts undeciphered comparison than decipher. Many temples, private collections are the remains of the undiscovered.

A maximum number of India's manuscripts have still to be undiscovered, said Sudha Gopalakrishnan, director, National Mission for Manuscripts (NMM). "A bigger number have to be catalogued. Many of them are rapidly decaying, and need to be properly preserved or they will be lost."

Manuscript Collection in Institute of India

1. Sampurnanand Sanskrit University, Varanasi 1, 40,000
2. Rajasthan Oriental Research Institute, Jodhpur 1, 16,123
3. Govt. Oriental Manuscript Library Chennai 72,620
4. TSSM Library, Thanjavour 47,625
5. Adyar Library and Research Centre, Chennai 40,000
6. Orissa State Museum, Bhubaneswar 37,000
7. Asiatic Society, Kolkata 32,000
8. Andhra Pradesh Orinetal Main Library 23, 115
9. Khuda Baksh Oriental Public Library, Patna 20,060
10. Scindia Oriental Research Institute, Ujjain 18,695
11. Punjab University, Chandigarh 18,395
12. State Central Library, Hyderabad 17,000
13. Vishwabharati University, Shantiniketan 15,354
14. Rampur Raza Library, Rampur 15,000
15. Rajasthan State Archives, Bikaner 14,000

DIGITAL PRESERVATION REQUIREMENTS

Digital preservation comprehends a vast range of activities which designed to extend the usable life of machine readable computer files and protect them from media failure, physical loss and obsolescence.

Digital preservation will add little values to the research process if it serves only as an alternative form of storage. Preserving digital materials in formats that are reliable and usable will require long term maintenance of structural characteristics, descriptive Meta data, display and computational and analytical capabilities, which demand mass storage and software for the retrieval and interpretation. The digital preservation is a process that requires the use of the best available technology, careful thought, administrative policy and procedures.

WHAT IS DIGITAL PRESERVATION?

Encyclopedia of Information Technology describes the digital preservation as "The process of maintaining, in a condition suitable for use, the materials produced in digital formats. Problems of physical preservation are compounded by the obsolescence of computer equipment, software, and storage media. Also refers to the practice of digitizing materials originally produced in non digital formats (print, film, etc.) to prevent permanent loss due to deterioration of the physical medium." Digital preservation occurred in two types; first born digital and second printed document that is digitize for preservation which are tangible by the hand of

deterioration. Digital preservation facilitates the global accessibility of any form of resources via internet.

Every organization is creating a large amount of digital records; some are born digital and others are converting paper to digital. Due to technological change organizations have to consider issues of preservation of their digital records even while they are still in active use.

In order to ensure records' authenticity, reliability and accessibility over time, organizations need to take into consideration issues of preservation at the time of creation.

It includes the various systematic directions, process, policies, tools and techniques and approaches. But some issues are influenced by the digital preservation like technological hurdles, information noise and internet revolution.

TYPES OF PRESERVATION

There are mainly three types of Digital preservation, which is categorized on the basis of the process of digitization as follows:

The Preservation of the storage medium

When considering in the terms of hurdles Tapes, hard drives, and Floppy Discs have a very short life span. The data on them can be refreshed; keeping the bits valid, but refreshing is only effective as long as the media are still current. Center of preservation will have to keep moving digital information from one medium to another storage medium.

The Preservation and access to content of materials

This type of Preservation includes preserving access to the content of materials, regardless of their format. It translates data from one format to another preserving the ability of users to retrieve and provide the information content.

Need of Digitization and Preservation of resources

Firstly, it has identified the need of digitization and preservation of materials in context of library and archives. The library has to precede the objective of conversion of its collection in digitized format such as Social cause i.e., catering information without charges; for making money by marketing; to decrease the duplication of efforts; to help others to create their own products; or to update the product.

Digitization

Digitization is a process which transforms the library materials like print, manuscripts, image etc. from one format into another format (digital).

According to Sonawane (2003) and Patil and Chikate (2003), "Digitization is an electronic snapshot, that is taken of a scene or scanned from documents, such as photographs, manuscripts, printed text, and artwork".

Digitization changes the materials, formats that can be read by people to using the format readable machine like Cameras and other devices.

Profits of Preservation

From ancient time, Indian Culture and creation had well developed. Due to their old existence there are different enormous manuscripts founded in various forms like Palm leaf books, paper manuscripts, birch bark texts, drawings, paintings, art and sculpture etc. Nowadays, these manuscripts are either scanned and converted into computer reading materials and preserved for long lasting for use of next generations. There are various important profits of digital preservation of manuscripts:

1.Preservation: Preservation is the process of storing the documents for future using by electronic devices. Due to preservation, we are able to produce the various digital copies of original documents and by putting them to use; the main copy can be protected. By making this process the manuscripts can be preserved for a long time on digital media.

2.Dissemination of Information: Maximum numbers of manuscripts are property of mutts, temples, libraries, museum and archives, etc.; with a various provision to use them. Digital preservation is providing the information via internet and CD-ROM etc.; about these types of documents which is not possible to use them by every person because some restriction is available for using the original manuscripts.

3.Collection Management: Digital preservation able to provide assistance in retrospective cataloguing, researching, assistance with curatorial functions, managing material movement etc.

4.New Revenue Streams: By making available the digital productions of original documents at lower resolution to Scholars as a paid service, the sale of high quality posters to art patrons around the world via an e- Commerce web site it is possible to generate some revenue.

CONCLUSION:

Manuscripts and other handmade materials are precious resources of our country. It shows the ancient culture and creation of Indian societies. At this point of view, it is an important source of studies for researchers. Manuscripts are not easily available, so digitization is the solution for their preservation and access to a long lasting life. Preservation of manuscripts is not new for India. Due to technological development, traditional preservation methods are changed.

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