



## **MANUSCRIPTS AS A SOURCE OF HISTORICAL RESEARCH AT DHANWATE NATIONAL COLLEGE, NAGPUR**

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### **Abstract:**

*The article justifies the importance of ‘Manuscripts’ as a key source for contemporary history and research. It gives a Bird’s eye view carried at local levels to identify the prime locations of these manuscripts, their present status and highlights the need, and importance to think of modern computer technologies for digitization and preservation of these for long term use, and posterity. The article also presents the sample list of Manuscripts available at Dhanwate National College library and sample of QR codes of digital Manuscripts..*

**Key Words:** Manuscripts, Historical Research, Dhanwate National College, Nagpur, Digitization. QR Code

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### **Introduction:**

Human thought is embodied, and represented in various documentary sources such as manuscripts, books, journals, etc including a host of nonbook material in its various forms, and formats. The impulses to record, and keep the same for posterity have been a part of human nature, and the exciting journey of writing, from papyrus to e-mail has also undergone a steady revolution. Preservation and access to information have been the most fundamental functions of libraries and archives. It is only through these repositories, that every society is in a position to know its past cultural heritage, and contribution in various fields of human endeavor. Thus, the past acts as the stimulus for present, as well as the future developments in the society. These age old social responsibilities of the libraries vis-à-vis information centres are re-emerging in the Information Society.

### **Historical Research: Vital Areas :**

Historical research is not just digging up of facts, but evaluation, and interpretation as to how past events actually occurred, which in turn forms an integral part of legitimate research. In conduct of literature search for historical method the “event” under study is directly observed (if possible) or the researcher has to gather as much available evidence of factual nature. The major sources of Historical Research are remains (Archeological findings suppressed inventions, in the form of materials associated with various phases of history); Documents (which include manuscripts, printed books, papers, magazines etc); Dairies, memoirs confession; Autobiograpraphies (including biographies, sacred archives, diplomatic agreements, personal letters (including accounts, and sources of authentic observations and witness; Artistic material (historical paintings, portraits, plaques, plates, charts, maps etc); Audio visual aids, photographs released through satellites, internet etc. The most valuable historical studies are those based on primary sources, and those which have been intelligently interpreted to reconstruct the past events.

## Manuscripts: Key sources :

‘Manuscript’ can be simply defined as ‘a document written by hand or typed which has been reproduced in the same form in multiple copies’. These are original sources of human history on a variety of medias like stone, clay tablets, metal and palm leaves, tree bark, animal skin, cloth, paper etc. Manuscripts enshrine vast treasures in the form of rich literature which have a bearing on different branches of learning. It is needless to emphasize their importance in historical enquiries, and the need of collecting, preserving, and studying these to promote Historical Research.

## Identifying Manuscripts: Efforts Initiated :

Dr. J G Chavan former Professor Department of Pharmacy RTMNU, Nagpur donated a 2000 rare books for Dhanwate National College, Nagpur. The subject of this donated books is sanskrit, Marathi, economics, history and other general books, these books was donated to Dr. J.G Chavan by Dr. W.B.Wabgaonkar, Professor, Dept. of Marathi RTMNU, Nagpur. Dr. J G Chavan also donated some manuscripts. We are maintaining a separate section for manuscript from 2018; recently we worked for the digitization of manuscripts. The article presents the some sample list of manuscripts and their QR Codes.

## Sample List of Manuscripts at Dhanwate National College, Library

Sr.No	Manuscript Name
1	अथ जीवनमुक्त
2	अथ ज्ञानदीप ग्रंथ
3	श्रीमद्भगवद्गीता
4	वारकरी व भागवत धर्म
5	शब्दकोश
6	सारविचार
7	चित्तप्रकाश
8	श्री शुक्लयजुर्वेदीयमंत्रसंहिता
9	शुयकशा
10	पवणविजय
11	(पवमान)पंचयुक्तसर्वानुक्रम
12	रुद्रयागप्रयोग
13	बाळक्रीडा
14	श्री भृगुसंहिता
15	सप्तकर्ण
16	ताम्रपट
17	संख्याएकंदर
18	सुलोचनागहिवर
19	ब्रह्मांड गोळक
20	श्रहिसर्प
21	सारबोध
22	स्त्री योगफल
23	कुंडली चक्र
24	अथ श्रीविवेकसिंधु
25	मार्तंड मुहूर्त टीका
26	सर्वसा सारग्रंथ
27	सुखबोध

28	मुहूर्त चिंतामणी
29	उत्तराई
30	लिपिपत्र
31	भारतीय लिपीयो की कहानी
32	अथ ऋग्वेदी नित्यविधी
33	प्रश्नभास्कर मुकप्रश्नज्ञान
34	पौराणिक कथा
35	संस्कारकौतुभ
36	योगासन
37	अथ संध्या
38	वालबोध
39	पुस्तक भवानीसहस्र नामावली प्रारंभ
40	नष्टजन्मपत्र प्रकरण

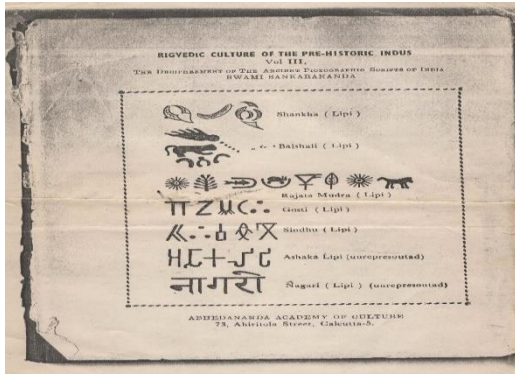
### Sample of Digital Manuscripts and their QR Codes Dhanwate National College Library

Name of Manuscripts	QR Code		
लिपिपत्र		रुद्रयागप्रयोग	
अथपवमानपंचसूक्त प्रारंभः		शुयकशाअथ तृतीयदशकप्रारंभ	
कुंडली चक्र		श्रहिसर्प	
पवनविजय		संस्कारकौतुभ	
ब्रम्हाण्ड गोळक		स्त्री फल	

### Sample Manuscripts: Emphasizing Historical Importance

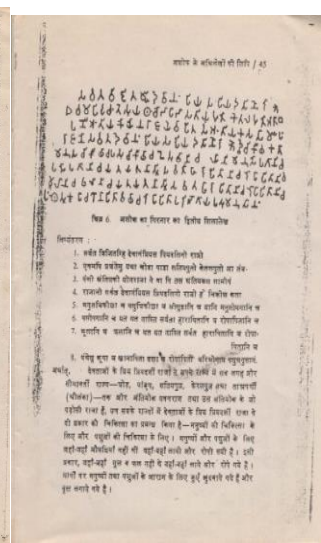
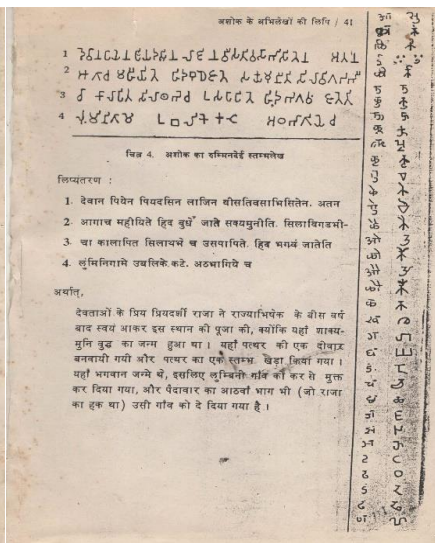
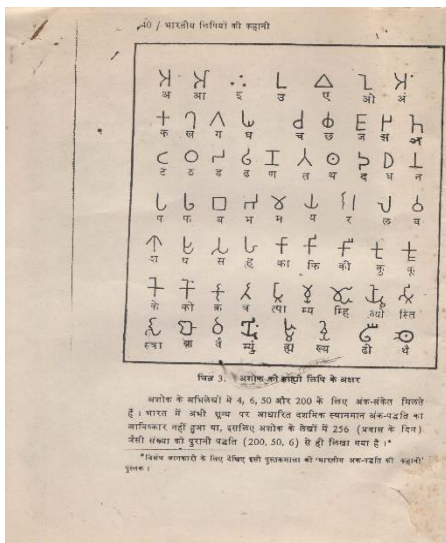
भारतीय लिपियोकी कहानी



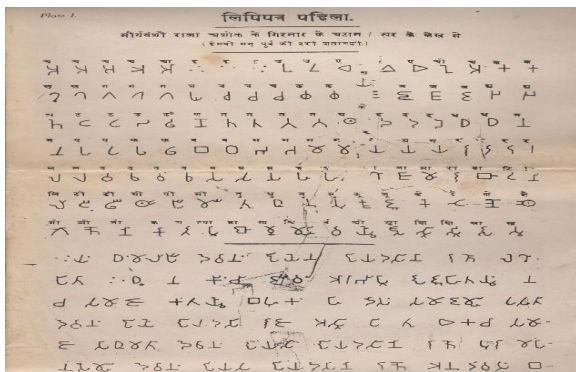


अशोक के ब्राह्मी लिपी के अक्षर

अशोक का रुमिनदेई स्तंभलेख

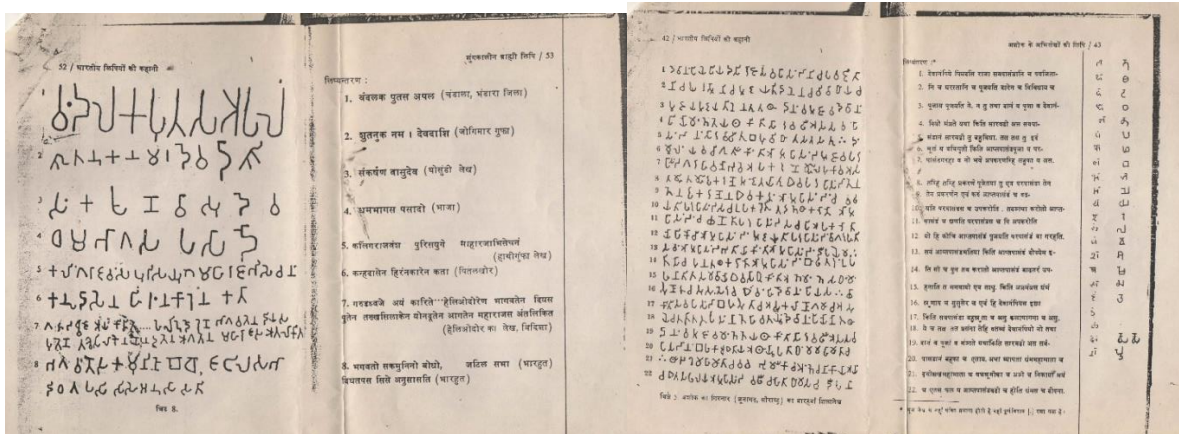


अशोक का गिरनार का द्वितीय शिलालेख मौर्यवंशो राजा अशोक के गिरनार के चटान के



शुंग कालीन ब्राह्मी लिपी

अशोक के अभिलेखों कि लिपी



### Preservation of Manuscripts:

The need and importance of manuscript as a primary source in historical and comparative research has been established without doubts. It is very difficult for in absence of proper preservation, and laboratories for the restoration, and conservation of these manuscripts the day may not be far, when we may lose these precious treasures forever. It is also worth pondering, that environmental factors are also largely responsible for the degradation of manuscripts more specially, the paper form. Micro-organisms, and rodents pose additional problems. Physical factors, mishandling and neglect also add serious threats.<sup>(11)</sup> Hence, application of modern technologies like scanning, microfilming digitization etc have come as handy tools for the preservation of these. Manuscripts of rare importance have to be identified through a cooperative.

### Conclusion:

Manuscripts relating to the history and development of any region are invaluable sources of our cultural heritage, but the need for their preservation have not been realized, and due to lack of any effective organization for their preservation, and publicity they are not being utilized optimally. Historical research enables communities to understand their relationship with the past, and plan more intelligently for the future. It is only when we understand these aspects seriously, and the hidden value of these documents that ‘Manuscripts’ would be truly regarded as gateways to contemporary history and research. Looking to the status of these documentary historical evidences, one has to accept, that a very serious thought has to be given towards application of modern digital technologies for their long term preservation and use. The environmental changes over the years are also affecting the ‘manuscripts’ in a big way.

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