

## **ROLE OF LIBRARIES IN CONSERVATION OF TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE**

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### **Abstract :**

*The article discussed the concept of traditional knowledge, need of TK and the role of libraries in conservation of traditional knowledge. Libraries are executing various projects to conserve traditional knowledge for Example rightful authentication of the heritage of past, recording of traditional knowledge, microfilm, and micro fish of traditional knowledge popularization of traditional knowledge and creating digital repositories to intensify the accessibility of traditional knowledge. Various libraries and information centers are occupied in conservation of TW. for Exa. National Manuscript Mission (NMM), Traditional knowledge Digital Library (TKDL) and National Digital Library of India (NDLI).*

**Keywords:** - Traditional knowledge, Library, digitization, conservation of manuscript.

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### **Introduction :**

#### **Traditional knowledge :**

Traditional knowledge is an fundamental part of culture, and it plays a vital role in establish a strong image of nation with more progressive and transforming its society.

The International council for science (ICSU) defines TW as, “cumulative body of knowledge know-how, practice and representations maintained and developed by peoples with extended histories of interaction with the natural environment. These sophisticated interpretations, understanding, means are part and parcel of a cultural complex that encompasses language, naming and classification systems, resources use practices rituals, spirituality.”

India is a nation with an ancient Sanatan, Vedic, meditation culture tradition. There are many traditional customs in India. It is a multi-cultural, multi-lingual country having nature friendly rich traditional knowledge which are not written down anywhere, they are not written in granthis, some part of traditional knowledge has been incorporated in granthis in the form of sutras and theories. Ancient culture and philosophy have a great influence on the world.

Various sciences and philosophies are mentioned in those books. About this book, knowledge is called traditional knowledge. This knowledge tradition is very ancient, and its flow is uninterrupted. There was other T K in ancient civilizations, but that was lost with the passage of time and invasion.

#### **Need of Traditional knowledge:**

Ancient Indian culture and philosophy has a huge impact on the world, not only to conserve and preserve this knowledge of global importance for the next generation, but also to



research and enhance it. And it is important to re-apply them in our new education system. Under the New Education Policy 2020, the study of traditional knowledge is essential to develop leadership thought in them and knowledge through heritage.

Indian traditional knowledge has great probability to meet national and global needs through which social benefits along with economic development are achieved. Traditional knowledge is a wealthy resource of India. The study of this traditional knowledge is needed for this country to form a solid foundation for new socio-economic development.

### **Introduction of Library:**

A library is an assemblage of books, other materials and media that is accessible for use by its members and members of allied institutions. They provide physical as well as Digital materials. A collection normally includes printed materials.

Resources such as materialistic releases of films, television programs, other video tape, radio, music, and audio tapes may be available in this format. These also include DVD's, Blu-rays CDs, cassettes, or other relevant formats such as microforms. They may also provide information, music or other content held on bibliographic databases.

Dr. S. R. Ranganathan, the father of librarianship, has said that a “library is a public institution that fosters democratic values”.

In ancient India, Nalanda University had a very rich library. In medieval times, manuscripts and Pothi were kept in great conservation. Raja Maharaja used to keep his own collection of manuscripts and books which is called **traditional knowledge**.

In India, however, traditional knowledge has survived despite many shocks, it is only because of the library that there are certain principles in it, otherwise that would not have survived for thousands of years. That understanding survives but what is special is that the traditional knowledge is still readable only because of the library. This traditional knowledge is preserved even today in the library. It has been saved. The basic purpose of the library is to store knowledge and information. The library gives access to the comprehensive understanding for the limited time of period.

In modern times, the abstract of the library has been changed, and it has become an source of information exchange between institution because the reader don't ask for books but ask for database information.

The following libraires' and information centers are involved in conservation of traditional knowledge in India:

### **The Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL):**

It's a depository of the Indian Digital Knowledge of traditional knowledge, especially about remedial plants and formulation used in Indian system of medicine. It has created a repository database of Indian traditional knowledge as well as information on ancient art subjects. The Traditional Knowledge Digital Library was established in 2001. TKDL is the first organization globally to operate in such a different format. Interestingly, this institution has become an example for other countries as well as alliance between the council of Scientific and Industrial research (CSIR) and Ministry of Science and technology and Department of



Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, and Homeopathy, (Ayush), Ministry of Health and Family welfare.

### **Features of TKDL:**

- Documentation of Traditional knowledge from ancient literature written in regional languages.
- Relates to Ayush.
- Is in digitized format.
- Is accessible in five international languages: English, German, French, Japanese and Spanish.
- Information included from 150 books (75 books on Ayurveda, 50 books on Siddha, 15 books on Yoga, and 10 books on Unani) available in the public domain.
- Databases contain 1200 formulations.
- Information on nearly 291 plants.
- Database exists in 34million in A4 size pages.

9.900 Yoga posters from 14 ancient yoga books

14 Intellectual Property Offices around the world are using TKDL's knowledge database.

Now these restrictions will be removed to prevent misused of Indian traditional knowledge and TKDL will be able to be used globally.

TKDL works to provide information in languages and formats familiar to intellectual property examiners in intellectual property offices around the world.

### **National Manuscript Mission (NMM) :**

National Manuscript Mission is an autonomous organization.

Established in year 2003 the national manuscript mission by the Indian government department of tourism and customs

The objective of the National Manuscript Mission is to decipher and preserve India's vast. Manuscript. NMM motto is, 'conserving the past for the future'.

India has ten million manuscripts which is probably the largest collection in the world.

Conservation of manuscripts is very important because they are the mighty source of early information regarding social, religious, historical, cultural, medical etc which in present day context due to different reasons like flood, fire, earthquake etc. The manuscripts are getting damaged day by day. For which proper conservation and preservation is essential to save this national heritage. The National Mission for Manuscripts aims to locate, document, preserve Indian manuscripts and make these accessible to connect India past with its future.

([www.ignca.nic.in](http://www.ignca.nic.in)).

### **National Digital Library of India (NDLI):**

Virtual repository of learning resources of India is the national digital library.



It is a digital gathering of freely accessible rare books collected from various libraries. In 2000 the foundation was laid for this project. It is proposed to create the digital library which is free to read collection of one million books, predominantly in Indian languages.

It is sponsored by Ministry of Education, through its National Mission on Education Information and Communication Technology (NMEICT). It is developed crafted and maintained from Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur.

It was designed for best learning of people.

The objective is to gather metadata and provide text index from several national and international digital libraries, other relevant sources.

#### **Features of National Digital Library:**

1. NDL to benefit various types of users like students, researchers, library users, teachers, librarians, professionals, and all other lifelong learners which is available for lifetime.
2. The NDL India provide learning resources like books articles thesis manuscripts video lectures web courses etc. in multiple formats like PDF, HTML, PPT, JPG, MP3, MP4, FLV, AVI, etc.
3. National digital library of India covers information sources on variety of all subjects and resources are offered in more than 70 languages
4. The NDL only ingests meta data for a search and browse and content (full text) is delivered from source.

#### **National Archives of India (NAI):**

It is a depository of the non-current records of the government of India.

It is created as the imperial record department in 1891 in Kolkata.

It works as an attached office of the department of culture bounded by Ministry of culture Government of India.

The records include English, Arabic, Hindi, Sanskrit and Urdu languages and their material include paper, palm leaf, birch bark and parchment.

NAI implemented a project called National Register of Private records in 1957. These records are in four categories: Public records, Oriental records, Manuscripts and Private Papers.

NGO's, churches, temples, and mutts in collaboration with state Archives departments.

NAI published 19 volumes of the National Register of Private Records till date, holds over 34,000 entries.

NAI implements two schemes:

1. Scheme of Financial Assistance to State /Union Territories Government Libraries and Museum and
2. Scheme of financial assistance for preservation of Manuscripts /rare books. Under these schemes funds are provided to the state governments and museums, libraries, education institutions, temples, mutts etc.



## **Museums and libraries under department of culture:**

Culture plays an important role in the development agenda of any nation. The mandate of the ministry of culture revolves around the functions like preservation and conservation of our cultural heritage and promotion of all forms of art and culture, both tangible and intangible.

Following some organizations under Ministry of Culture, Government of India are available are manuscript below.

### **1. Rampur Raza Library :**

It is having 17000 manuscripts in Arabic, Persian, Pushto, Sanskrit, Urdu, Hindi, and Turkish languages. It is possessing a good collection of paintings and palm leaves in various Indian languages.

### **2. Khuda Baksh Oriental Public Library :**

First opened to the public in 1891. It is having 35,000 manuscripts (21000 rare manuscript and 14 000 small manuscript )2,82,904 printed books in various languages like Arabic, Persian, Urdu, Turkish and Pushto.

### **3. Asiatic Society Kolkata :**

The Asiatic Society Library has a rich collection of about 47000 manuscripts in 26 scripts.

### **4. National Library Kolkata :**

It has 5800 manuscripts. The history of the National Library began with the formation of the Calcutta Public Library in 1836.

### **5. Salar Jung Museum Hyderabad :**

The museum has a collection of over 46, 000 art objects, over 9,000 manuscripts and over 60,000 printed books that are from the collection. A separate library houses the manuscript and books.

### **6. Victoria memorial museum :**

Several parts of manuscript of different texts from Buddhist text to Sanskritic once are a part of the collection of Victoria memorial hall.

## **Conclusion:**

India is a nation with an ancient Sanatana, Vedic, knowledge culture tradition. Ancient Indian culture and philosophy has a huge impact on the world, not only to preserve and preserve this knowledge of global importance for the next generation, but also to research and enhance it. And it is important to re-apply them in our new education system. The initiative was taken by the government of India for the conservation of Tk. National Manuscript Mission, Traditional knowledge Digital Library, Digital library of India are conserving traditional knowledge.



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