

## DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION OF MANUSCRIPTS IN DHANWATE NATIONAL COLLEGE LIBRARY: A STUDY

**Dr. Vaishali D Malode**

Librarian

Dhanwate National College, Nagpur

**Ms. Sonali W Hole**

Dhanwate National College, Nagpur

---

### Abstract :

*This study explores the digital transformation of manuscripts at Dhanwate National College Library, Nagpur. With over 101 rare manuscripts and 3364 rare Books digitized, the initiative reflects a commitment to preserving cultural heritage and enhancing scholarly access. The paper examines the digitization process, preservation techniques, research implications, and challenges faced. It also highlights the role of collaboration and technology in democratizing access to historical resources.*

**Keywords:** Digital Transformation, Manuscripts

---

### Introduction :

The Central Library of **Dhanwate National College, Nagpur** has undertaken a **Digitization Project** aimed at preserving and providing wider accessibility to its rare and valuable collection of manuscripts. This initiative is of great academic and cultural importance, as it safeguards historical documents while making them available to researchers, students, and scholars through digital platforms. The project has been **sponsored by the Heritage Foundation, Pune**, which is dedicated to the conservation of cultural and intellectual heritage. With their support, the library has begun the systematic digitization of both **handwritten and printed manuscripts** in Marathi, Sanskrit, Hindi, English, and Modi Lipi.

### Objectives of the project include :

- **Preservation** of fragile manuscripts through digital archiving.
- **Accessibility** to rare resources for academic research.
- **Promotion** of Indian Knowledge Systems and traditional learning.
- **Integration** of digital collections with modern educational frameworks (NEP 2020).

This collaborative effort between **Dhanwate National College** and the **Heritage Foundation, Pune** ensures that the institution's unique manuscript collection is protected for future generations while being effectively utilized in present-day scholarship.

### Manuscripts at Dhanwate National College :

The Central Library of Dhanwate National College preserves valuable manuscripts

which are an important part of its cultural and academic heritage. The manuscript collection at Dhanwate National College Library, Nagpur, includes a diverse range of printed and handwritten manuscripts that span multiple disciplines and historical periods. These manuscripts are broadly:

### 1. Handwritten Manuscripts :

Handwritten manuscripts are original works manually inscribed by scholars, writers, or practitioners. They provide unique insights into the intellectual traditions of the past. At Dhanwate National College, the handwritten manuscripts are categorized into **four parts**:

#### 1. Literary Manuscripts :

- Includes poetry, prose, stories, and plays.
- Reflects creativity and linguistic richness.

#### 2. Historical Manuscripts :

- Contains records of events, genealogies, and local history.
- Valuable for research in social and cultural studies.

#### 3. Religious/Philosophical Manuscripts :

- Texts on religion, rituals, spirituality, and philosophical thought.
- Represents ethical, moral, and traditional wisdom.

#### 4. Academic/Scholarly Manuscripts :

- Notes, lectures, research drafts, and academic treatises.
- Useful for understanding the evolution of scholarly practices.

### 2. Printed Manuscripts :

Printed manuscripts represent works reproduced through printing technologies. These are equally valuable for academic and historical study. They include: Printed Manuscripts

1. Early printed editions of classical Indian literature
2. Rare publications from the colonial period
3. Academic papers and journals from the early 20th century
4. Government records and gazetteers

### List of Handwritten Manuscript at Dhanwate National College, Library

**Table 1: Handwritten Manuscripts- 62**

Sr.no	Manuscript Name	Language	Lipi
H1	Martand Muhurth Tika	Sanskrit	Devnagari
H2	Gyandeep Granth	Sanskrit	Devnagari
H3	Bramhand Golak	Marathi	Devnagari
H4	Jeevan Mukht	Marathi	Devnagari
H5	Jain Granth	Sanskrit	Devnagari
H6	Kashyan Din	Sanskrit	Devnagari
H7	Shrimad Bhagwat Geeta Maala Mantra	Sanskrit	Devnagari
H8	Sukhbodh	Sanskrit	Devnagari
H9	Markandeya Vyakhyan	Sanskrit	Devnagari
H10	Shakti Panchakshari Mantra	Sanskrit	Devnagari
H11	Brahmand Puraan	Marathi	Devnagari
H12	Sulochana Gahivar	Marathi	Devnagari
H13	Saar Vichaar	Marathi	Devnagari
H14	Vivek Sindhu	Sanskrit	Devnagari
H15	Satpakarn	Marathi	Devnagari
H16	Chitt Prakash	Marathi	Devnagari
H17	Saar Vichaar	Marathi	Devnagari
H18	Pauranik Katha	English	English
H19	SaarVichar(Adhyay10,14,15,16,17,19)	Sanskrit	Devnagari
H20	Brahmand Godak (Adhyay 11 -14)	Marathi	Devnagari
H21	Saar Bodh	Marathi	Devnagari
H22	Baal Krida (Adyay 20 - 30, 29 missing)	Marathi	Devnagari
H23	Saar Vichar	Marathi	Devnagari
H24	Vaarkari va Bhaagwat Dharma(Xerox)	Marathi	Devnagari
H25	Agyaat	Marathi	Devnagari
H26	Mantra	Sanskrit	Devnagari
H27	Agyaat Mantra	Sanskrit	Devnagari
H28	Panchang	Sanskrit	Devnagari
H29	Gruh Drishti	Sanskrit	Devnagari
H30	Skandpuraan	Sanskrit	Devnagari
H31	Gau Matacha Ugava Mantra	Sanskrit	Devnagari
H32	Guru Mahatmya	Sanskrit	Devnagari
H33	Draupadi Swayamvar	Sanskrit	Devnagari
H34	Sarvasaar Granth	Sanskrit	Devnagari
H35	Durgapooja	Sanskrit	Devnagari
H36	Muhurt Chintamani	Sanskrit	Devnagari
H37	Martand Muhurt	Sanskrit	Devnagari
H38	Gorakshnath Mantra	Marathi	Devnagari

H39	Yajurveda Sanhita	Sanskrit	Devnagari
H40	Skandpuraanantargat Shanistrot	Sanskrit	Devnagari
H41	Yantraraj	Sanskrit	Devnagari
H42	Atharvashirsham	Sanskrit	Devnagari
H43	Agyaat Modi	Sanskrit	Modi
H44	Jagdamba Arti	Sanskrit	Devnagari
H45	Rampaddhatti	Sanskrit	Devnagari
H46	Bhawani Sahastras Namavali	Sanskrit	Devnagari
H47	RudraDevi Mahatmya	Sanskrit	Devnagari
H48	Tithi Chintamani	Sanskrit	Devnagari
H49	Bhagwat Geeta	Sanskrit	Devnagari
H50	Markandeya Puraan Tika	Sanskrit	Devnagari
H51	Gorakshanath Pooja	Sanskrit	Devnagari
H52	Saptavishati Nakshatra	Sanskrit	Devnagari
H53	Saptashati	Marathi	Devnagari
H54	Nakshatra Prakaran	Sanskrit	Devnagari
H55	Hanuman Arti	Sanskrit	Devnagari
H56	Durga Arti	Sanskrit	Devnagari
H57	Shukla Yajuh Kanvadsanhita	Sanskrit	Devnagari
H58	Muhurt Chintamani - 2	Sanskrit	Devnagari
H59	Markandeya Puraan	Sanskrit	Devnagari
H60	Matsya Puraan	Sanskrit	Devnagari
H61	Agyaat	Sanskrit	Devnagari
H62	Modi Papers	Sanskrit	Modi

**Table 1** highlights the collection of handwritten manuscripts preserved in the Central Library of Dhanwate National College. The total number of handwritten manuscripts recorded is **62**. Among these, a significant majority of **59 manuscripts** are written in **Devanagari Lipi**, OUT OF WHICH 45 IS IN SANSKRIT AND 16 IS IN MARATHI which reflects the dominance of regional and traditional scripts in academic and cultural documentation.

In addition, the collection also includes **one manuscript in English language**, which narrates a **Pauranik “Katha”** (mythological story). This manuscript holds special significance as it represents the adaptation of traditional Indian narratives into the English language, bridging local heritage with global scholarly communication.

Furthermore, there are **two manuscripts written in Modi Lipi**. These are referred to as **“Agyat Modi”** (unknown Modi papers), which indicate historical or administrative writings. The presence of Modi Lipi manuscripts is particularly valuable, as Modi was widely used in Maharashtra for record-keeping and official documentation during the medieval and early modern periods.

Thus, the handwritten manuscript collection of the college is not only diverse in terms

of content but also represents a **linguistic plurality**, with examples in **Devanagari, English, and Modi Lipi**, contributing to the preservation of literary, historical, and cultural traditions.

**List of Printed Manuscript at Dhanwate National College, Library**

**Table 2: Printed Manuscripts- 19**

Sr.no	Title	Language	Lipi
P1	Pavanvijay	Marathi	Devnagari
P2	Pavmanpanchsukta	Sanskrit	Devnagari
P3	Dutiya Dashak	Sanskrit	Devnagari
P4	Shukla Yajurvediya Rudra Asthadyaayui	Sanskrit	Devnagari
P5	Rigvedi Nityavidhi	Sanskrit	Devnagari
P6	Rudrayaagprayog	Sanskrit	Devnagari
P7	Shukla Yajurvediya Mantra Sahita	Sanskrit	Devnagari
P8	Shri Bhrgusahita	Sanskrit	Devnagari
P8	Prashnabhaskar Mook Prashnagyan	Sanskrit	Devnagari
P9	Sanskar Kaustubh	Sanskrit	Devnagari
P10	Shrimad Bhagwat Geeta	Sanskrit	Devnagari
P11	Shri Bhrgugusanhita Mahashastrantargat Nrushujanmapatra Prakaran	Hindi	Devnagari
P12	Stree Yogfal	Sanskrit	Devnagari
P13	Shri Bhrgugusanhita Mahashastrantargat Kundali Chakra	Sanskrit	Devnagari
P14	Tambrapatra Photos	Sanskrit	Devnagari
P15	Vyaakran	Sanskrit	Devnagari
P16	Shri Bhrgugusanhita Mahashastrantargat Kundali Chakra (Page 198-265)	Sanskrit	Devnagari
P17	Yoga- Asanas	Sanskrit	Devnagari
P18	Panchang	Hindi	Devnagari
P19	Hastarekha Lakshan	Sanskrit	Devnagari

**Table 2** highlights the collection of **Printed Manuscripts** preserved in the Central Library of Dhanwate National College. The total number of printed manuscripts recorded is **19**, and all of them are written in **Devanagari Lipi**.

Out of these, the majority—**17 manuscripts**—are in **Sanskrit language**, representing traditional knowledge, classical literature, and philosophical texts that form the core of India's intellectual heritage.

In addition, the collection contains **2 manuscripts in Hindi**, which contribute to the preservation of modern Indian linguistic traditions and cultural writings.

There is also **1 manuscript in Marathi**, which adds regional significance to the



collection, reflecting the literary and cultural contributions of Maharashtra.

Thus, the printed manuscript collection demonstrates a clear **linguistic orientation towards Sanskrit**, while also including important works in **Hindi and Marathi**, making the collection a valuable resource for interdisciplinary research and cultural studies.

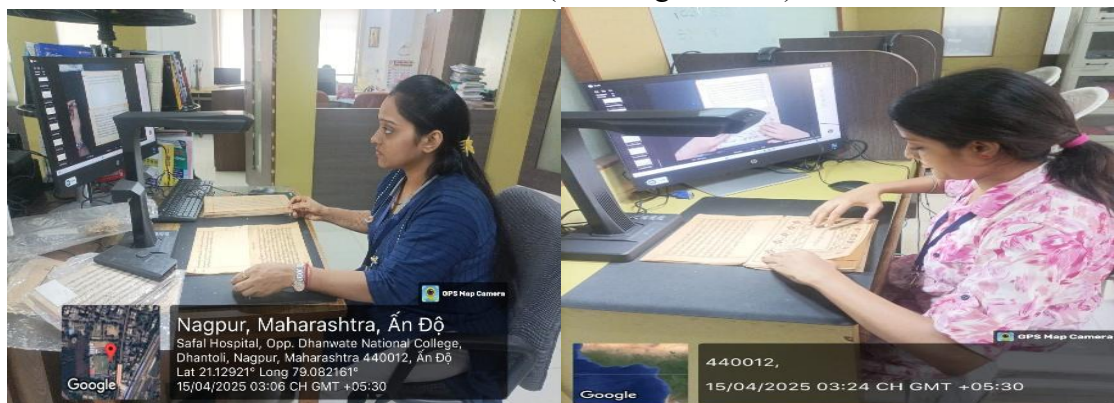
### Background and Significance :

The library houses over 101 rare manuscripts, many donated by Dr. J. G. Chavan, a retired professor from RTMNU Nagpur. These manuscripts span various disciplines, including literature, philosophy, and science. Digitizing them ensures their preservation and accessibility for future generations (Academia.edu, 2025).

### Digitization Process :

The digitization process involves several key steps:

- **Scanning and OCR:** Manuscripts are scanned and processed using Optical Character Recognition to convert handwritten text into searchable digital formats.
- **Metadata Tagging:** Each manuscript is tagged with bibliographic metadata to facilitate retrieval and classification.
- **QR Code Integration:** QR codes are generated for each manuscript, allowing users to access them via mobile devices (UPA.org.in, 2025).



### Preservation Techniques :

Preservation includes both physical and digital strategies:

- **Climate-Controlled Storage:** Manuscripts are stored in environments with regulated temperature and humidity.
- **Acid-Free Materials:** Use of acid-free paper and protective covers prevents deterioration.
- **Digital Backups:** Multiple copies are stored in secure Dhanwate National college Library ,digital DSPACE Institutional repository to prevent data loss.



## Digital Transformation Efforts

These manuscripts are stored using acid-free paper, and many have been digitized using QR codes, OCR, and metadata tagging to ensure preservation and accessibility

- The library has initiated **digitization** using **QR codes**, **optical character recognition (OCR)**, and **metadata tagging** to make manuscripts accessible online.
- This transformation ensures **long-term preservation** and supports **remote access** for scholars and students.



## Scholarly Impact :

Digitized manuscripts serve as primary sources for historical research. They enable scholars to:

- Reconstruct historical events.
- Analyse cultural and literary trends.
- Conduct comparative studies across regions and time periods.

The initiative supports interdisciplinary research and enhances the academic value of the library's collection.

## Collaboration and Access :

The library collaborates with DELNET (Developing Library Network), allowing scholars across India and abroad to access the digitized manuscripts. This partnership promotes resource sharing and academic networking (UPA.org.in, 2025).

### Challenges and Limitations :

Despite its success, the initiative faces several challenges:

- **Standardization Issues:** Inconsistent bibliographic descriptions and subject headings complicate cataloguing.
- **Technical Constraints:** Limited funding and infrastructure hinder scalability.
- **Digital Longevity:** Ensuring long-term access and avoiding format obsolescence remains a concern.

### Future Directions :

To enhance the initiative, the following steps are recommended:

- Adoption of international metadata standards.
- Expansion of digitization to include more manuscripts. We are in the process of digitization of rare books in our library following subject wise books are digitized at Dhanwate National College Library.
- Integration with global digital libraries and archives.

### List of Digitized Books :

Sr. No	Department	Total Books
1	History	205
2	ejkBh ok <sup>3</sup> e;	165
3	pfj= &vkRepfj=	112
4	ejkBh ok <sup>3</sup> e;	78
5	leh{kk	175
6	laL—r	56
7	dfork	178
8	oSpkfjd ok <sup>3</sup> e;	121
9	English	123
10	Economics	196
11	Biography	128
12	Philosophy	69
13	English Short Stories	132
14	Shakespeare	140
15	English Novel	535
16	English Literature	213
17	Drama & Fiction	324
18	English	133
19	Dr.Panjabrao Deshmukh	32
20	Dr. Ambedkar	247
21	Hand book	2



	Total	3364
--	-------	------

**Conclusion :**

Digital transformation is not just about adopting technology but about reimagining the role of academic libraries as knowledge facilitators rather than information custodians. It empowers learners, researchers, and educators with seamless, equitable, and sustainable access to knowledge in alignment with global educational and research trends. The digital transformation of manuscripts at Dhanwate National College Library is a pioneering effort in cultural preservation and academic accessibility. By leveraging technology and collaboration, the library has created a sustainable model for digitizing historical resources. Continued investment and innovation will ensure that these treasures remain accessible for generations to come.

**References :**

- Chavan, J. G. (n.d.). *Rare manuscript collection*. Dhanwate National College Library Archives.
- Gadkari, S. M., & Kaul, R. S. (2024). Digital transformation of resources available manuscripts in Dhanwate National College Library: A study. *International Journal of Digital Library Perspectives*, 18(2), 55–70.
- Gajbhiye, S. (2023). Manuscripts as a source of historical research at Dhanwate National College, Nagpur. *UPA Research Journal*.
- Gaur, R. C. (2011). Preservation and access to manuscript heritage in India. *International Journal of Information Research*, 1(1), 1–15.
- Kumar, S. (2020). *Digital libraries and manuscript conservation in India: Challenges and opportunities*. *Indian Journal of Knowledge Management*, 8(1), 12–19.
- Malode, Vaishali (2025). *Manuscripts as a source of historical research at Dhanwate National College Nagpur*. <https://www.academia.edu>
- National Mission for Manuscripts. (n.d.). *Digitization initiatives in Indian libraries*. Retrieved from <https://www.namami.gov.in>
- Pawar, P. (2023). *Digitization and preservation of manuscripts: A case study of Dhanwate National College Library*.
- Website Access . <https://dncnagpur.ac.in/>