



IMPORTANCE AND AVAILABILITY OF MANUSCRIPTS FOR INDIAN KNOWLEDGE SYSTEM

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Introduction:

The term "manuscript" comes from Latin word manu scriptus, which means handwritten. They were often copied by handwritten and copy was different from the others. This method encouraged the growth of similar works that changed over time. Nowadays, some writers still use scripts when writing books and articles. But the work is complete; it is generally typed and published for publication. There are various reasons why scripts are essential. They are a valuable resources of information for researchers as well as historians and can supply information about the past that would otherwise be lost. Manuscripts can also be beautiful works of art and their value as cultural objects is immeasurable. Due to the inclusion of traditional theories in IKS, the increasing importance of manuscripts day by day.

Objectives of the Study :

1. To discuss the importance of Manuscripts in updating the knowledge for the next generation.
2. To develop an ideology for identifying important manuscripts
3. To find out the digital platform for searching manuscripts in one place.
4. To search various platforms of manuscripts
5. To show the trend of online manuscript availability
6. To highlight the importance of manuscripts in IKS
7. To reduce efforts for the use and handling of sensitive original material and create a new path for study material of IKS.

Study Methods :

The research methodology is mainly based on activities related to the growth of usability and accessibility and the creation of online platforms. This study uses a "descriptive" research methods. The necessary information was collected from various websites dealing with manuscripts and the official websites of famous resource centers viz. Kritisampada, National Manuscript Mission, Universities, Private Institutes etc. keeping in mind the objectives of the research, the information obtained was compiled. . entered tables and figures and finally analyzed to get the result.

To give an exclusive assessment of the activities of script centers/owners in the following cases. Three ways:

1. Availability of manuscripts and its status
2. Development of digitize library
3. Provide online platform with links.



Manuscripts:

A manuscript is a handwritten composition at least 75 years old on paper, box, cloth, metal, palm leaf or other material. A script is a particular system or style of writing. It can be understood as a symbolic representation of the sounds of a particular language. India is one of the country, which is diverse in terms of language, script and culture since ancient times. Manuscripts writing deal with many subjects like Veda, Vedanta, Darshan, Ayurveda, Aesthetics, Astronomy, Astrology, Yoga, Vastu, Mathematics, Linguistics and many other similar subjects written in various ancient books and various Indian languages. Manuscripts make up an important element of the rich cultural heritage of India.

Obtainable Places of Manuscripts :

Manuscripts are spread all over the country in various libraries , institutions like universities ,colleges, centers, private institutions, museums, monasteries, temples as well as in the houses of individuals.

Writing materials, Language and scripts :

Manuscripts written on various materials like Palm leaf ,Bhoj patra, Banana leaf, Bamboo leaf, Brich Bark, Sanchi Patra , sometimes on the cloths, paper as well as metal like Bonze,Copper, Gold etc. Manuscripts are found in various language and scripts. One language is written in different scripts i.e. Grantha, Devnagari, oriya and many other scripts used in Sanskrit writing. Their means manuscripts are available in various scripts.

Importance of Manuscript digitization :

Manuscript digitization is crucial for the preservation of diverse materials in digital form, as well as for providing a digital compilation of those resources for use by future generations.

IKS philosophy:

IKS philosophy based on Vedas and the Upanishads means Vedic literature is most important for the IKS. Existing materials of Veda, Dharma, and Upanishad, etc. may or may not be available through technology or online learning platforms. According to the Vision and Mission of IKS Manuscripts are the most important source for support to interdisciplinary research on all aspects of Indian Knowledge systems by preserving and disseminating Indian Knowledge systems for further research and society.

National education policy and the Indian Knowledge system give suggestions for dealing with the digitization of manuscripts, availability, and accessibility in open access platforms. Institutes, universities, and social Institutions have taken initiatives to digitize such types of materials and make availability as well accessible through their archives, databases, websites, and other ways. Secondly, manuscripts promote research in the Indian Knowledge System providing proof of concepts new knowledge generation effective interdisciplinary work useful for society.

Role of Library in IKS :

Researchers are always to use original, primary, and rare information, knowing that the document can be damaged by direct handling. Scholars are dedicating themselves to finding



out the facts of the past. for this purpose, they check primary sources where many facts are hidden, and unrevealed, secondary sources may contain errors.

Therefore, it is important to prepare some guidelines and procedures for keeping valuable manuscripts in repositories, which will not only help the library to maintain the safety of its manuscripts but also help scholars to get proper service.

Due to the courses of IKS, the role of the library is most important in preparing a policy for the digitization and preservation of manuscripts.

Need of Manuscript in IKS :

Due to globalization, the world has experienced rapid changes and increased competition in the last decade as well as the development of technology. The development of information technology and communication systems caused revolutionary changes in the organization and management of information. Digitization is the process of expanding and improving information storage and retrieval systems that process digital data on any medium and are in distributed networks. Digitization is essential for accessibility and preservation. In this sense, it can be said that the digitization of manuscripts is the only way to exchange and preserve cultural heritage for IKS.

Need for Authors:

From the authors' point of view, manuscripts are very important in the creation of books or other readable publications. Manuscripts provide a direct link to the author of a particular work, provide insight into the author's process and thinking, and shed light on the historical context in which the work was written.

National Mission for Manuscripts (NMM) :

The National Manuscript Mission (NMM) is an creativity of the Government of India to excavate, collect and preserve manuscripts in the possession of India. The Union Ministry of Tourism and Culture launched this mission and the Indira Gandhi National Center for the Arts is the nodal body for the National Manuscript Mission. According to some archaeological estimates, India has about 10 million manuscripts, making it the largest collection in the world. India has manuscripts in different languages, script, themes, aesthetics, texture, illustrations, light and calligraphy. The mission and main objective is to excavate, collect, preserve and preserve manuscripts and make them available to the public, universities and research institutes. This task was instigated because no previous attempts had been made to preserve the manuscripts and historians were concerned that continued neglect would deprive India and future generations of detailed knowledge of its rich and glorious past.

Digitization of Manuscript :

The National Manuscript Mission (NMM) is beginning the process of preserving the manuscripts for posterity, but the digitization process is still in its infancy. The manuscripts of the various Institutions converted into digital format as part of the nationwide manuscript activity. It is better to mention that in Maharashtra Kavikulaguru Kalidas Sanskrit University , Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute pune, Anandaashram , Pune, Barister Balasaheb Kherdekar Library Shivaji University, Kolhapur are functioning as a Manuscript Resource Center (MRC). In this regard, it can be said that if the management of the other institutions

takes a full initiative with the NMM in digitizing the manuscript collections of the libraries, we have better opportunities to equally exchange our cultural heritage to the society.

Distribution of selected Manuscripts Institutions and Access Methods

Sr.No	Name of Institution	Website	No. of MSS	Archive /NMM Databases/Remote Access
1	The Asiatic Society, Kolkata	https://www.pandulipatala.nic.in/advance-search	7467	Databases
2	Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute, Pune	https://www.pandulipatala.nic.in/advance-search	50113	Databases
3	Calcutta University, Kolkata	https://www.pandulipatala.nic.in/advance-search		Databases
4	Institute Francais de Pondichery, Pondichery	https://www.pandulipatala.nic.in/advance-search	19447	Databases
5	Kavikulaguru Kalidas Sanskrit University, Ramtek	https://www.pandulipatala.nic.in/advance-search https://archive.org/details/manuscript-catalog-of-kksu-ramtek-updated-v-2-kavikulguru-kalidas-sanskrit-unive/page/5/mode/2up	12087	Archive /Database/Remote Access
6	Kargon Gompa, Igo, Ladakh	https://www.pandulipatala.nic.in/advance-search		Databases
7	Khuda Bakhsh Oriental Public Library, Patna	https://www.pandulipatala.nic.in/advance-search	23411	Databases
8	Krishna Kanta Handiqui Library, Guwahati	https://www.pandulipatala.nic.in/advance-search	54994	Databases
9	Lalbbhai Dalpatbhai Institute of Indology, Ahmedabad	https://www.pandulipatala.nic.in/advance-search	104755	Databases
10	Library of Tibetan Works, Dharmasala	https://www.pandulipatala.nic.in/advance-search	123776	Databases
11	Manipur State Archives, Manipur	https://www.pandulipatala.nic.in/advance-search	1502	Databases
12	National Museum, New Delhi	https://archive.org/details/nd-national-museum-sanskrit/page/12/mode/2up	608	Archive
13	Oriental Research Institute, Mysore	https://archive.org/details/a-descriptive-catalogue-of-the-sanskrit-manuscripts-in-the-government-oriental-l	77540	Archive
14	Oriental Research Institute, Sri Venkateswara University, Tirupati	https://www.pandulipatala.nic.in/advance-search	33498	Databases



15	Oriental Research Institute and Manuscripts Library, Thiruvananthapuram	https://archive.org/details/alphabetical-index-of-sanskrit-manuscripts-in-the-university-manuscript-library-	11447	Archive
16	Orissa State Museum, Bhubaneswar	https://www.pandulipatala.nic.in/advance-search	364521	Database
17	Rajasthan Oriental Research Institute, Jodhpur	https://www.pandulipatala.nic.in/advance-search	252094	Database
18	Rampur Raza Library, Rampur	https://www.pandulipatala.nic.in/advance-search	45249	Database
19	Vishweshvarananda Biswabandhu Institute of Sanskrit and Indological Studies, Hoshiarpur	https://www.pandulipatala.nic.in/advance-search	23714	Database
20	Chunilal Gandhi Vidyabhavan Surat	https://archive.org/details/@chunilal_gandhi_vidyabhavan?&sort=-publicdate&page=2	2554	Archive
21	Kurukshetra University Manuscripts	https://archive.org/details/@kurukshetra_university	79	Archive
22	Kashi Jangamwadi Math Library of Manuscripts and Book	https://archive.org/details/kashijangamwadimath?query=Manuscript	4927	Archive
23	Raghunath Temple, Jammu, j & K	https://archive.org/details/%40dharmarthatrustjk-2?&sort=-publicdate&page=2	3574	Archive
24	Jangamwadi Math Collection	https://archive.org/details/@jangamwadi?query=Manuscript	4927	Archive
25	Mumukshu Bhawan Collection	https://archive.org/details/mumukshubhawhncollection?query=Manuscript	5226	Archive
26	Indian Culture	https://indianculture.gov.in/manuscripts?search_api_fulltext=	8748	Archive

Recently Manuscript Resource Centre of the Kavikulaguru Kalidas Sanskrit University took initiative to prepared database and digitization of manuscripts in Rastrasant Tukadoji Maharaj Nagpur University library through the support of National Manuscript Mission. The above table shows that some institutions are preparing their own full text databases of manuscripts which are available on the archives. It is open access for everyone. Some of them are the part of NMM database namely Bharatiya Kriti Sampada. Kritisampada, the National Manuscript Mission, is the largest and most ambitious project to create a database of all Indian manuscripts in the country and abroad. The database contains various information on titles, subjects, authors, commentaries, manuscripts, languages, preservation and more of Indian manuscripts. The goal of the assignment is to provide complete and valid information for each manuscript. Kriti Sampada, a national database of manuscripts, is available online through the



mission's website. This project aims to document every manuscript, whether it is in museums, libraries, temples, madrasas or private collections.

Conclusion:

There is an urgent need to make strategies in terms of how to search manuscripts. Many Indian universities and Government institutions as well as private institutions have established Repositories of manuscripts and made them online accessible. People who are interested in reading and writing about IKS need to be made aware of this, as well as receive training on how to disseminate in a way that makes their manuscripts searchable and effective. The big collection of manuscripts in the nation are located in the Library of Tibetan Works in Dharmasala, the Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute in Pune, the Rajasthan Oriental Research Institute in Jodhpur, the Orissa State Museum in Bhubaneswar, the Krishna Kanta Handiqui Library, Guwahati, Lalbhai Dalpatbhai Institute of Indology, Ahmedabad, and others. National Manuscript Mission's Bharatiya Kriti Sampad is India's largest database of manuscripts useful for Indian Knowledge Systems courses.

Reference :

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