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The Manuscript As Collection Development In The Kameshwar Singh Darbhanga Sanskrit University: A Study

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Abstract

The paper examine the manuscript as Collection Development in the Kameshwar Singh Darbhanga Sanskrit University. The present study has been carried out through personal interview of the Library incharge. The finding conform that in today era , where people are using state of the art equipments, the Kameshwar Singh Darbhanga Sanskrit University Library is collecting its manuscripts collection as a valuable heritage so that students and our society can get its full benefits in the coming times.

Keywords: manuscript, Collection Development, Kameshwar Singh Darbhanga Sanskrit University(KSDSU)

INTRODUCTION

The word "manuscript" is derived from Latin, where "manu" means "hand," and "scriptus" means "written." Before the invention of paper, ancient civilizations such as the Egyptians, Greeks, and Romans utilized various materials for writing, including papyrus, parchment, and vellum. Scribes and scholars would meticulously transcribe texts by hand, ranging from religious scriptures and philosophical treatises to historical records and artistic works.

The concept of a manuscript finds its roots in the medieval Latin terms "**Manu**" and "**scriber**," signifying the act of writing and by hand, respectively. Therefore, a manuscript encompasses any book or paper that has been meticulously crafted by hand. It encompasses a diverse array of handwritten documents, including musical or literary compositions, which have not been replicated beyond their original creation. Manuscripts serve as invaluable sources of human history etched onto a variety of media such as stones, clay tablets, palm leaves, metal leaves, barks, animal skin, cloth, and paper.

Definition of Manuscript

The term "*manuscript*" emerges from the Latin phrase "*Manu Scriptus*," combining the words "**Manu**," meaning by hand, and "**Scriptus**," meaning to write. Etymologically, a manuscript denotes the act of writing by hand.

In the context of *archaeology*, a manuscript refers to early writings etched onto various materials such as stone, metal, wood, clay, linen, bark, leaves, and animal skins. Prior to the advent of printing, all significant literary works existed solely in manuscript form. Therefore, manuscripts encompass all forms of early writing that have not been printed or published. Put simply, any form of handwriting, whether on paper or other materials, distinct from printed materials, is considered a manuscript.

Furthermore, a manuscript is defined as any handwritten item within the collections of a library or an archive, including letters or personal diaries authored by historical figures.

According to the *Government of India's National Mission for Manuscripts*, a manuscript refers to a handwritten composition on various materials such as paper, bark, cloth, metal, palm leaf, or any other substance dating back at least seventy-five years, possessing significant scientific, historical, or aesthetic value. Notably, lithographs and printed volumes are not considered manuscripts. Manuscripts can be found in numerous languages and scripts, often with one language written in multiple scripts. For instance, Sanskrit can be written in Oriya script, Grantha script, Devanagari script, and various others. Manuscripts are distinct from historical records like rock epigraphs, firmans, and revenue records, which directly document historical events or processes. Manuscripts carry valuable knowledge content.

According to the *Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules-2*, manuscripts encompass a wide range of materials, including manuscript books, dissertations, letters, speeches, legal papers, and collections of such manuscripts.

Types of Manuscripts

- Palm leaf (Tal-Patra)
- Bamboo leaf
- Birch Bark Sanchi Pat
- Banana Leaf
- Bhoj Patra
- Parchment
- Parchment Cloth
- Hansi-Pata Manuscripts

- Handmade Paper Manuscripts
- Manuscripts on Manufactured Paper
- Ivory
- Metal (Bronze, Copper, Gold etc.)

Manuscript Deterioration

Factors of Deterioration

Deterioration refers to changes in an object resulting from the interaction between the object and destructive factors. Objects of organic origin are particularly susceptible to irreversible and inevitable decay over time. Various forms of deterioration manifest as wear and tear, cracks, shrinkage, brittleness, softening, staining, warping, bio infestation, discoloration, dust and dirt accumulation, abrasions, holes, missing pieces, and internal stress. Manuscripts are prone to deterioration caused by physical, biological, chemical, and human factors.

- **Physical factors:** These include light, moisture, water, heat, fire, and particulates, collectively known as environmental agents.
- **Chemical factors:** Dust, pollution, acidity, oxidation, and other chemical agents.
- **Biological factors:** Fungi, insects, and rodents.
- **Human factors:** Innocence and negligence, mishandling, improper cleaning, improper storage, and writing with ink.

Physical Factors:

Light:

Light can be categorized into natural light, which consists of cosmic rays, gamma rays, X-rays, ultraviolet rays, infrared rays, and visible light, and artificial light sources. Ultraviolet rays from the sun and other sources can damage the cellulose structure of paper and fade writing inks. Light indirectly contributes to chemical deterioration. The extent of manuscript deterioration due to light depends on the nature, intensity, and duration of exposure. Shorter wavelengths, which contain more ultraviolet radiation, cause greater damage. Higher intensity and longer exposure lead to increased damage.

Humidity

Humidity refers to the moisture content in the air. Maintaining constant humidity in the storage area is essential. Paper absorbs more moisture as humidity increases, causing expansion and weakening of the paper. Higher humidity accelerates biodeterioration, weakens adhesives and sizing materials, and leads to adhesion between pages. The recommended relative humidity for manuscript storage is 50%-60% RH.

Moisture

Moisture, along with heat and light, can both aid and harm the preservation of manuscripts. A certain level of moisture is necessary for maintaining flexibility in paper and vellum. Excessive moisture encourages mold growth, while insufficient moisture makes paper brittle. Water vapor significantly influences the deterioration of paper objects. Paper is a hygroscopic material, absorbing moisture in humid conditions and releasing it in dry conditions. High humidity promotes the growth of microorganisms. Ideally, a temperature of 20-24°C and a relative humidity of 55% provide optimal preservation conditions for paper records.

Heat

Heat is an environmental factor that accelerates the aging process of paper. Even brief exposure to high temperatures can cause paper to turn yellow and become brittle. Conversely, paper ages more slowly when exposed to lower temperatures. Heat, along with food and moisture, creates conditions suitable for mold growth. Insects and rodents also thrive in warmer environments. The repository temperature should be maintained within a range of up to 40°C to prevent organic material from cracking.

Biological Factors

Insects

Over seventy insect species have been identified as enemies of library materials. Common pests include cockroaches, silverfish, firebrats, termites, booklice, bookworms, mud wasps, moths, and bedbugs. These insects damage different types of materials, including paper, book bindings, leather, and organic substances. They can gnaw holes, consume glue or paste, deposit excrement that discolors books and manuscripts, and cause significant damage.

Fungi

Fungi can cause degradation and staining of materials such as paper, leather, and textiles. Moisture content above 75% in the air, even for a short time, encourages mold growth.

Rodents

Rodents extensively damage paper, leather, vellum, glue, paste, gelatin, and other materials. They cut manuscripts into pieces, rendering them irreparable.

Book worms

Bookworms, in their larval stage, feed on the cellulose found in paper, cardboard, and book bindings. They bore through the pages, leaving behind small tunnels and holes, which can ultimately lead to the deterioration of the affected materials. Bookworm infestations can be detrimental to valuable or antique books, as they can cause irreparable damage. To prevent bookworm infestations, it is important to maintain proper storage and handling practices for books. This includes keeping books in a dry and well-ventilated area, avoiding exposure to excessive moisture, and periodically inspecting them for signs of insect activity. In cases of infestation,

professional pest control services may be necessary to eliminate the bookworms and prevent further damage.

Chemical Factors

Dust

Dust acts as an abrasive, weakening paper fibers and causing loss of strength. Dust particles also serve as nuclei for the condensation of acidic gases present in contaminated atmospheres.

Atmospheric Pollution

Smoke, industrial and exhaust effluents, solid particulates, gas pollutants, and liquid aerosols in the atmosphere can lead to irremovable stains on manuscripts.

Acidity

Acid is a particularly insidious cause of deterioration. Acid can be introduced during the manufacturing process, such as when insufficiently washed bleaching chemicals remain. Another common source of extrinsic acidity is sulfur dioxide in the atmosphere.

Human Factors

Human mishandling of manuscripts during transport can cause damage. Faulty conservation treatment can also result in irreparable harm. Mistakes in manuscript cleaning pose a risk as even friction can damage the manuscripts.

Accidental Factors

Accidental factors encompass events such as floods and fires, which can cause significant damage. These factors are briefly explained below:

Fire

Fire poses the most substantial threat to museum objects, especially those made of paper, as it can cause rapid and extensive damage. Therefore, it is essential to take precautions and preventive measures against fire incidents. Regular checks of electrical wiring should be conducted. Inflammable substances like paints, varnishes, polishes, oils, organic solvents, and cleaning fluids should be stored outside the museum building whenever possible. Smoking must be strictly prohibited in exhibition galleries, storage areas, and packing areas. Automatic fire alarms should be strategically installed to detect fire, and their functionality should be regularly tested. Fire extinguishers should be readily accessible in visible locations.

Floods

Floods and other water-related incidents can result in severe water damage. During emergencies like floods, heavy rainfall entering the building, roof leaks, burst drainage pipes, or water from firefighting operations, it is crucial to promptly relocate paper objects to drier environments where temperature and humidity can be controlled. In such situations, the conservator must address drying, treatment for fungal growth, and

restoration simultaneously.

Kameshwar Singh Darbhanga Sanskrit University

Kameshwar Singh Darbhanga Sanskrit University is a state university located at Darbhanga, Bihar, India, dedicated to the teaching and promotion of Sanskrit. Its jurisdiction covers the whole of Bihar.

History

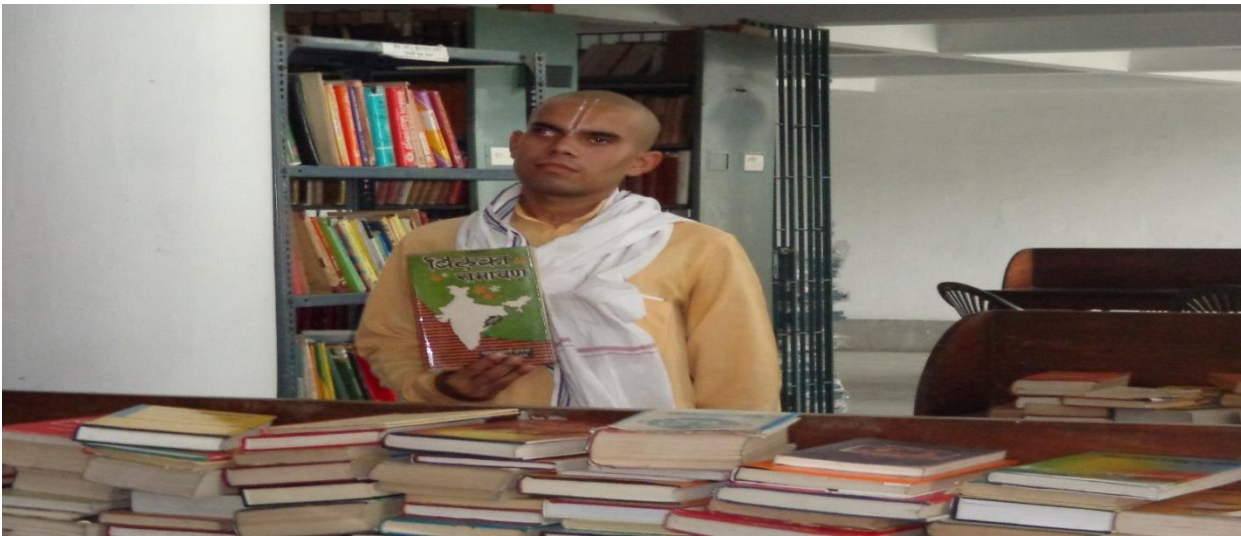
KSDSU was established in 1961, with Mahamahopadhyay Dr. Umesh Misra, the eminent scholar, as the first Vice Chancellor. The then Education minister of unified Bihar satyendra narayan singh announced starting of the university. Maharaja Kameshwar Singh donated his ancestral Anand Bagh Palace to the government of Bihar as a university for the promotion of Sanskrit language. Currently, this palace is the head office of Kameshwar Singh Darbhanga Sanskrit University.

It has held one awareness campaign. Eminent Sanskrit scholar and poet Professor Ram Karan Sharma was the vice chancellor of Kameshwar Singh Darbhanga Sanskrit University, Darbhanga, from 1974 to 1980.

Among the collections of the university are manuscripts on epics, philosophy, vyakarana, dharmashastra, agama, tantra etc. The university has an exceptional collection of nearly 6562 rare manuscripts including six illustrated manuscripts of the Ramayana, Gitagovinda, Srimadbhagavata and Durga Saptasati etc. The few manuscripts of Vidyapati, Mahesh Thakur composed in their own scripts are among the proud possessions. Darbhanga Sanskrit University started functioning as a Manuscript Resource Centre in September 2003. Known across Bihar for the rich manuscripts in Sanskrit, this MRC has documented its own collections, as well as surveyed Bihar and Jharkhand areas. It has so far documented 2000 manuscripts, covering 49 institutions and 206 private collections in 13 districts. Paper manuscripts and palm manuscripts are preserved in the university.

Library





In the year 1961, the Central Library was established in Kameshwar Singh Darbhanga Sanskrit Vishavwagalaya by donating the valuable oldest rare, rare books of the Maharajdhidraj Sir Sir Kameshwar Singh Ji. It was started with an immediate introduction to 6,084 ancient books. The number of books received from Universities Grants Commission, New Delhi and other sources respectively increased significantly in the number of books. In addition to these, an unmatched museum was established in 1976 by the courtesy of Queen Kamasundari. There are a total of 659 assas, which are kept in the new building of the Central Library. In the museum, Maharaja's Angavastram, rare ancient statues, paintings and other photos of Ananda Vilas palace are the statue of Daniel.

Computer facilities in the library

Computer and other requisite tools have been procured under the INFLIBNET program by the V.G. New Delhi, as well as Internet by the Government of India, Bihar Government, B S N L Information about the books available in the library through computer is provided to the vigilantes, accountants and other inquiries. Vishwavidyala's own website has also been started and the website is www.ksdsu.edu.in. General information about the immediate World University can be obtained on the website. World width is trying to make the website a more powerful medium of information. Automation work is underway from the UGC scheme, and after completion of this work, digitization work will be done. Data of 100000+ books has been fitted on SOUL Software.

Status of Collection Development

Books	200000+
Journals	27000+
Thesis/Dissertation	25000+
Newspaper	9
Manuscript	6500+
Project Report	1000+

There are more than 2 Lacks books, 27000+ Journals, 25000+Thesis and Dissertation, and more than 6500 Manuscript in library house.

Manuscript is a paper document, which is written by hand or the typewriter, as contrary to being technically printed or replicated in some mechanical way. In recent time, it is understood to be a typed, a producer written, word-prepared replica of a work or as distinguished from the print of the same. Before reaching the printing, all the books and paper documents were manuscripts. Manuscripts are not determined by their text, which may combine interpretive photos/figures or drawings, maps, and mathematical calculations.

Manuscripts are handwritten or typescript documents that have not been reproduced in multiple copies. They encompass a vital part of the library's collection, continually enriching it quantitatively and qualitatively through purchases, gifts, and exchanges. Kameshwar Singh Darbhanga Sanskrit University Library houses numerous rare manuscripts, some of which are lavishly illuminated.

Conclusion

Based on the research conducted on the collection development of manuscripts at the Kameshwar Singh Darbhanga Sanskrit University Library, several key conclusions can be drawn:

- **Rich Manuscript Collection:** Kameshwar Singh Darbhanga Sanskrit University Library boasts a substantial and valuable collection of manuscripts. This collection is a treasure trove of historical, cultural, and academic significance, providing a unique resource for researchers, scholars, and the general public.
- **User Preferences:** The findings indicate that users predominantly access manuscripts to update their knowledge. Recognizing this trend, the library should focus on raising awareness about its manuscript holdings and organizing periodic orientation sessions to showcase new additions, ensuring users can fully benefit from this invaluable resource.
- **Enhanced User Services:** To improve access and utilization of manuscripts, the library should consider creating subject gateways, providing a structured approach for users to explore manuscripts specific to their research interests.
- **Preservation and Conservation:** Given the historical value of the manuscript collection, the library should prioritize preservation and conservation efforts. Implementing measures to protect these delicate artifacts will safeguard them for future generations.

In conclusion, Kameshwar Singh Darbhanga Sanskrit University Library's manuscript collection holds immense potential for academic enrichment. By prioritizing awareness, user-oriented services, preservation, and strategic partnerships, the library can play a pivotal role in advancing research, preserving heritage, and promoting a deeper understanding of our historical past.

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