



## Conservation and Preservation of Manuscripts in Amir-Ud-Daula Public Library, Lucknow: A Survey and Proposal for Their Modernization

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### ABSTRACT

*Manuscripts is the valuable resources of the past history. Conservation and Preservation of Manuscripts as an important function of the library staff. This study examined the major causes of the deterioration of the manuscripts. This study investigated the various problems of conservation and preservation of manuscripts in Amir-Ud-Daula Public (APL).*

*This study also explain the conservation and preservation tools and techniques, which is using by the library and to study the various problems related to deterioration and conservation of Manuscripts in Amir-Ud-Daula Public (APL) Lucknow.*

**KEYWORDS : Manuscripts, Conservation, Preservation, Deterioration, Tools and Techniques, Amir-Ud-Daula Public (APL) Lucknow**

### Introduction:

The manuscripts represent the cultural, traditional and indigenous knowledge of the society. The manuscripts only are the primary sources of the traditional knowledge. The manuscripts are priceless heritage of mankind as they preserve thoughts, ideas and history of human developments.<sup>1</sup> But these rare and old primary source of information are deteriorating day by day due to different causes. It is very difficult job for the professional to preserve these valuable sources of information for the use of next generation.

The various tools/techniques/methods of conservation of the manuscripts are described in this paper. The various types of manuscripts like Papyrus, parchment, palm leaf, paper etc. are described.<sup>2</sup> In addition this, the chemicals, like chromium oxide, zinc oxide, calcium bicarbonate, Titanium Trioxide, Silica-Gel, etc. are also explained which are using for conservation the materials. To give the practical aspect of the conservation and preservation tools and techniques, a detailed study is conducted of the Amir-Ud-Daula Public (APL) Lucknow.

### Aims and Objectives of the Study:

- It aims to discuss the various problems related to deterioration and conservation of paper Manuscripts.
- To make a detailed study for a better understanding of the agents of deterioration.
- To study the various internal and external factors which are responsible for deterioration of manuscripts.
- To study the various tools/techniques/methods of conservation of the manuscripts.
- To study the various type of chemicals, which are using for conservation of the manuscripts.
- To Identify the modernization profiles such as hardware and software of the libraries.

### Brief introduction of the Amir-Ud-Daula Public Library (APL), Lucknow.<sup>3-4</sup>

The establishment of Amir-Ud-Daula public library, Kaiserbagh, Lucknow was done as provincial museum in 1882. In 1920 a part of provincial museum was separated and was named as Lucknow public library. After this in 1925, to government and British India Association had enacted and Amir-Ud-Daula public library was born on 6 march 1926; and was inaugurated by the governor Mr. Butler. The collection of library includes Hindi, English, Sanskrit, Urdu, Arabic, and Bengali document which general public, university student, research scholar and even research scholar from foreign countries can utilize.

### Data Analysis:

#### 1. Budget of Amir-Ud-Daula Public Library (APL):

Year	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012
Budget in Rs.	42,00000	49,00000	50,00000

Table-1

Table-1 related to the library budget of the Amir-Ud-Daula Public Library (APL). The budget of the library in 2009-2010, 42 lakh and 49 lakh in the year 2010-2011, while the year 2011-2012 budget of the APL is increase i.e. was 50 lakh.

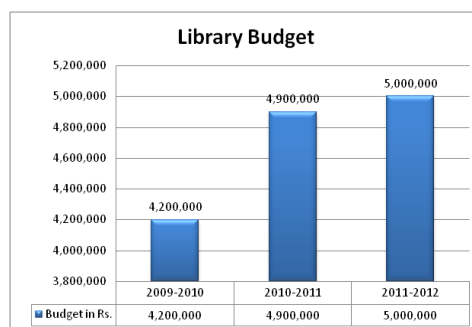


Figure:1

#### 2. STRENGTH OF LIBRARY STAFF:

Human Resources in the Library	Amir-Ud-Daula Public Library (APL)
Librarian	1
Assistant Librarian	1
Cataloguer	×
Library Assistant	1
Binding Staff	1
Library Attendant	1
Curator	×
Conservator	×
Any Others	×
Total strength	05

#### Table-2

Table-2 shows give the information about the library staff of APL, Which is one Librarian, one Assistant Librarian, one Library Assistant, one binding staff and one Attendant, There is no Technical staff in the Library.

#### 3. EQUIPMENTS AVAILABLE IN THE LIBRARY:

Equipment	Amir-Ud-Daula Public Library (APL)
Photocopier	√
Air Conditioner	-

Telephone/Fax	√
Scanner	√
Vacuum Cleaner	√
Climate meter	-
Computer	√
Thief Detector	×
pH Meter	×
Temperature & Humidity Data Logger	×
Fire Fighting Tools	√
Electronic binding machine	×
Microform reader/printer	×
Any other: .....	×

**Table-3**

The table-3 gives the information about the availability of the equipments in the APL. The APL has Photocopier, Telephone/Fax, Scanner, Vacuum Cleaner, Computer and Fire Fighting Tools as in the form of library equipment but APL is not well equipped with various type of modern equipments such as Air Conditioner, Climate meter, Thief Detector, pH Meter, Temperature & Humidity Data Logger, Microform reader/printer. These are the important equipment, which provides the helps in preservation of manuscripts.

**4. LIBRARY SERVICES OF THE AMIR-UD-DAULA PUBLIC LIBRARY (APL):**

Services	Yes/ No
Reference service	Yes
Bibliographic service	No
Reprographic service	Yes
Translation service	No
Indexing service	No
Abstracting service	No
Microfilming service	No
CD- ROM service	No
SDI	No
CAS	No
Interlibrary loan	Yes
Internet facility	Yes

**Table-4**

Table-4 give the information about the library services of the APL, The APL provides the only four library services i.e. Reference service, Reprographic service, Inter library loan and Internet facility to the library user.

**5. PLACES IN APL BUILDING, WHERE FIRE EXTINGUISHER ARE INSTALLED**

Places	Amir-Ud-Daula Public Library (APL)
Near stack room	√
Near office	√
Near entrance	√
Near bindery section	√
Near reading section	√
Near periodical section	√
Near manuscript section	√

**Table-5**

The table-5 gives the information to the places in APL building, where fire extinguisher are installed. The APL has installed fire extinguisher, approximately every section of the library building

**6. DETAIL ABOUT MANUSCRIPTS COLLECTION AMIR-UD-DAULA PUBLIC LIBRARY (APL):**

Type of manuscripts	Total no. of Manuscripts	Manuscript's Script	Manuscript's Language	No. of digitized Manuscripts
Papyrus	×	×	×	×
Parchment	×	×	×	×
Vellum	×	×	×	×
Palm leaf	318	-	Sanskrit, Pali	×
Birch bark	×	×	×	×
Bhoj patra	×	×	×	×
Sanchi pat	×	×	×	×
Tula pat	×	×	×	×
Angaru-pat	×	×	×	×
Betelnut leaves	×	×	×	×
Lakha phataka	×	×	×	×
Wooden	×	×	×	×
Bamboo-leaves	×	×	×	×
Banana stem leaves	×	×	×	×
Paper	100	-	Hindi, Sanskrit, Arabic, Persian, urdu etc.	×
Any other....	-	-	-	-

**Table-6**

Table-6 shows the manuscripts collection of APL has approximately 100 paper manuscripts and 318 manuscripts of palm leaf. The language of manuscripts is hind, Sanskrit, Arabic, Persian, Urdu etc.

**7. NATURE OF DETERIORATION OF MANUSCRIPTS IN AMIR-UD-DAULA PUBLIC LIBRARY (APL):**

Physical		Chemical		Biological	
Hole	×	Acidity	√	Fungus	√
Tears	×	Charring	×	Termite	√
Bulge	×	Weakening	×	Silver fish	√
Old repair	√	Yellowing	√	Cockroaches	×
Accretion	×	Brittleness	√	Wood beetle	×
Stains	√	Ingrained dirt	×		
Deposition of dust	√	Discoloration	×		
Folds	×	Darkening of paper	×		
Tears	×				
Cello tap	×				

**Table-7**

The table -7 gives the information about the factors of deterioration of manuscripts in the APL. In the APL has the main deteriorating factors are Physical factors (old repair, stains, deposition of dust), Chemical factors (acidity, yellowing, brittleness,) and Biological factors(fungus, termites, silverfish). These are the main causes of the deterioration of the paper manuscripts in APL.

**8. CONSERVATION AND PRESERVATION POLICY FOR THE MANUSCRIPTS IN AMIR-UD-DAULA PUBLIC LIBRARY (APL):**

Question	Amir-Ud-Daula Public Library (APL)
Conservation and preservation laboratory in there institute..?	No
Approached any conservation agency..?	Yes (Govt. Agency)
Frequency of review the physical condition of Information Sources.	Annually
What types of chemical treatment on walls of the stack room to control insects are used	No
Type of deacidification spray for control chemical factors	No
Whether you have a disaster management plan in your library	No
Does your library have a preservation policy?	Yes
Is Fumigation chamber available in the library?	Yes ( Fumigators: Para-dichlorobenzene)

**Table-8**

The table-8 gives the information about the conservation and preservation policy for the manuscripts in the APL. The library has no Conservation and Preservation Laboratory , whereas APL has approached Govt. Agency for conservation and preservation of manuscripts, Library is not using any types of chemical treatment on walls of the stack room to control insects, no any type of a disaster management plan for the library.APL has preservation policy , which provides the help in the conservation and preservation activities of APL. Amir-Ud-Daula Public Library (APL) has a fumigation chamber , chemical is using as Fumigatores i.e. Para-dichlorobenzene.

**9. PREVENTION POLICY FOR MANUSCRIPTS IN APL:**

	Amir-Ud-Daula Public Library (APL)
Open Access	√
Regular Dusting	√
Use of Baygaon spray	×
Temperature Control	×
Use of Nephthalene Balls/Brick	×
Use of Silica-Gel for De-humidification	√
Pera-dichlorabenzene	√
Thymol Spray	√
Seeds powder of Neem	×
Neem Leaves	×
Any other.....	

**Table-9**

Table-9 gives the detail about the prevention policy of APL. The library has adopted the open access system, regular dusting, use of Use of Silica-Gel for De-humidification, Pera-dichlorabenzene and Thymol Spray as methods/techniques for the conservation and preservation of the manuscript.

**10. STORAGE METHOD FOR THE MANUSCRIPTS IN APL:**

	Amir-Ud-Daula Public Library (APL)
In cloth wrapper	√
In bundles	×
In folders	×
In carton box	×

In Wood board	×
Wooden Almirha	×
Window cut mount board (for photograph)	×
Use of book case	×
Use of portfolio	×
Any other Method .....	

**Table-10**

The table -10 shows the storage method of Manuscripts in the APL. The APL is using the cloth wrapper for the storage of the manuscripts.

**11.OBSTACLES FOR PRESERVATION AND CONSERVATION OF LIBRARY MATERIALS:**

OBSTACLES	Response of APL
Lack of funding	√
Lack of competent manpower	√
Lack of preservation policy	×
Lack of infrastructure	×
Harsh environment conditions	×
Obsolete hardware& software	×
Any other	

**Table-11**

The table -11 related with the obstacles for preservation and conservation of library materials. The APL has main obstacles are as lack of fund and lack of competent manpower.

**12. STATUS OF THE LIBRARY MODERNIZATION:**

Question related to Library Modernization	Response of APL
Did you receive any special grants for modernization of the Library	Yes (From: INFLIBNET)
How many computers are available in the library?	08
Do you have our own library network?	Yes (LAN)
Nature of your Internet connectivity	(Cable Network)
Weather your library is automated?	Yes (Partially automated)
Which of the following housekeeping operations are automated?	(Acquisition)
Is the Library using any Library Software?	Yes (LIBCARE)

**Table-12**

Table -12 gives the information about the modernization of Amir-Ud-Daula Public Library (APL). Library has received special grant from IN-FLIBNET for modernization of the library. Library has eight computer with network of LAN and cable Network. Presently APL as functioning as partially automated , only one house keeping operation is automat e.i.e. Acquisition.

**PROPOSAL FOR MODERNIZATION:**

**Collection of digital library:**

The collection of digital library are basically same as traditional library but they are available in machine readable Format, in other words digi-

tal formats. It include the CD-Rom databases, E- Books, E-journals, government reports, Annual reports, video, photos, etc .It can be divided in to two parts.

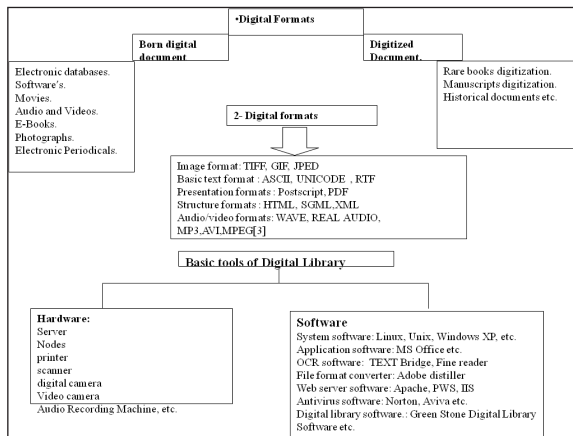


Figure:1 <sup>6</sup>

**Conclusion:**

We use computers in each and every aspect of our life. Computer have been playing significant role in every walk of life. Libraries are no exception. In the present day context, it is important for the library and information professionals to aware of the information and communication technology that are vital for libraries and information activities. Application of new information and communication technologies in the management functions of the library are known as Library Automation.<sup>7</sup>

A computerized library is always better than a manually operated library in terms of organizing, processing and dissemination of information to users effectively and efficiently. A computer increases the efficiency and speed of library operation which is not possible in a manual system because of the physiological limitations of man. Library automation involving creation of database and information retrieval, computerised library networks and users of telecommunication for information handling, needs careful and systematic planning.<sup>8</sup> The conservation and preservation and digitization of the documents have become an important aspects of the modern day society. It becomes more important when the manuscripts are available in the old libraries. The future's research depends on the ability to preserving the information in digital form. Preservation keeps materials alive and available. The next generation can used the heritage of our society authoritatively.

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