



MAJOR MANUSCRIPT REPOSITORIES IN INDIA

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Abstract :

Manuscripts are different from various historical records such as epigraphs on rocks, fire mans, revenue records etc., which provide direct information on events, processes and happenings in history. Manuscripts have knowledge content. There are several efforts, the present work is limited to the major institutional repositories in India. A total of 15 repositories from 22 states and 3839 Institutions of India have 777000 manuscripts. This paper highlights the present status of major Repositories in India by its collection with different languages, scripts, subjects and materials were found registered at the time of study.

Introduction :

An institution that collects historically valuable records of different individuals, families, and organizations from sources other than the organization that operates the institution are what we know as the repositories.

The magnificent past of Indian culture lies in the ancient manuscripts. These huge historical evidences holds great research value. It is projected that India possesses more than five million manuscripts, making the largest repository of manuscript treasure in the world. Though there are numerous efforts to preserve these manuscripts, thousands of such valued unpublished Indian manuscripts on diverse topics are lying scattered in India and foreign collections and some of these are no longer available to research scholars. Hence it's an alarming situation to protect this precious and unique pool of knowledge. Bibliographic control of these manuscripts through cataloguing, Preservation, Conservation and Digitization are the major concern. (Ghakarabarty, 2009).

These manuscripts are considered as one of the most valuable sources of information. A manuscript repository typically refers to a collection or storage facility that houses manuscripts. Manuscript repositories play a crucial role in preserving and providing access to these valuable documents for researchers, scholars, and the public.

What is Manuscripts?

A manuscript is a handwritten composition on paper, bark, cloth, metal, palm leaf or any other historically used material. Manuscripts can be found in various different languages and scripts. Lithographs and printed volumes are not counted under manuscripts.

Frequently, one language is written in a number of different scripts. For example, Sanskrit is written in Oriya script, Devanagari script, Grantha script and many other scripts. Manuscripts are identical from historical records such as epigraphs on rocks, fire mans, and revenue records, etc. which provides direct details on events, rituals or processes in history. Manuscripts provide knowledge content carried forward since the ancient times.

1. Advantages of Manuscript Repository :

- Digitization for Diverse Scope
- Preservation of Cultural Heritage
- Advancement of Academic Research
- Access to Rare and Ancient Writings
- Cultural Exchange and Collaboration
- Cultural Tourism
- Conservation Training
- Educational Initiatives

2. National Mission for Manuscripts :

The National Mission for Manuscripts is greatest and most ambitious project so as to create a database of all Indian manuscripts in India and overseas. The database contains information of various kinds on India's manuscripts themes, authors, languages, titles, commentaries, scripts, preservation status and much more. This mission aims to offer wide-ranging and valid information about each manuscript. The Mission's website is available on the internet which provides the National Database of Manuscripts, Kriti Sampada. To the extent possible, it aims to document, each manuscript, whether in a library, museum, temple, madrasa or a private collection

3. Following are the main objectives of the Study:

1. **To find the number of major Manuscripts repositories in India.**
2. To study the manuscript collection in Repositories.
3. To find out the State wise No. of Institutions in India having Manuscripts Collection
4. **To show the growth and development of Manuscripts repository in India.**

Methodology :

Online search based approach to know the status of Repositories of Manuscripts with special reference to India is the basic methodology of this study. The area which has been selected for research purpose suggests rigorous internet search for gathering data. Information about the selected 15 Manuscripts Repositories in India (reproduced in Table-1) which was reported by the National Mission for Manuscripts. NMM has identified some repositories across India which has a huge collection of manuscripts.

Major Manuscript Repositories present in India :

The National Mission for Manuscripts has identified some repositories across India which has a huge collection of manuscripts. These repositories were established long back and they have worked diligently towards the collection and preservation of the manuscripts. The manuscript collection at these institutes are vast body of literature, spread wide across different languages and scripts and is available on different kinds of materials like birch bark, palm leaf, cloth, wood, stone. Several rare and ancient manuscript are also part of the collection.

The details of the repositories present in India are listed in Table No-1

Table No.-1: List of Major Manuscript Repositories in India with URLs

Sr. No.	Name and Address of Manuscripts Repositories	URLs
01	Acharya shri Kailashpuri Jnana Mandir, Koba, Gujarat	http://kobatirth.org/manuscripts.aspx
02	Saraswati Bhavan Library, Sampurnanand Univ. Varanasi, UP	https://www.ssvv.ac.in/about-library#
03	Lal Bhai Dalpat Bhai Institute of Indology, Ahmadabad	Not mention
04	Saraswati Mahal Library, Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu	https://www.tmsmlibrary.com/
05	Rajasthan Oriental Research Institute, Jodhpur	https://artandculture.rajasthan.gov.in/rori/#/home/dptHome
06	Radhtriya Sanskrit Sansthan, Allahabad, UP	https://upsanskritsansthanam.in/en
07	Vadodra Oriental Research Institute, Vadodra	Not mention
08	Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute,Pune	https://bori.ac.in/department/manuscript/
09	University of Calcutta, Kolkata	https://www.culibrary.ac.in/
10	Khuda Baksh Oriental Public Library, Patna	https://kblibrary.bih.nic.in/
11	Bhartiya Itihas Samsodhan Mandal,Pune	https://map.sahapedia.org/article/Bharat-Itihas-Sanshodhak-Mandal/2769
12	Orissa State Museum, Bhubaneshwar	https://odishamuseum.nic.in/?q=node/5
13	Bangiya Sahitya Parishad, Kolkata	https://bangiyasahityaparishat.org/
14	Rampur Raza Library,Rampur,UP	http://razalibrary.gov.in/
15	Oriental Research Library, J& K	https://jkpubliclibraries.nic.in/catalogue-manuscripts.htm

<https://www.namami.gov.in/major-manuscript-repositories-india>

Table no. 1 discusses the list of major manuscript repositories in India with their available URLs. It is a representation of 15 major repositories in various parts of India as mentioned in the table with their names.

Table 2: List of Manuscripts Collection in Repositories

Sr. No.	Name and Address of Manuscripts Repositories	Number of MSS
01	Acharya shri Kailashpuri Jnana Mandir, Koba, Gujarat	250000
02	Saraswati Bhavan Library, Sampurnanand University, Varanasi, UP	90000
03	Lal Bhai Dalpat Bhai Institute of Indology, Ahmadabad	80000
04	Saraswati Mahal Library, Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu	49000
05	Rajasthan S Oriental Research Institute, Jodhpur	48000
06	Radhtriya Sanskrit Sansthan, Allahabad, UP	45000
07	Vadodra Oriental Research Institute, Vadodra	29000
08	Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute, Pune	29000
09	University of Calcutta, Kolkata	28000
10	Khuda Baksh Oriental Public Library, Patna	28000
11	Bhartiya Itihas Samsodhan Mandal,Pune	27000

12	Orissa State Museum, Bhubaneshwar	22000
13	Bangiya Sahitya Parishad, Kolkata	22000
14	Rampur Raza Library, Rampur, UP	18000
15	Oriental Research Library, J& K	12000
Total		777000

It is observed that a total of 777000 manuscripts from 15 manuscripts Repositories are covered under this category and the institutions are scattered throughout the nation. It is found out that Acharya shri Kailashpuri Jnana Mandir, Koba, Gujarat tops the list with maximum contribution of 250000, Second position occupied by Saraswati Bhavan Library, Sampurnanand Univ. Varanasi, UP with 90000 Manuscripts followed by Lal Bhai Dalpat Bhai Institute of Indology, Ahmadabad with 80000 manuscripts.

Table No-3: State wise No. of Institutions in India having Manuscripts Collection

Sr. No.	State	Number of Institute	%
01	Andhra Pradesh	35	0.91
02	Assam	911	23.73
03	Bihar	127	3.31
04	Chandigarh	06	0.16
05	Delhi	25	0.65
06	Gujarat	13	0.34
07	Haryana	26	0.68
08	Himachal Pradesh	81	2.11
09	Jammu And Kashmir	29	0.76
10	Jharkhand	19	0.49
11	Karnataka	02	0.05
12	Kerala	02	0.05
13	Madhya Pradesh	403	10.50
14	Maharashtra	295	7.68
15	Orissa	1041	27.12
16	Punjab	16	0.42
17	Rajasthan	310	8.07
18	Tamil Nadu	05	0.13
19	Uttar Pradesh	365	9.51
20	Uttarakhand	04	0.10
21	Uttaranchal	16	0.42
22	West Bengal	108	2.81
Total		3839	100

Table 3 represents that total 3839 institutions have manuscripts collection from 22 States in India. Highest number of state is Orissa with 1041 (27.12%) institutions having manuscripts collection, followed by Assam (911-23.73%), after that Madhya Pradesh with 403(10.50%) institutions. It has been also observed that Karnataka and Kerala states have very less institutions having manuscripts collection i.e.02 (0.05%).

Conclusions :

From the paper it can be observed that a total of 777000 manuscripts from 15 manuscripts Repositories are covered and shows that the institutions are scattered throughout the nation. It is found out that Acharya shri Kailashpuri Jnana Mandir, Koba, Gujarat tops the list with maximum contribution of 250000 and Second position occupied by Saraswati Bhavan Library, Sampurnanand Univ. Varanasi, UP with 90000 Manuscripts followed by Lal Bhai Dalpat Bhai Institute of Indology, Ahmadabad with 80000 manuscripts.

There is a huge collection of manuscripts from 3839 institutions from 22 States in India. Highest number of state is Orissa with 1041 (27.12%) institutions having manuscripts collection, followed by Assam (911-23.73%), after that Madhya Pradesh with 403(10.50%) institutions. It has been also observed that Karnataka and Kerala states have very less institutions having manuscripts collection i.e.02 (0.05%).

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