
Preservation and Digitisation of Rare Collection of Dr. Panjabrao Deshmukh Smruti Sangrahalaya, Amravati

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Abstract

The paper emphasises on the preservation, digitisation and dissemination of information in digitised or electronic form to the end user. It is a practical approach to digitise the rare collection of Dr. Panjabrao Deshmukh Smruti Sangrahalaya, Amravati. The author also highlights the issues of copyrights faced during the work.

Keywords : Preservation, Digitization.

0. Introduction

Computerisation is changing forever the way information is being created, managed and accessed and is revolutionising our ability to communicate, analyse and reuse that information. At the same time electronic data needs active management from its creation, if it is to survive and be kept accessible in a technological environment where there is rapid change and evolution of hardware and software.

The increasing use of the Internet and World Wide Web has developed awareness and concerns about access and retrieval of information across networks. Digital library is a new concept. The concept has brought phenomenal change in the information collection, preservation and dissemination scene of the world.

Digitisation is also a high-speed data transmission technique. It is the conversion of any fixed or analog media (such as books, journals, articles, photos, painting, maps, microforms etc) into electronic forms through scanning, sampling or rekeying by using various technologies.

Digitisation refers to the conversion of an item in printed text, manuscript, image or sound, film and video recording from one format (usually print or analogue) into digital. The process basically involves taking a physical object is captured using a scanner or digital camera and converted to digital format that can be stored electronically and accessed via a computer.

Digitisation is quite simply the creation of computerised representation of printed analogue. It may also refer to all the steps in the process of making available collection of historical material available in digital form.

The International Encyclopaedia of Information science defines digitisation as "The process of converting analogue information to digital format. In communication this is the process of converting analogue signals to digital signals". In Information systems, digitization often refers to the process of converting an image (such as photograph) using some type of scanning device (or digitizer), into digital representation so that it can be displayed on a screen and manipulated".

According to Canadian Heritage Information Network "Digital technology have helped Institution's goal either highlighting particular aspects of local history or reaching national and international audience. Collections that were once too remote to be viewed are now accessible; object that were once too fragile to be handled or exhibited can now be seen by broad audiences. By making it possible to bring together diverse materials or collections from scattered locations for comparison and research, digital technology can be a powerful teaching aid, especially when institutions work together to create a critical mass of complementary material."

1. Statement of the Problem

There are several reasons for choosing to preserve and digitise Dr. Panjabrao Desmukh's special collections available in Dr. Punjabrao Deshmukh Smruti Sangrahalaya, Amaravati. Typically, special collection items are unique, to provide service to scholars they need to be put in digitised form. Special collection items are often fragile, oversized or it is in need of particular care, and as unique items they are irreplaceable. So that replacing their use with the use of some digital surrogate helps with preservation. It can also become much faster to look at them digitally than to browse materials, which must be handled slowly and carefully to avoid deterioration.

Today's library and information centres have passed through long evolutionary sequence. Now the concept and the very name "Library" has changed to "Library walls", Network library, Desktop library, "Logical library", Virtual library, "Information Nerve centre", Information Management centre" and lastly "Digital library".

Today we are living in exciting times of digital libraries, whose history spans a mere dozen years. They will surely figure amongst the most important and influential institutions of the new century. The information revolution supplies the technological horsepower that drives digital libraries and accessing information. If information is the currency of the knowledge economy, digital libraries will be the banks where it is invested.

One reason for using digital library technology is to manage large amounts of digital content such as millions of lines of textual material, thousands of images or hundreds of audio clips. Advances in storage technologies have enabled large amounts of contents to make available locally at increasingly affordable costs.

Dr. Punjabrao Deshmukh Smruti Sangrahalaya, Amravati was established in the year 1926. It has a very rich collection of 2000 books, 500 bound volumes, 1200 photographs, 56 manuscripts, 10 diaries 500 circular letters, 10 audiovisual material including films, magnetic tape, videocassette, camera and gramophone records. The collection includes Agriculture, Education and Law subject. At present 30 research scholars are working on the vast literature available in Dr. Punjabrao Deshmukh's collection in Smruti Sangrahalaya, Amravati. The collection is valuable and hence need to be digitised. Indeed this is a challenging and promising task but one has to undertake such kind of activity which will not only help librarians, but the entire humanity as a whole.

2. Significance of the study

The study emphasises on the preservation and Digitization of rare collection of Dr. Punjabrao Deshmukh Smruti sanghralaya, Amarvati.

The study helps the researchers to get instant access to the rare manuscripts, photographs etc. from Dr. Punjabrao Deshmukh Smruti sanghralaya, Amarvati.

3. Aims and Objectives

- ✍ To create, manage and preserve the collection in digitised form.
- ✍ To make the digitised form available to the users.
- ✍ To preserve the information content as back-up on a long-lasting medium. Here long-lasting would mostly mean more than 100 years.

- ✍ To preserve the manuscripts for easy dissemination.
- ✍ To enhance intellectual control through creation of new finding aids, links to bibliographic records and development of indices and other tools.
- ✍ To increase and enrich use through the ability to search widely, manipulating images & text and to study disparate images in new contexts.
- ✍ To encourage research scholar's use through the provision of enhanced resources in the form of widespread dissemination of local or unique collections.
- ✍ To enhance use through improved quality of image, for example, improved legibility of faded or stained documents; and
- ✍ To create a "virtual collection" through the flexible integration and synthesis of a variety of formats or of related material scattered among many locations.

4. Methodology

The experimental method was used to conduct study. Dr. Panjabrao Deshmuk's collection available in Smruti Sangrhalaya, Amravati was categorised and classified into Personal collection, Agricultural, Co-operative, Parliamentary, Social work, Educational and Law.

There are four steps involved in the process of digitisation : Scanning, indexing, storage and retrieval.

Scanning : The scanning process involves acquisition of an electronic image through it original that may be a photograph, text, manuscript etc. into the computer using an electronic image scanner.

Indexing : Indexing of a document converted into an image or text file is the second step in the process of document imaging. The process of indexing scanned image involves linking of database of scanned images to a text database.

Storage : The most tenacious problem of a document image relates to its file size and therefore, to its storage. Every part of an electronic page image is saved regardless of presence or absence of link. The file size varies directly with scanning resolution, the size of the area being digitised, compression ratio, content and the style of graphic file format used to save the image.

Retrieval : Once scanned images and OCR text documents have been saved as a file, a database is needed for selective retrieval of data contained in one or more fields within each record in the database.

5. Problems & Prospects

Library and Information Science profession has remained witness to the last 200 years history of Intellectual Property rights movements. While digitising the rare collection, the researcher faced many problems due to copyright law and related issues i.e. copying, accessing, archiving and preservation. As the rare collection belongs to the Shivaji Education society, Amravati, and Dr. Panjabrao Deshmukh was the founder of the society, they permitted to preserve the rare collection in electronic form to have an access to the end user.

6. Conclusion

The manuscripts and photographs were digitised in the image form, while the book form collection was converted into text format to save the space and bytes. Digitisation is a challenging and promising task but one has to undertake such kind of activity, which will not only help librarians, library professionals but the entire humanity as a whole.

Technologies pose challenges as well as opportunities before us. It is for us to use these technologies for survival/success and to cope up with time. There is great hope that digital technology can help to preserve and make more accessible many rare and fragile items, because the quality of digital image is high and the use of electronic surrogates is easier than that of any form. Preservation is the art of managing risk to the intellectual and physical heritage of a community and all the members of that community have a stake in it. Dr. Panjabrao Deshmukh Smruti Sangrahalay, Amravati is an example of making a small beginning in the digitisation process. Digitisation will help the end user to make use of the digitised resources and create a new wave in the library use.

7. References

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