

Digitization of Manuscript in the perspective of Sustainability Development Goal: A study of College Libraries of Kamrup & Kamrup (M) District in Assam

Dr. Nabajyoti Das: Librarian, Handique Girls' College, Guwahati, Assam

Dr. Nirmal Ranjan Mazumdar: Librarian, Pub Kamrup College, Kamrup, Assam

Dr. Kishore Kalita: Librarian, Barbhag College, Nalbari, Assam

A presentation at PLANNER 2024
Rajiv Gandhi University, Arunachal Pradesh
19th to 21st September 2024



Introduction

- The study focuses on the digitization of manuscripts as a measure to meet sustainability Development Goal in college libraries of Kamrup and Kamrup (M) districts.
- It aims to explore the benefits and challenges of digitizing manuscripts and how it can contribute to the preservation and accessibility of valuable literary, Cultural and historical resources.
- By digitizing manuscripts, college libraries can reduce the need for physical storage space, minimize the risk of damage or loss, and provide wider access.



Introduction

- SDGs are a set of 17 objectives for 2030 defined by the United Nations in 2015
- Preservation and conservation of rare manuscripts and documentary heritage has a strong impact on achieving the UN's SDGs
- The SDGs 4 related to Quality Education
- SDG 9 Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure
- SDG 16 Peace, Justice, and Strong Institution



Introduction

 SDG 11.4 - to protect the cultural and natural heritage of the world

have a strong connection with the preservation, conservation and access to the rare documentary heritage of the world.

 All these has a strong linkage with the preservation and conservation of manuscripts because the rare manuscripts are treated as one of the sources of cultural heritage. Thus, the preservation and access to the rare manuscripts and documentary heritage can play a vital role in advancing multiple Sustainable Development Goals of the UN.



Statement of the Problem

- The problem addressed in this study is the Status of digitization of manuscript collections in college libraries of Kamrup and Kamrup (M) districts.
- The Challenges faced by the College librarian during digitization and to provide access.



Methodology

Preliminary Survey:

A survey was conducted regarding availability of manuscript in the college libraries of provincialised colleges situated in Kamrup and Kamrup (M) districts through personal contact, library websites and SSR submitted to NAAC.

Final Survey:

The libraries those have manuscripts in their collection have been surveyed using an online questionnaire. A purposive sampling method is used for selecting the sample. The collected relevant data are tabulated and analyzed accordingly.



Objectives of the Study

Revealing Availability:

The study aims to determine the extent of manuscript collections available in college libraries in Kamrup and Kamrup (M) districts.

Assessing Digitization Status:

The study also aims to assess the current status of digitization efforts for these manuscript collections.



Scope and Limitation

• Scope

The study focuses on the digitization of manuscripts in college libraries located in Kamrup and Kamrup (M) districts.

Limitation

The researchers rely on data collected from the respective college librarians through a survey.



Digitization of Manuscripts

- **Preservation:** Digitization ensures the long-term preservation of valuable manuscripts by reducing physical handling and exposure to environmental factors.
- Accessibility: Digitized manuscripts can be easily accessed by researchers, scholars, and students from anywhere in the world, eliminating the need for physical visits to the library.
- **Research:** Digitization enables advanced search capabilities, making it easier to find specific information within manuscripts and facilitating research and analysis.



Digitization of Manuscripts contd...

- Minimization of Loss and Damage: By digitizing manuscripts, the risk of loss or damage due to natural disasters, theft, or mishandling is significantly reduced.
- **Economical Solutions:** Digitization eliminates the need for costly physical storage and maintenance of manuscripts, providing a more cost-effective solution for libraries.
- Multipurpose Use: Digitized manuscripts can be used for various purposes, including exhibitions, publications, and educational materials, maximizing their value and impact.



Digitization of Manuscript as an Approach Towards Sustainability

Value of Digitization

- **Preservation:** Digitization ensures the long-term preservation of manuscripts by reducing physical handling and exposure to environmental factors.
- Accessibility: Digitized manuscripts can be accessed remotely, allowing a wider audience to explore and study them.
- Searchability: Digital platforms enable keyword searches, making it easier to locate specific information within manuscripts.
- Collaboration: Digitization facilitates collaboration among researchers, scholars, and institutions by providing a centralized platform for sharing and analyzing manuscripts.



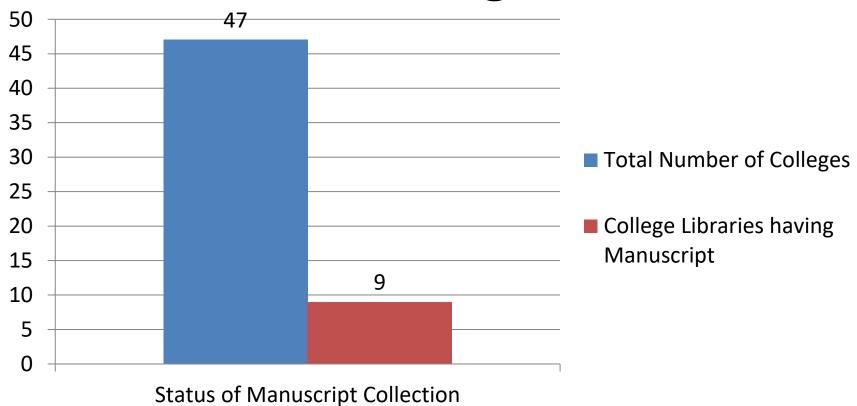
The study conducted in the college libraries of Kamrup and Kamrup (M) districts revealed the following key findings:

- 1) Number of College Libraries having Manuscripts:
 - **9** (7+2) out of **47** (26+21) (**19.15%**)
- 2) Numbers and Types of Manuscripts:

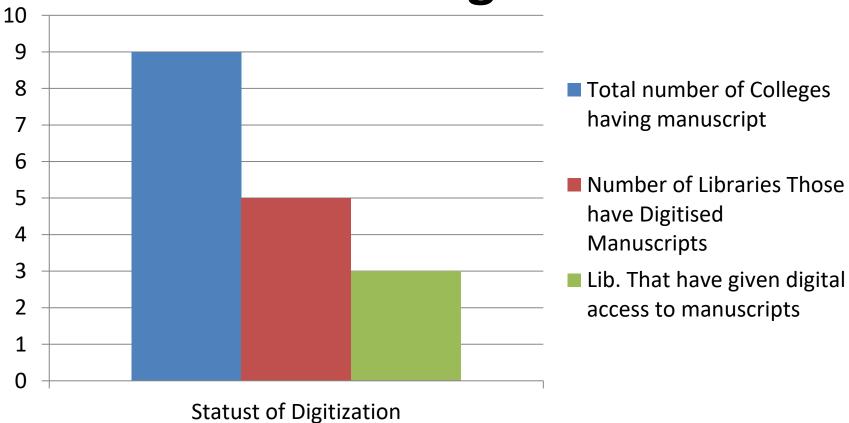
Sanchipat (**58**(45.31%)) and Paper **70**(54.69%)); **Total: 128**

- 3) Status of Digitization:
 - Digitized: 5 libraries out of 9 libraries (55.56%)
- 4) Digital Access Given: 3 Libraries

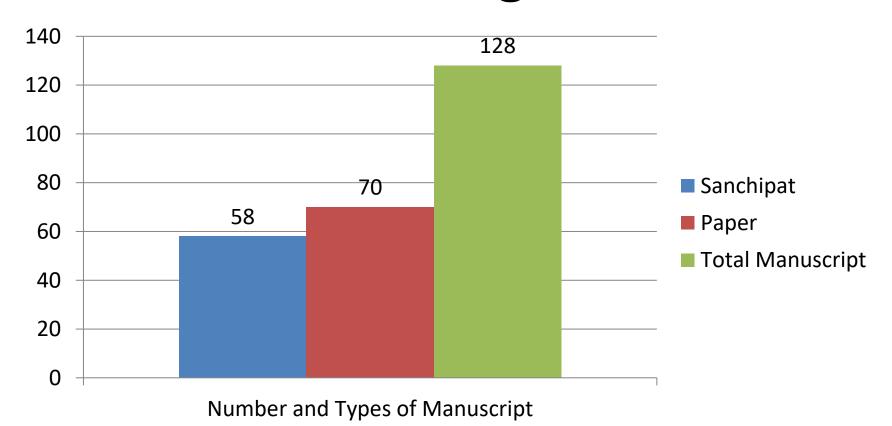














Challenges:

It is well-known that **metadata** plays a vital role in organizing and providing contextual information about manuscripts. However, the college librarians have faced some challenges in generating Metadata of manuscript which is **a prime issue related to digitization of manuscript.**

1) The script and language of age old manuscripts are very difficult to read, which needs specific skill.



- Challenges: contd...
- 2) As such, the specific **metadata elements** including authorship, title, subject, date, etc are essential for a metadata, but in case of manuscripts available in the college libraries, these elements **could not be indentified properly**.
- 3) Another challenge is **incompleteness**. Generally a manuscript is a collection of numbers of folios. Missing of some folios from a particular manuscript creates problem in generating metadata.



Implications for Further Study

Digitization of Manuscript as an Approach Towards Sustainability

- User Experience: Investigate the impact of digitization on user experience and engagement with digitized manuscripts.
- **Metadata Standards:** Explore the development of standardized metadata guidelines for digitized manuscripts.
- **Preservation Methods:** Research innovative preservation methods for digitized manuscripts to ensure their long-term sustainability.



Conclusion

Key Points

- Digitization of manuscripts is a sustainable approach for college libraries in Kamrup and Kamrup (M) districts.
- It allows for preservation of delicate manuscripts while providing easy access to students, researchers and faculty members.
- Digitized collections can be shared online, expanding their reach and promoting knowledge dissemination.



Conclusion

contd...

Significance of Digitization

- Sustainability: Digitization reduces the need for physical storage space and minimizes the risk of damage or loss to valuable manuscripts.
- Accessibility: Digitized collections can be accessed remotely, enabling wider participation in research and learning.
- **Preservation:** By digitizing manuscripts, we ensure their long-term preservation and protect them from natural disasters or deterioration.



References

- DASGUPTA, Kalpana. (2005). Digitization, sustainability and access in the Indian context. In: Libraries_ A Voyage of discovery. World Library and Information Congress: 71th IFLA General Conference and Council. Oslo, Norway, August 14th 18th 2005. http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla71/ Programme.htm
- Das, N., Mazumdar, N, R., & Kalita, K. (2024). Digitization of Manuscripts as an approach towards sustainability: A study of college libraries of Kamrup & Kamrup (M) Districts. In O. N. Chaubey & P. Rai (Eds.), 69th Annual ILA Conference Proceedings: Building the future: Transforming libraries for sustainability through capacity building. (pp. 214 223). Indian Library Association.
- FEAR, Kathleen.(2010). User understanding of metadata in digital image collections: or, what exactly do you mean by coverage? *The American Archivist*, 73(Spring-Summer), 26-60.
- HASAN, Nabi, AZIM, Mohmmad and BEDAR, Shayesta. (2016). Digital preservation of rare books & manuscripts: A case study of Aligarh Muslim University. *International Research: Journal of Library & Information Science*, 6 (4). Pp. 554-562.
- HASSAN, Nor HasniChe, SAMAN, Wan Satirahbinti Wan Mohd and SHAIFUDDIN, Norshilabinti. (2022).Integration of sustainable development by digital documentary heritage industry: A new synthetic model of integration as learning and potential research direction. *Journal of Positive School Psychology*, 6(4), 2384-2401
- HEUBERGER, Rachel, LEONE, Laura E. and EVERS, Renate. (2015). The challenges of reconstructing cultural heritage: An international digital collaboration. *IFLA Journal*, 41(3). Pp.223-229
- IFLA. (2018). Libraries and sustainable development goals: A storytelling manual. Den Haag: IFLA.
- Ionescu-Feleaga L, Ionescu B. S., & Stoica O. C. (2023). The Link between Digitization and the Sustainable Development in European Union Countries. *Electronics*. 12(4), 961. https://doi.org/10.3390/electronics12040961



References

- Hijji, K. Z. A. & Hinaai, S. A. (2023). The Role of Libraries in Achieving the United Nations Goals of Sustainable Development 2030. In: 48th Kualalumpur International Conference on Social Sciences, Humanities & Management (KSSHM-23) May 31-June 2, 2023 Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia)
- Mashroofa, M. M. (2022). Contribution of academic libraries towards sustainable development goals. *Annals of Library and Information Studies*. 69, March 2022 (Pp.51-58).
- MAZUMDAR, Nirmal Ranjan. (2009). Digital preservation of rare manuscripts in Assam. In: *E-Content management:* challenges and strategies. Proceedings of 7th International CALIBER, 2009, Pondicherry University, Puducherry, February 25th-27th 2009. (pp.14-19).Ahmedabad: INFLIBNET Center. 2009.
- Hijji, K. Z. A. & Hinaai, S. A. (2023). The Role of Libraries in Achieving the United Nations Goals of Sustainable Development 2030. In: 48th Kualalumpur International Conference on Social Sciences, Humanities & Management (KSSHM-23) May 31-June 2, 2023 Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia)
- Mashroofa, M. M. (2022). Contribution of academic libraries towards sustainable development goals. *Annals of Library and Information Studies*. 69, March 2022 (Pp.51-58).
- RANA, Dilip Kumar. (2006). Cataloguing of manuscripts. Kriti Rakshana, (April). pp. 2-7.
- Samantaray, M. (2017). Role of libraries in quality education for achieving SDG. *Journal of Advance in Library and Information Science*. 6 (1), 31-35
- United Nations. (2020). About the Sustainable Development Goals. *United Nations Sustainable*
- Development. https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development
- UN Sustainable Development Goals Report 2022. Accessed 20th February 2024 https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2022/The-Sustainable-Development-Goals-Report-2022.pdf
- UNESCO. (2002). United Nations year of the cultural heritage. https://uis.unesco.org/en/glossary-term/cultural-heritage
- https://highereducation.assam.gov.in/sites/default/files/swf_utility_folder/departments/higheredu_medhassu_in_oid_ 3/do_u_want_2_know/337_stream_wise_colleges.pdf (*Retrieved on: November 2, 2023*)

