

**Preserving and Promoting Indigenous
Knowledge Resources in Libraries: Initiatives,
Challenges and Goal with Special Reference to
College Libraries of Assam**

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Introduction

- Knowledge is a powerful tool for human development and decision making. Indigenous knowledge is essential for a society's livelihood and survival, including all elements of human life.
- Indigenous knowledge refers to the cultural practices and traditions of indigenous populations worldwide. For decades, indigenous groups have passed down oral knowledge that reflects their history and identity.
- With NEP 2020, focus on courses associated with IKR has increased at UG level because of which the emphasis of handling IKR by college libraries has increased a lot.

Objective

- To find out the initiatives taken by college libraries to preserve and promote the IKR
- To find out the challenges faced by college libraries in preserving the IKR
- To find out what are the future plans or long-term goals of college libraries to preserve IKR.

Methodology

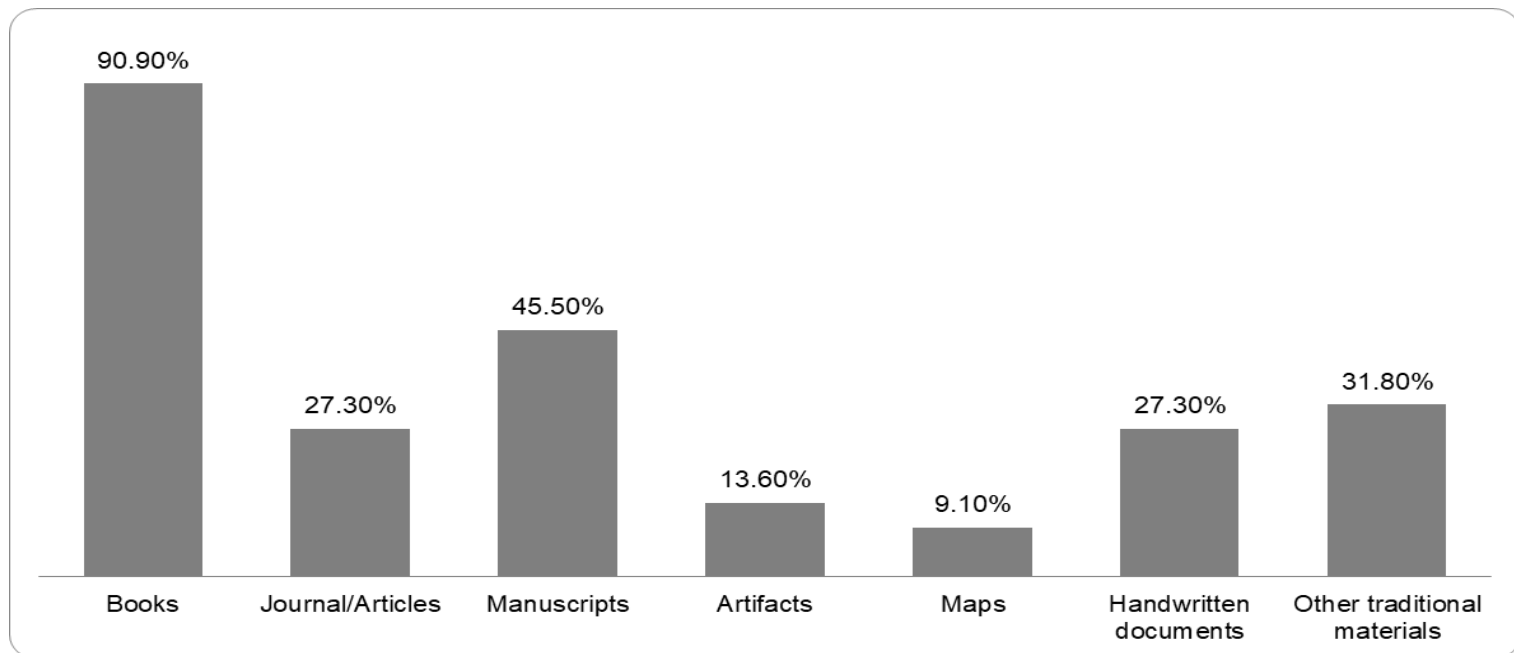
- Study was designed to collect opinions of college libraries on some selected quantitative parameters.
- A seven point scale was designed to collect the responses.

Limitations

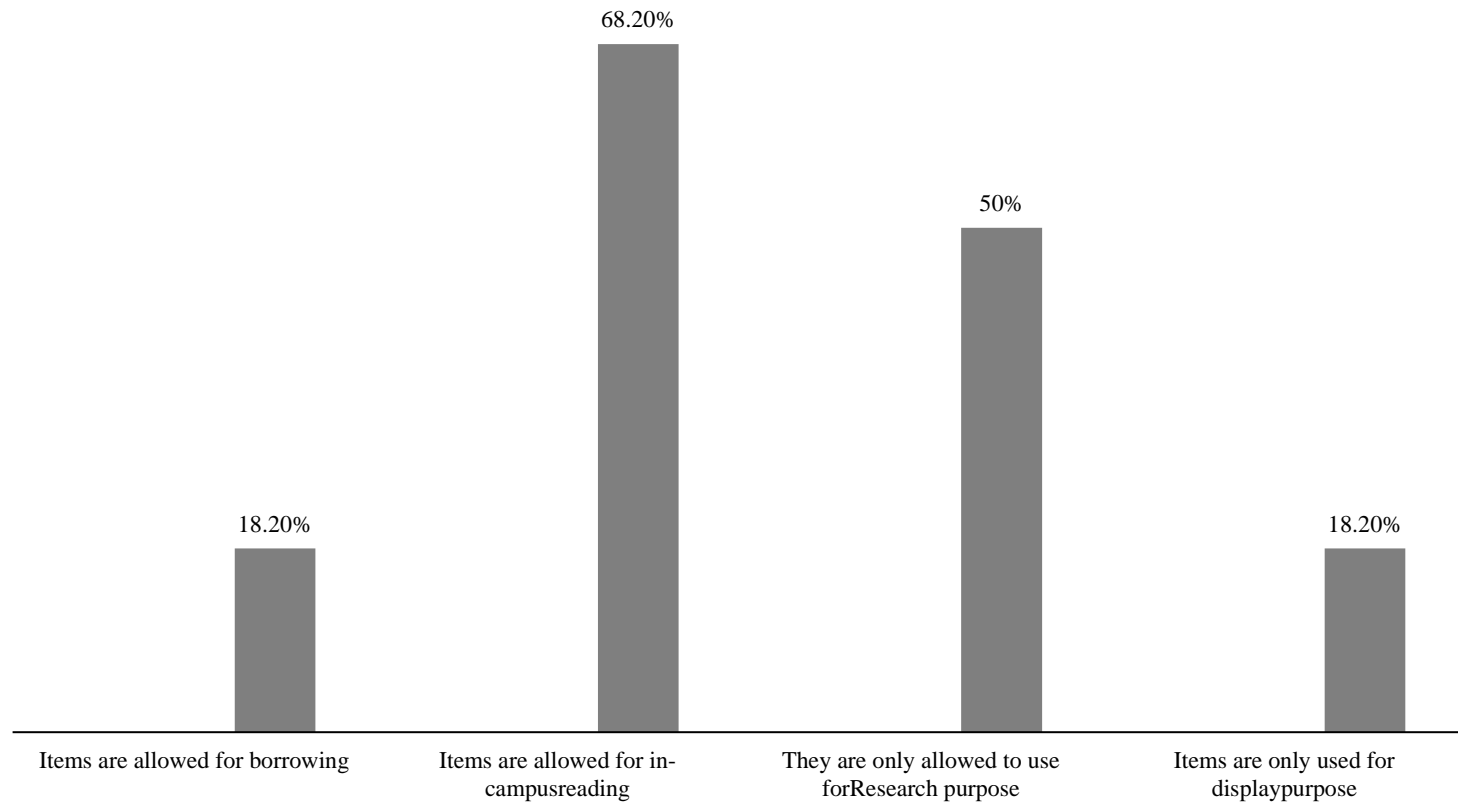
- The study was limited to 22 college libraries situated in the various parts of Assam.
- The data was collected between March 2024 to April 2024.

Data Analysis

Distribution of Indigenous Knowledge Resources among the studied colleges



Access to IKR material among the studied colleges



Initiatives taken by college Libraries

Popular initiatives among the college libraries for promoting IK	
Initiatives	Average score
Hosting workshops and seminars	2.72
Collaborating with indigenous organizations for resource sharing and outreach	2.77
Digitizing and archiving traditional Knowledge	3.77
Implementing cultural sensitivity Training for library staff	3.09
Facilitating internships or research opportunities for students and researchers	3.31
Sharing relevant articles, resources, and events related to indigenous knowledge	3.68

Challenges faced by the College Libraries

Challenges faced by college libraries to preserve IK	
Challenges	Average score
Lack of funding and resources	4.68
Limited access to authentic indigenous materials	5.22
Lack of proper preservation tool	4.36
Lack of proper training in handling indigenous resources	4.27
The varied structure (materials, item types etc) of indigenous resources	4.27

Opportunities for preserving and promoting IK

Opportunities college libraries see for improving and promote IK	
Opportunities	Average
Increasing collaboration with indigenous organization for knowledge sharing and resource development	5.27
Enhancing access to digitized indigenous materials through online repositories and archives	5.45
Offering courses and programs focused on indigenous studies and traditional knowledge	4.31
Taking community based initiatives to popularise Indigenous Knowledge Resources among general people	5.31

Libraries Long term goal to preserve IKR

Libraries long term goal to preserve IK	
Long term Goal or aspiration	Average
Establishing a dedicated indigenous knowledge center within the library.	5.36
Expanding indigenous collections to encompass a wider range of topics and perspectives.	5.40
Strengthening partnerships with indigenous communities for knowledge sharing and collaboration.	5.13
Digitizing and archiving traditional knowledge	5.86

Findings

- College libraries primarily include digitizing and archiving traditional knowledge materials they possess. Moreover, they actively distribute relevant articles, resources, and event details related to indigenous knowledge to their users.
- The primary obstacles identified include limited access to authentic indigenous materials and insufficient funding and resources for the preservation and promotion of indigenous knowledge among the surveyed college libraries.
- College libraries harbour long-term aspirations to preserve and promote indigenous knowledge. The findings indicate that the majority of these libraries aim to digitize and archive the traditional knowledge housed within their collections. Additionally, they aim to broaden their indigenous collections to include a more extensive array of topics and viewpoints.

Conclusion

Indigenous knowledge plays an important part in the establishment of all sustainable lifestyles. The current research aims to thoroughly examine the preservation and promotion of indigenous knowledge within college libraries in Assam. Through surveying and analysing data, the study has noted the diverse collections of indigenous knowledge existing in these libraries. To safeguard and advance these collections, college libraries undertake various initiatives. Despite encountering challenges in preservation, they remain committed to protecting this knowledge, with a long-term objective of preserving this cultural heritage.