

Assessing the Implementation of FAIR and CARE Principles in Libraries of Assam

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What is Indigenous Knowledge (IK)?

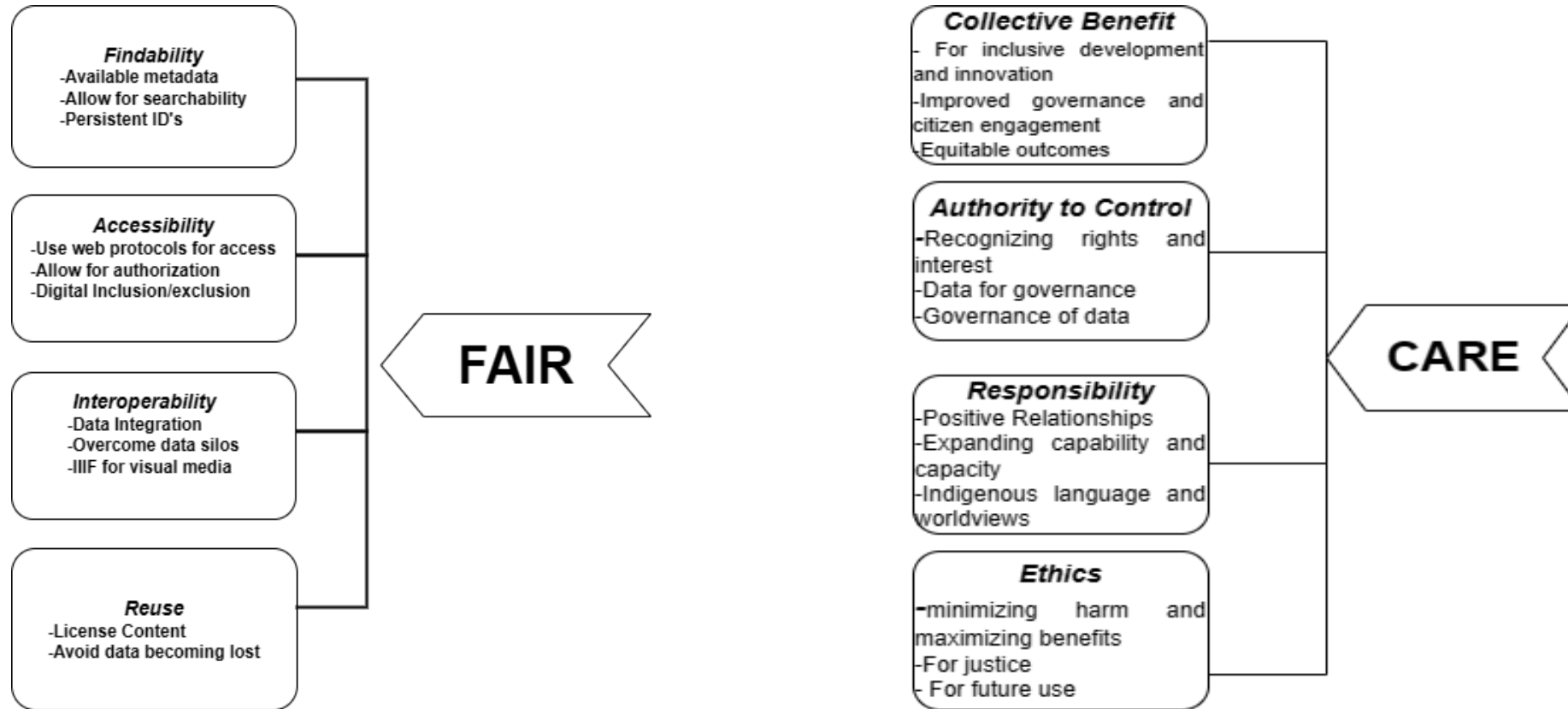
Indigenous knowledge is a collective body of knowledge and beliefs passed by generations to generations through cultural communication about the relationship of living beings, with each other and with their environment

- Gadgil. et al (1993)

Types of IK

- Music
- Dance
- Handicraft
- Agriculture
- Medicine
- Food
- Religion

FAIR and CARE Principles



- Data management to ensure accessibility and usability.

- Emphasizes Indigenous rights and ethical data management.

Role of FAIR and Care Principles in Library and Information centres in Acquiring Indigenous Knowledge

According to Owiny et al. (2014) in developing countries acquiring indigenous knowledge, its preservation, and dissemination become essential practices. Librarians play an important role in standardizing data formats and metadata, facilitating smooth data integration. Ensuring comprehensive documentation and appropriate licensing for Indigenous knowledge supports its reusability without constraints, promoting extensive access and utilization by diverse audiences (Chigwada and Ngulube, 2023)

Research Objectives

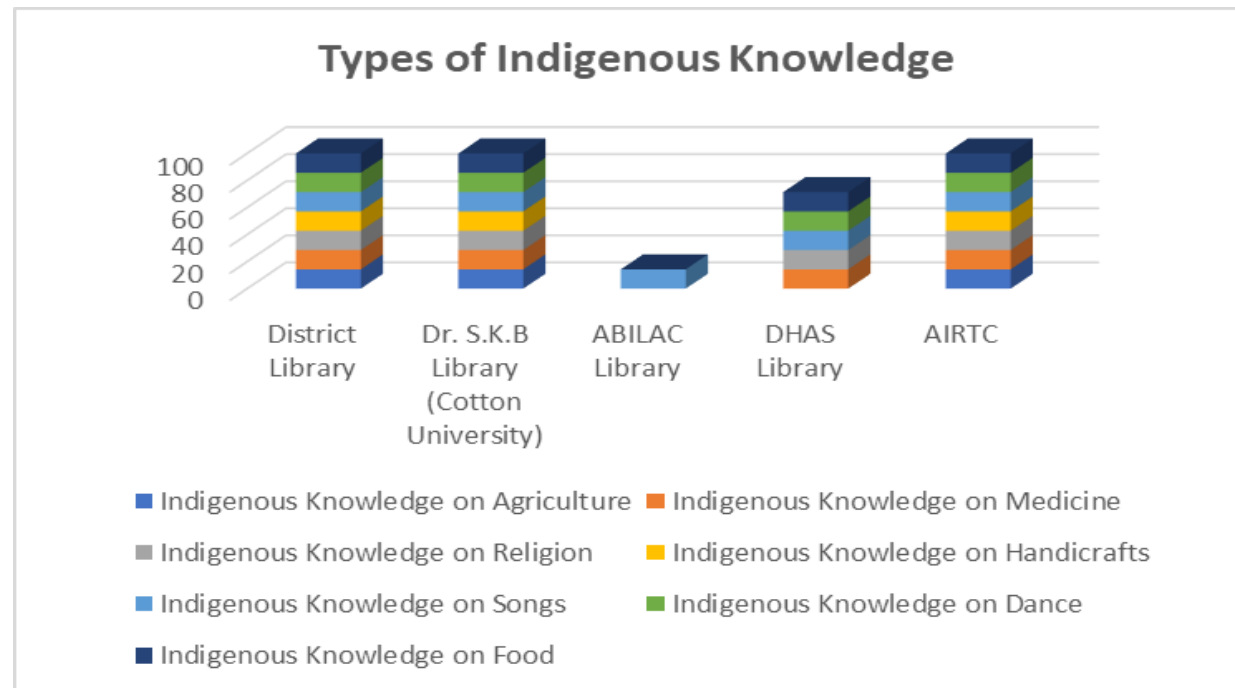
- ❖ To identify the types of Indigenous knowledge acquired in the libraries of Assam.
- ❖ To assess the awareness and understanding of FAIR and CARE principles among the library staff in selected libraries of Assam.
- ❖ To investigate how selected libraries, implement FAIR and CARE principles in the management and dissemination of Indigenous data.
- ❖ To determine the challenges faced by libraries in the acquisition, preservation, and dissemination of indigenous knowledge in the digital era.

Methodology

- **Types of libraries:** Special, Public and Academic.
- **Surveyed Libraries:** This study employed purposive sampling method to select a total of 5 librarians, each representing different types of libraries.
 - ✓ Dr. S. K. B Library at Cotton College
 - ✓ Anundoram Borooah Institute of Language Art and Culture (ABILAC)
 - ✓ The Directorate of Historical and Antiquarian Studies (DHAS) in Assam
 - ✓ the Assam Institute of Research for Tribals and Scheduled Caste (AIRTSC)
 - ✓ District Library, Kamrup (M)
- Close-ended questionnaires was shared with the librarians.
- **Data Collection:** Focused on themes such as familiarity with principles, challenges, and strategies for dissemination.

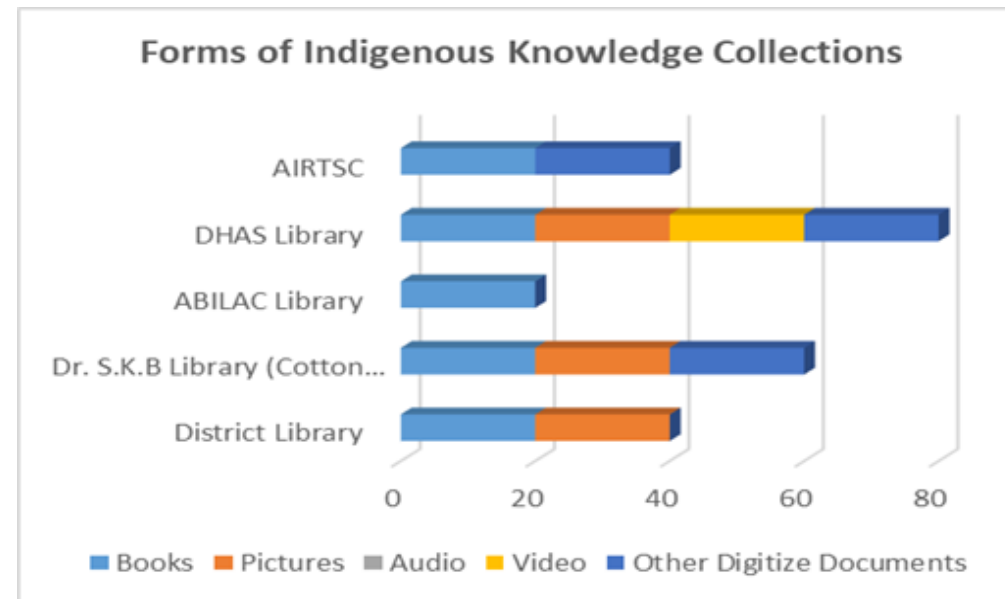
Key Findings

- **Types of Indigenous Knowledge Acquisition:** Three out of five libraries acquired all types of Indigenous knowledge documents. The ABILAC Library acquired resources on Indigenous knowledge related to songs, while the DHAS Library didn't acquire Indigenous knowledge on agriculture and handicrafts.



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- **Forms of Indigenous Knowledge Collections:** All libraries had Indigenous knowledge collections in book form. None of the libraries had Indigenous knowledge materials in audio form.

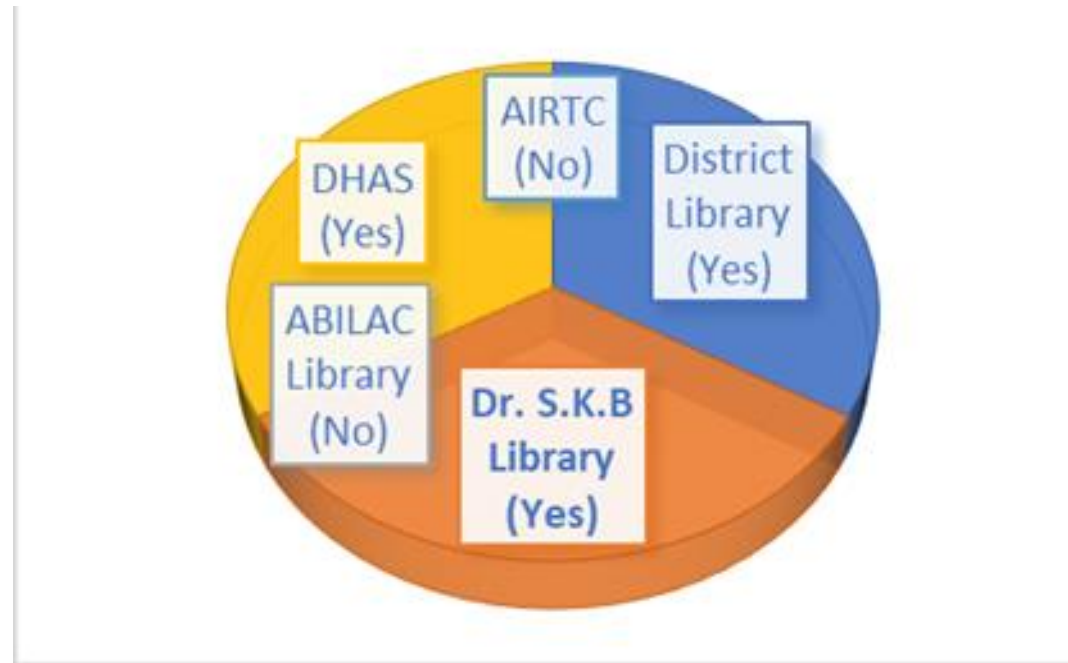


- **Familiarity with FAIR and CARE principles:** All surveyed librarians were aware of the FAIR and CARE principles regarding Indigenous data handling.

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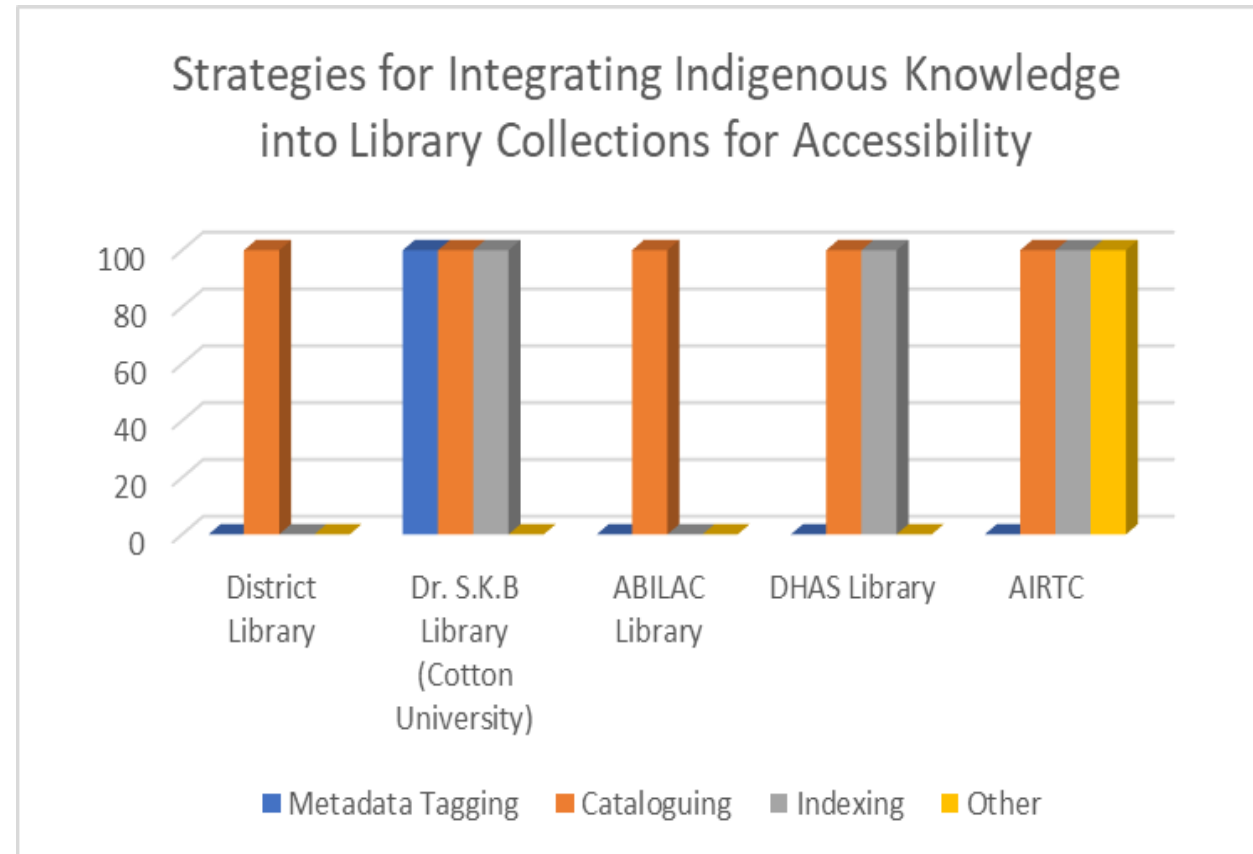
- **Protocol/Guidelines for Acquiring Indigenous Knowledge:** Three libraries followed specific protocols for acquiring Indigenous knowledge, while others did not have clear guidelines or protocols.

PROTOCOL/GUIDELINES FOR ACQUIRING INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE IN THE LIBRARY



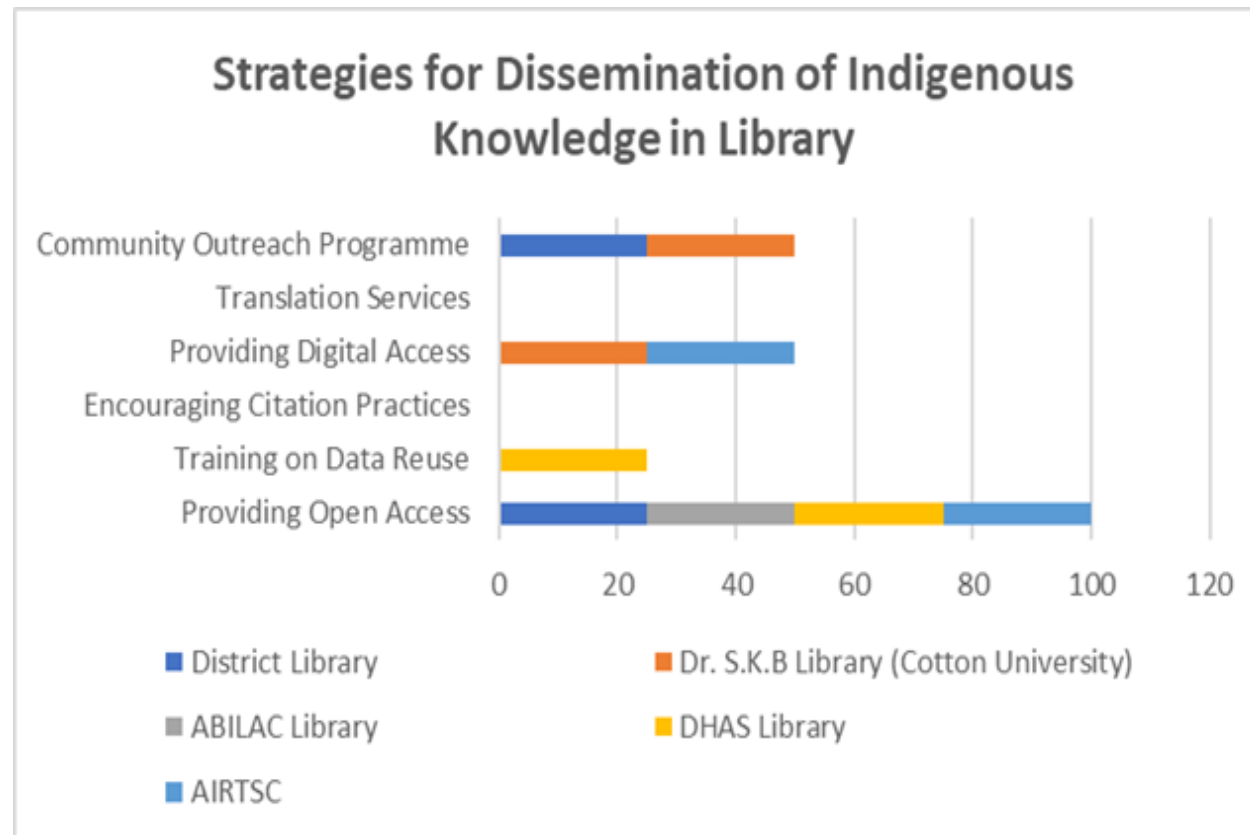
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- **Strategies for Integrating Indigenous Knowledge:** Cataloguing was a common strategy across all libraries, with metadata tagging and indexing being used in specific libraries like Dr. S.K.B Library (Cotton University).



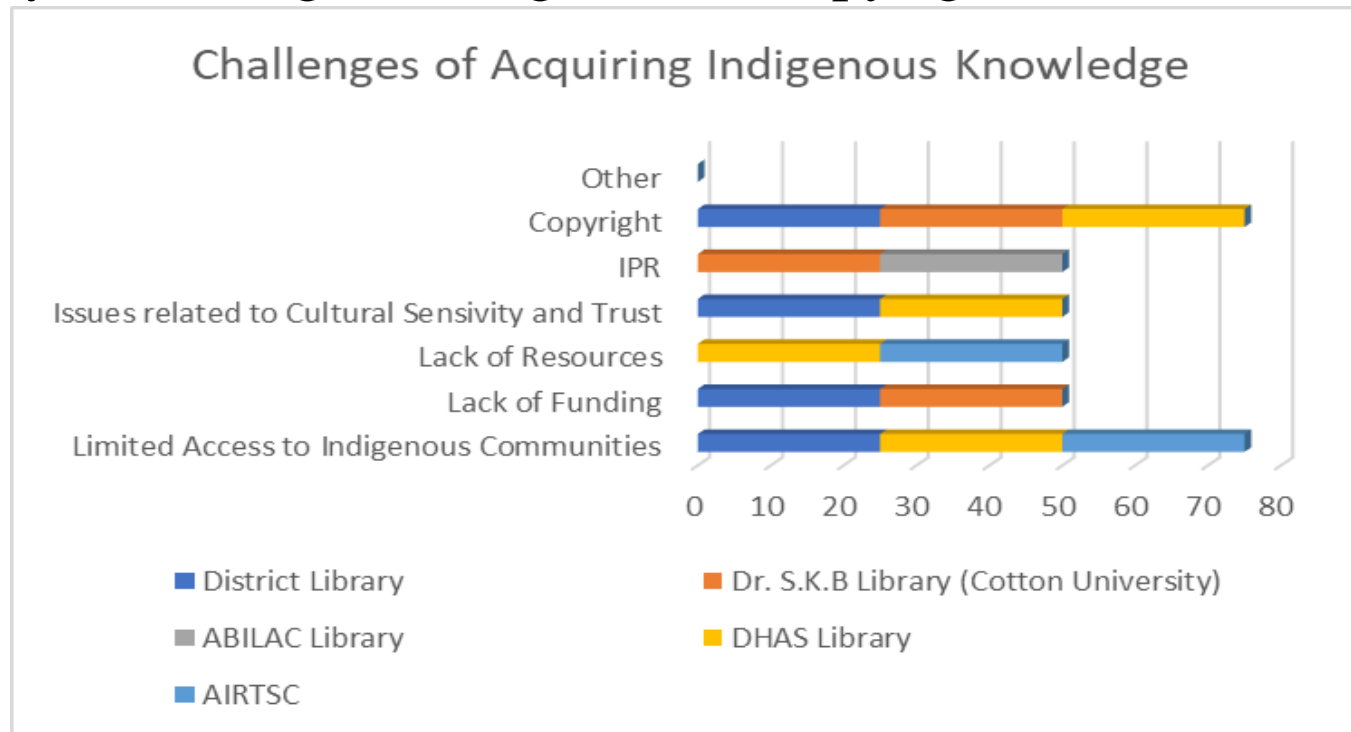
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- **Strategies for Dissemination of Indigenous Knowledge:** Surveyed libraries disseminated Indigenous knowledge through open access, digital access facilities, citation practices, and community outreach programs.



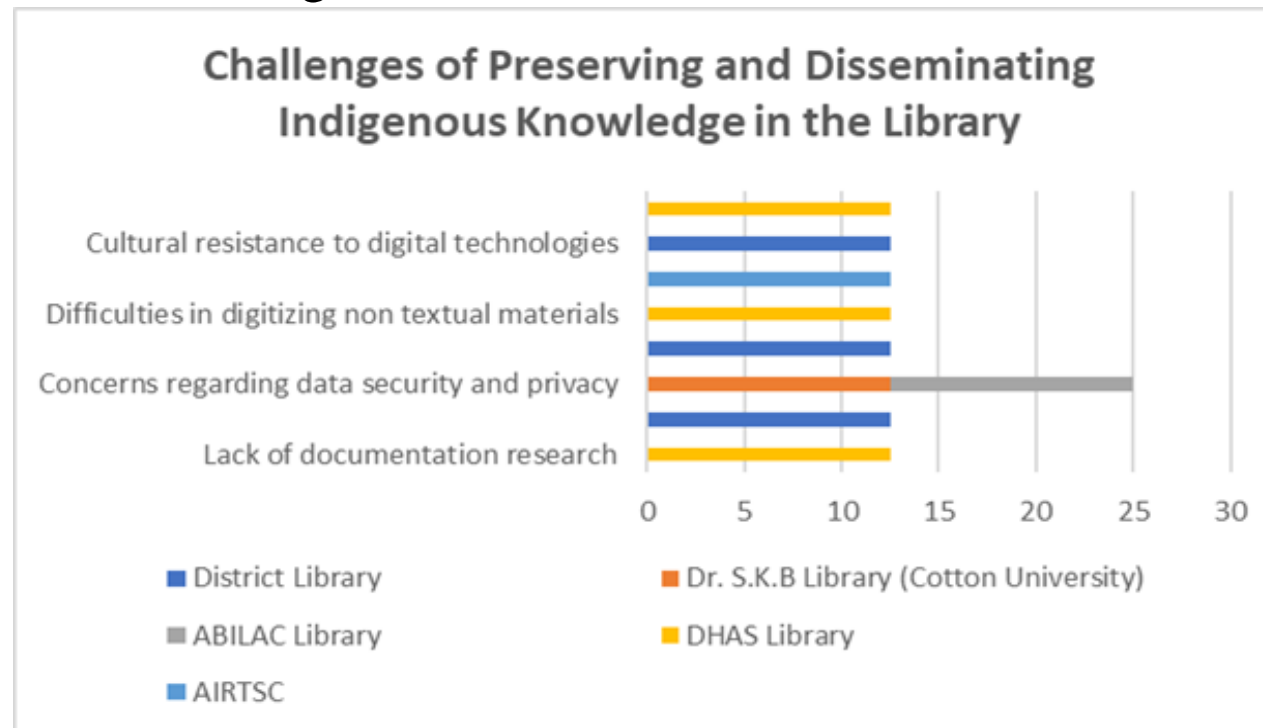
Challenges

- **Challenges in Acquiring Indigenous Knowledge:** DHAS and AIRTSC libraries faced challenges in acquiring Indigenous knowledge due to limited access by Indigenous communities and inadequate resources. ABILAC library and Dr. S. K. B. library (Cotton University) have come across IPR challenges in acquiring Indigenous community knowledge. DHAS Library, Dr. S. K. B. Library, and the district Library are facing challenges with Copyright issues.



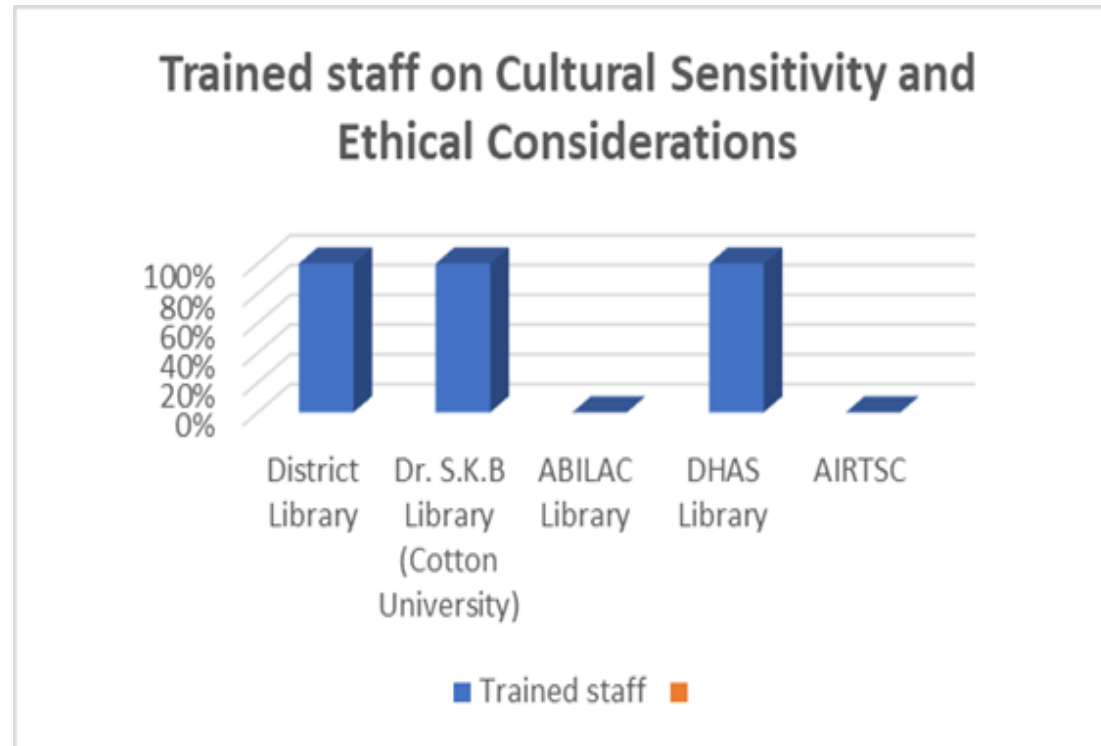
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- **Challenges of Preserving and Disseminating Indigenous Knowledge:** Dr. S.K.B Library (Cotton University) and ABILAC Library are facing the challenges regarding data security and privacy. The district library states concern over insufficient digital infrastructure, fear of misinterpretation or misuse by the stakeholder and Cultural resistance to digital technologies. DHAS Library faces hurdles in research documentation and struggles with digitizing non-textual materials. AIRTSC Library comes across a language barrier as a challenge.



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- **Trained Staff on Cultural Sensitivity and Ethical Considerations:** Some libraries had trained staff on cultural sensitivity and ethical considerations, while others did not.



Limitation of the Study

- This study gives emphasis only on a few selected libraries of Assam so it's challenging to say if the findings apply to all libraries of Assam. It's important to do more studies to see how other libraries in Assam are acquiring, preserving and disseminating the Indigenous knowledge in today's digital world.

Conclusion and Recommendations

Libraries should focus on

- Metadata tagging and indexing for better organization.
- Open access policies and digital access facilities.
- Community outreach programs.
- Proper citation practices respecting Indigenous IPR and cultural values.

Embracing of FAIR and CARE principles is crucial for

- Equitable access and ethical management of Indigenous knowledge.
- Empowering Indigenous communities by respecting their authority over their knowledge.
- Continuous integration of these principles will ensure sustainable management and inclusive knowledge sharing in libraries.

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Thank You