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Manuscriptology “Ancient Knowledge Banks”: A Literary Review

*¹Dr. Prachi Shukla, ²Dr. Krishna Kumar Tiwari, ³Dr. Swati Vyas and ⁴Dr. Meenakshi Chauhan

¹PG Scholar, Department of Samhita Siddhant, Mansarovar Ayurvedic Medical College Hospital and Research Center, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh, India.

^{2,3}Associate Professor, Department of Samhita Siddhant, Mansarovar Ayurvedic Medical College Hospital and Research Center, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh, India.

⁴Assistant Professor, Department of Samhita Siddhant, Mansarovar Ayurvedic Medical College Hospital and Research Center, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh, India.

Abstract

The scientific or structural examination of handwritten documents that are considered to be fairly old is known as Manuscriptology. In our nation, not even 5% of the manuscripts that are available have been made public. According to a study conducted by the National Manuscript Mission, about 20,000 Ayurvedic manuscripts have been identified, although they have not yet been thoroughly studied. This gives Ayurveda a wide range of applications in the subject of Manuscriptology. Since there is currently no comprehensive catalogue of Indian medical manuscripts, the methodical processes of Manuscriptology-collection, conservation, cataloguing, transcription, translation, critical edition and publication can help bring the wealth of knowledge that is hidden.

The method of preserving the future for the past is known as Manuscriptology. It maintains the historical pulse. It protects the legacy of literature, language, art, and culture. The preservation of the manuscripts is crucial. By keeping these manuscripts safe and making use of their contents, new avenues for research will become possible. Thus, conservation and preservation of manuscripts are crucial.

Keywords: Manuscriptology, cataloguing, historical pulse

Introduction

Human existence depends on communication, which can be done through written and oral traditions. In the past, Acharyas and other scholars recorded their thoughts and observations in carefully maintained materials such as leaves, garments, tree bark, papers, etc. These materials are still regarded as repositories of ancient wisdom and knowledge. As an old science, ayurveda has a history of information transmission that is both written and oral. They are repositories of historical and cultural legacy. It is necessary to preserve them properly. Temples, cathedrals, palaces, libraries, monasteries, affluent homes, and Brahmin families all have extensive manuscript collections.

The Latin word manu-scriptus, which means "written by hand," is where the word "manuscript" first appeared. In this context, "manu" [1] refers to "hand," and "scriptus" to "write." Manuscripts, written in several Indian languages, are kept in various libraries, monasteries, temples, and private collections around the nation. India is thought to hold the largest collection of manuscript treasure in the world, with an estimated 5 million manuscripts. Owing to Ayurveda's widespread popularity in Kerala, a large number of manuscripts pertaining to this field have been preserved there,

most of them are in private hands. Manuscript research is necessary.

Manuscripts contain three dimensions of knowledge: principles found in Siddhanta, science found in Shatra, and application found in Vyavahara.

Historical Review

Review of the past In India, a strong oral tradition has been used to transmit knowledge systems to future generations from ancient times. Oral knowledge was gradually lost as writing materials and scripts developed, leading to the conversion of oral traditions into written forms on materials including paper, papyrus, parchment, birch bark, and palm leaves. For the past 4,000 years, Indians have been proficient writers. Manuscripts have been passed down to mankind as a wealth of wisdom. They are located throughout the nation in a variety of establishments, libraries, monasteries, temples, and private collections. They are written in numerous Indian languages. Without any restrictions, manuscripts were freely copied in the script that was utilised.

Need of Study

Manuscript studies are necessary to preserve historical

knowledge and bring the past back to life. It is feasible to add historical information to the body of knowledge now known in science, that is, to enhance the literary resources of different scientific disciplines. It also adds to the science's literary richness and aids in a better comprehension of the underlying ideas. Since Sanskrit is used to write the majority of Ayurvedic manuscripts, even a small variation in reading can have a significant impact on interpretation.

Writing Surface

Writing Surfaces: Manuscripts can be inscribed on a variety of surfaces, including rocks, clay tables, metal plates, papyrus leaves, animal pelts, bark, leather, palm leaves, cotton cloth, wooden boards, Agaru bark (used in Assam), Sachi (Agaru bark similar to that used in some places of Assam), palm leaves (Tala and Sritala were used in South India), and Kadata or cotton cloth (used in parts of Karnataka). Information was written with inks, veggies, paint colours, metallic styluses, brushes, reeds, pencils, and wooden pens^[2]. In 105 AD, paper was created in China. There is a suggestion that in 327 BC, Niorchus mentioned papermaking in India. China taught Arabs a technology around the eighth century AD. Papermaking machines were first used in Italy in 1283 AD and in England in 1490 AD.

Scribes

- **Lipikara:** Narrative writers, regular writers
- **Pusthakalekha:** Lekhaka
- **Kayasthalekhaka:** The Record
- **Shasnalekhaka:** Emirati calligraphers
- Official scribe copier Divirapata

Composition Resources

- **Patra:** The written word
- **Dora:** Strand
- **Granthi:** Tangle
- **Chadana:** Cloth for covering
- **Mashi:** Pen
- **Lekhani:** Akshara: Personnas
- **Kambi:** A ruler to maintain letter alignment
- **Lipyasana:** Workstation for writing
- **Shringhala:** Pen with chain on it

Surface on Which to Write

From the Leaves of Palm Trees to Paper: Paper, birch bark, aloe tree bark, and palm leaves.

From Earth to Metal: Wooden blocks, cotton, ivory, shells, leather, clay, and bricks.

Screenplay (Script)

Brahmi and Kharoshti scripts are the oldest ones discovered in manuscripts. The mother of all the later scripts is Brahmi.

Once more, Brahmi is split up into the following:

- Brahmi:** the oldest lipi in the north and south.
- Northern Nagari Brahmin
 - Devanagari
 - Gujarati
 - Southern Brahmin
 - Tamil
 - Kannada
 - Telugu
 - Malayalam
 - Nagari
 - Ardhanagari

- Purvanagari
- Nandi Nagari
- Devanagari

A manuscript has a specific structure. The primary body text is contained in the chief portion. The term "Prasasti" or "Mangalacarana" refers to the manuscript's decorative start. The majority of the manuscripts have left-side margins and have specific markings written there as well.

Writing Supplies: Pen, Brush, Ink, Stylus

Writing Methodology

When the text and its commentary are copied, the text is written continuously first, then the commentary, or the text is written in the centre of the page with commentary written all around it. Alternatively, the text is written verse by verse and the commentary follows it.

Page Numbering or Pagination: The folios are numbered, but the individual pages are not. They are located in the folios' centre, on either the right or left side.

Punctuation

- The single line (|) indicates the line's end.
- A double stark mark (||) indicates that a section has ended.
- Shortcuts
- **Bindu(.):** A letter repeated.

Colophons

The salutation comes after the opening colophon. Colophons the homage to Ishtadaiva, Ganesha, Sharada, and other deities comes after the opening colophon. The work concludes with an end colophon that includes information on the book's title, the author's name, percentage, and titles, the writing period, the intended audience, and other details. At the conclusion, Granthasankhya is occasionally mentioned along with the amount of verses.

Decorations and Drawings

- Certain manuscripts also contain floral, geometric, and religious symbols, among other decorative motifs.

Colours Utilised in Manuscripts

- Corrections are indicated in yellow.
- Red: The end of the chapter.
- Pusphika is the term used to indicate that a chapter or body of work has ended. Bhonita, or the preface, is a Puspika variation that specifies the name of the book and the author^[3].

Typographical Mistakes (Scribal Error)

Elimination, orthographic confusion (mixing of different scripts), transposition (unintentional transposition of phonemes and words), mische codex (mixing of stanza), addition, interpolation (adding text), and substitution (when word is not obvious).

Adjustments Absence Dots or thin horizontal strokes positioned above or below them are used to indicate them. They are either scored off or contained in curved brackets. You might put turmeric or yellow pigment over them. Manuscripts often suffer from errors such as factual misrepresentation, word deletions, and replacements.

Dependencies Symbols like (+ or -) are used to denote the place of insertion. It is written above the line if it is just a basic letter insertion.

Changes and Replacements: It is written in the closest margin against the line or above the section that has to be repaired. You can indicate the correction at the top or bottom margin along with the line number.

Marginalia Writing: In margins usually includes section headings, page/folio numbers, additions, substitutes, and corrections.

Text Types: Autograph, single manuscript, transmitted copy, and instant copy.

The Binding of the Written Works

A manuscript is made up of several rectangular pages that are strung together at both ends. A pin through one end holds a palm leaf book together so the leaves can be spread out for reading. To enable the leaflets to be turned over and read sequentially, holes may occasionally be punched through either end and the strings threaded through them. Palm leaves are typically sandwiched between two wooden boards, leather pieces, or protective covers because they cannot be stitched together. Every leaf is positioned in accordance with the known serial numbers.

On the palm leaves, there is very little writing. The majority of the content is presented in a straightforward, poetic manner. Determining whether the writing is in prose or poetry is challenging. There are further challenges in interpreting the documents. The dots are not used while writing the consonants. Manuscripts also encounter issues with international inaccuracy, factual misrepresentation, and words that have been vandalised, changed, or removed. The author's name may start, end, or appear in the midst. The scribes' presentation of the author in duplicate manuscripts is highly problematic. The identities of the authors are not listed in some of the manuscripts.

Grouping Manuscripts

- i). The materials are categorised as follows: manuscripts on palm leaves, manuscripts on paper, manuscripts on birch bark, manuscripts made of wood, manuscripts on *Hansipatra*, manuscripts on *Talpatra*, manuscripts on *Tripadaka*, manuscripts made of aloe, and manuscripts from *Sanchipat*.
- ii). The manuscript falls into two categories once more.
 - Manuscripts with graphics, if any, if they are visually appealing.
 - Manuscripts without illustrations-those without a picture or any diagrams.
- iii). Based on the topics covered, the manuscripts can be categorised into the following: *Ayurveda*, *Vyakrana*, *Ganita*, *Jyotisa*, *Kosa*, *Stotra*, *Vamsavalikavya*, *Alankara*, *Nataka*, *Sangita*, *Kata*, *Yoga*, *Mahatmya*, *Purana*, *Itihasa*, *Tantra*, *Mantra*, etc.

Manuscript Types

Tal-patra manuscripts are typically observed as bundles of fifty to one hundred evenly sized leaves that have been carefully formed, tied with a cord, and placed between two wooden boards. A few collections also feature chopped leaves that are a metre long and have the midribs left intact, wrapped like a carpet. Although collections of these manuscripts are scattered throughout India, *Tal-Patra* manuscripts are primarily found in the coastal states of the country, where the palmyra palm tree typically grew in practically all parts. The palmyra, also known as the talipot palm, leaves are carefully dried before being boiled in water, rubbed with spices like turmeric, and submerged in ponds to prepare them for writing.

To create a bundle of uniformly sized folios, the midrib is frequently removed and the leaves are chopped.

Techniques for Writing and Illustration

Writing on the surface using a pen or brush and ink, the text was written on the leaf.

Incised Writing: A sharp iron stylus was used to incise the text into the leaf. You might see the writing by putting soot or green leaves into the incisions.

Examples: Paint composed of earth and mineral pigments combined with plant gum as a binder has been used to create exquisite pictures on palm leaves.

Manuscripts from the *Bhoja-Patra* are typically found as thin 'folios,' or sheaves of paper, cut to uniform size. Usually kept piled up between two wooden planks and covered in fabric, these are occasionally fastened together with string on the sides.

The temperate and alpine climate zones of the Himalayan belt are home to bhoja-patra trees and manuscripts, although their collections are spread throughout India.

A Brief Remark Regarding Support Preparedness: The birch tree's inner bark is carefully rolled off the trunk and left to dry under controlled conditions. It is occasionally polished, boiled in water, and then sliced to size. In other instances, oil is poured to it prior to burnishing. The bark has many layers. Bark is occasionally observed to be glued in multiple layers.

Writing Strategies

Writing on the Surface: Using a pen or brush and ink, the text was written on the leaf.

Hansi-pata Manuscripts: *Hansi-pata* manuscripts, which are likewise crafted from *Agaru* tree bark, are typically exhibited as a sheaf of folios that have been evenly cut in size. These are typically stored stacked between wooden planks and covered with cloth; they are hardly ever linked together. The northeastern Indian state of Assam is home to the majority of *Hansi-pata* manuscripts. *Hansipata* manuscripts are extremely rare outside of that area in other areas of India.

Setting up the Support: The *Agaru* tree's bark is carefully rolled off the trunk and allowed to dry under controlled conditions. Boiling, burnishing, slicing, and ornamenting are the steps involved.

Techniques for Writing and Drawing

Writing on the Surface: Using a pen or brush, the text was inscribed on the prepared bark using an ink made with soot, cow urine, and *chebulic myrobalan*. Earth and mineral colours were used to paint the illustrations, together with plant gum binders.

Manuscripts on Aloe: Available mostly as written mantras in the northern and eastern regions.

Manuscript on Paper: Following the Mughal emperors' invasion.

Buddha's Tripidaka: Primarily inscribed on blocks.

Ayurvedic Manuscript Sources Ayurvedic manuscript information can be gathered from a number of sources.

- i). Traditional and regional libraries.
- ii). Oriental Library of the Government.
- iii). Asian community in Calcutta.
- iv). University libraries in Pune, BHU, and other places.
- v). Different *Padasala*.
- vi). Famous traditional physicians.
- vii). People who possess personal collections.
- viii). Temples.

- ix). Museums.
- x). Colleges of Ayurveda.

Importance of the Study of Manuscripts

Manuscripts are the evidence of our advanced prehistoric science. The identical texts are available in several copies at various locations. Since Ayurveda is an ancient study, its manuscripts contain a wealth of useful knowledge. Copy presents diverse viewpoints on each Ayurvedic idea. Thus, the Ayurvedic field will expand its horizons with the critical analysis of all the copies that are already available. The eight divisions of Ayurveda, as well as other branches like *Pashu* and *Vruksha* Ayurveda, which are still taught through manuscripts, encompass a wide range of subjects.

Many analyses of various Ayurvedic texts, such as *Sushruta* and *Charaka*, have never been published. Such unpublished works ought to be made public since they have real-world applications that affect people's lives. Numerous collections were found during previous manuscript surveys, and it is necessary to locate and conserve any more recent collections. Surveys need a lot of effort, time, and personnel. They ought to follow the right procedures and standards. To endure the difficulties, survey officers need to have the right training and technological assistance^[5]. Problems could be technological and social.

Social issue: Manuscript owners want financial benefits and are not yet ready to reveal the collections. By providing people with appropriate knowledge, this issue can be resolved. Giving official paperwork and labelling can help dispel some of the public's mistrust of the government. Using the proper cameras or scanners, the manuscripts can be digitalised on the spot, and a copy can be sent to the owner right away.

Technical Issue: Survey officers lack proficiency in scripting, local languages, and adequate manuscript management. To grasp the languages, they need to receive training. Information that will be useful in the future for identifying the repository must be gathered using digital technologies.

Data entry sheet for surveys

The data entry sheet is a valuable tool for collecting manuscript condition and other relevant information. All information that could be useful for evaluating the manuscripts in the future must be included in a data sheet. The survey sheet's most crucial points are:

- i). The owner's name, address, phone number, and email address
- ii). Title and number of the manuscript
- iii). Materials: Paper, other materials, and palm leaves.
- iv). Writer
- v). Inscription technique: engraved, painted, or pen-written
- vi). Spoken Words
- vii). Screenplay
- viii). The quantity of folios, their width and length, and the number of lines on each folio.
- ix). Full or partial
- x). Damage or intact
- xi). Phonograms
- xii). Time
- xiii). The name of the Scribe
- xiv). First lines
- xv). Final verses
- xvi). Concluding Statement

The Manuscriptology Steps

Manuscriptology is the scientific study of manuscripts. There are two parts to it.

- i). First Actions
- ii). Adjunct Actions

First Actions

Gathering: Manuscripts are in the millions and are scattered throughout India. These manuscript collections vary widely in terms of collection kind, ownership type, administration style, etc. Being familiar with the nature of these collections could be beneficial. Millions of manuscripts are scattered across India's many regions. These manuscript collections vary widely in terms of collection kind, ownership type, administration style, etc. Being familiar with the nature of these collections could be beneficial.

Scholarly Compilations: This category can comprise manuscripts from numerous research organisations, university basic minimum standards for manuscript conservation, and basic minimum criteria for manuscript conservation from libraries, archives, and museums.

Collections for Ritual Worship: There are several manuscripts in different homes and places of worship that are hardly read at all; instead, they are venerated at the altar. These manuscripts typically pertain to sacred scriptures within that specific religious sect, and the devotees are frequently familiar with the contents.

Individual collections: This may constitute India's largest decentralised manuscript repository. In some parts of India, almost every home and private institution possesses a collection of manuscripts.

Trusts: Oversee several mutts, Granthagaras, institutions, and places of worship; they also have custody of the manuscripts.

Places of worship: In India, religious organisations of all faiths house a considerable number of manuscripts.

Museums: India's museums are home to an abundance of carefully chosen manuscripts. The curator of the manuscripts area of these institutions is often in charge of the manuscripts.

Important manuscript repositories and libraries: In addition, a sizable number of manuscripts are kept in Indian university libraries.

Research Establishments: Scholars source a vast collection of manuscripts from the numerous Societies and Oriental Research Institutions.

Archives: There are several manuscripts in India's numerous archives that are primarily related to government records. Though some, like those held by the Kerala State Archives, are also in Curuna format, the majority of these records are on paper.

Possession: Even with modest collections, private individuals could be considered "owners" of manuscripts. One may take into consideration the idea that trusts and institutions of the Central and State governments play the responsible function of guardians rather than being the proprietors of the manuscripts.

Guardianship: This word may suggest a greater sense of ownership and responsibility for the writings. As the collections' caretakers, it is our responsibility to make sure the manuscripts are passed on to subsequent generations in an even better state than when they were first acquired. No custodian may choose to let Manuscript deteriorate for any reason. Numerous manuscript preservation centres a both inside and outside the nation. Example are given below
Names of conservation centres for manuscripts

North

- i). The Central Institute for Buddhist Studies.
- ii). New Delhi's Indra Gandhi National Centre for Arts.
- iii). Shimla Language and Culture Department.
- iv). The Himalayan Society of Niantal for the Conservation of Arts and Heritage
- v). The library at Rampur.
- vi). Gorakhpur's Nagarjuna Buddhist Foundation
- vii). The Indian Institute of Conservation
- viii). Research Institute of Vrindavan
- ix). Banaras Central Library
- x). The Viswesharanada Institute of Ishwabandhu

South

- i). Hoshiarpur Tirupadi Oriental Research Institute.
- ii). Hyderabad's Salar Jung Museum
- iii). The Intacchitrakala Parishad Centre for Art Conservation Bangalore.
- iv). Government Museum of Tamil Nadu
- v). Library Thanjavore Thanjavore
- vi). Trivandrum Regional Conservation Centre Thripuntra
- vii). Hill Place Museum, Centre for Heritage Studies,

East

- i). Bhadrak Saraswati
- ii). The Tawang Monastery
- iii). Imphal's Manipur State Archive
- iv). The Patna public library at Khudabhakha Oriental
- v). Orissa's Sambalur University
- vi). Guwahati's Krishna Kantahandiqui Library
- vii). Bhuvaneswar Aithya
- viii). Separate Orissa
- ix). Kolkata Manuscript Library
- x). Sredev Kumar Jain, Arrah, the Oriental

West

- i). Jodhpur's Rajasthan Oriental Research Institute
- ii). Pandulipi Saramkshan Mahaveer Digamber Jain Rajasthan's Kendra
- iii). Ahmedabad's Lalbhai Dalapathi Institute.
- iv). Oriental Research Institute of Bhandarkar, Ujjain

The first requirement in Manuscriptology is gathering as many manuscripts as possible from all across the world. These vast repositories of knowledge hold countless gems of wisdom and data. Manuscript damage is a typical occurrence in modern times. There are two categories of influences that can harm manuscripts: natural and human.

Human Factors: ignorance, carelessness, and public indifference.

Natural Elements: include light pollution, fire, water, natural disasters, insect and microbial attacks, dust, temperature and relative humidity swings, and light pollution.

Factors inherent to the work: The manuscripts may sustain damage from the paint or ink used for writing.

Preservation: Manuscript conservation techniques are referred to as conservations. The original document is conserved by preventive and curative measures. For that reason, a standard technique that incorporates the best elements of contemporary scientific methodologies and traditional Indian customs has been developed and implemented. In addition to holding preventive and curative conservation workshops at various sites across the nation in accordance with priorities, 33 Manuscript Conservation Centres (MCCs) are responsible for the conservation of

manuscripts. One of the NMM's objectives, manpower development in the field of manuscript conservation, is also addressed at workshops. The dual goals of conservation workshops are to provide skilled labour for the field of manuscript conservation and to achieve the conservation of manuscripts.

Conservation refers to any direct or indirect action taken on a manuscript or collection of manuscripts, whether they are damaged or not, with the goal of extending its lifespan.

Conservation through Prevention: Preventive conservation refers to any direct or indirect action taken on a manuscript or collection of manuscripts, whether they are damaged or not, with the goal of extending their lifespan by lowering the likelihood that they would deteriorate in the future.

For Instance: Consistent evaluation of the collection's state assigning employees to receive preventive conservation training.

Conserving Curatively: Any direct intervention with a manuscript that is damaged. A group of manuscripts with the intention of halting the manuscript(s)' ongoing deterioration is known as curative conservation. As an illustration, consider fumigating a collection of manuscripts that contains live insects.

Repair: Restoration is any physical action performed on a damaged text with the intention of enhancing its appearance. For instance: Eliminating pencil markings from a manuscript folio; taking direct or indirect action to extend the life of a damaged manuscript or manuscript collection. You can do this directly or indirectly.

Manuscripts Damage: We can refer to these threats to a collection of manuscripts as elements of deterioration. These elements fall into two categories: natural and human factors. The human element poses the greatest threat to collections since people have the power to completely ruin them by both bad and inactivity. If humans so choose, they can also give up their ability to influence how natural forces behave, allowing the collections demolished forever. (Alternatively, if people act appropriately, they can also be the greatest defenders of manuscripts.)

Human Aspects

Professional negligence and indifference

Public negligence and indifference

Natural Elements: Fire, water, microbiological and insect attacks, natural disasters, dust, pollution of the environment, and light. Variations in the relative humidity and temperature.

Innate Elements: The type of material found in the document is ready, the paint or ink can also be applied pose a risk to the manuscript.

Essential Conditions for a Manuscript Storage Section^[6]

- i). There is no risk of a fire or a flood.
- ii). Neat and orderly rooms.
- iii). The electrical panel ought to be located outside the room.
- iv). If at all possible Excellent lighting
- v). Manuscripts maintained neatly and organised adequate ventilation cabinets or boxes
- vi). The weight of the texts should be supported by the shelves.
- vii). Room to move for at least one person
- viii). Manuscripts ought not to be lying about.
- ix). Routine inspections of the storage space are necessary.
- x). Near the storage space, at least one table and chair to draft inspection reports, etc.

- xi). Manuscripts that have been donated or recently acquired should be checked for fungal or insect infestations in a quarantine room and monitored before being labelled and moved into the storage area

Minimum Requirements for Proactive Conservation ^[6]

- The collection's employees have to have received independent training on how to carry out the preventive conservation measures.
- The areas used for collection storage, presentation, and reference should be tidy.
- The collection area's furniture, including the shelves, should be tidy and well-maintained.
- The manuscripts should no longer be heaped up or scattered on the floor, but instead placed orderly on shelves, in cabinets, or in boxes.
- If at all possible, the manuscripts should be put in boxes or covered with destarched cotton material.
- There shouldn't be any insects on the documents or furniture.
- It was necessary to put the loose folios in the manuscript sections in designated boxes.
- The manuscripts shouldn't be exposed to direct light.
- The space needs to have adequate ventilation and be dry.
- The lowest shelf above the storage cabinets should be one foot high, and they should be placed away from walls. The ground.
- The shelves' storage capacity need to have been properly utilised.
- It should have been possible to reduce the risk of a fire or water disaster.
- The procedure for updating the location and accession registers ought to have started by now.

Conservation Methods

Coins: The names of numerous Andra rulers, including Gobada and Narana, have been revealed via ancient coins. Coins are made of a variety of metals, and we can preserve them by mixing HNO₃ (20%), H₂SO₄ (5%), and H₂O (75%). After 30 minutes, remove and clean. Every coin has its appropriate information, including weight, size, value, time, metal used, etc., and is kept in an airtight container.

Manuscript on Palm Leaves: Use citronella or lemon grass oil to make words easier to read. Put on a black lamp; this will make reading easier. The leaves are punctured with holes, and cables are threaded through them. The palm leaves are stored between two rigid, flat hardwood boards with identically shaped slots for passing cords. The hardwood boards squeeze the leaves from both sides, preventing chipping from abrasion and curling at the margins. Cotton material in shades of yellow or red was used to wrap the manuscripts. The manuscripts must be kept in air-conditioned room

Manuscripts on Paper: The Latin word papyrus, which China originated in 109 A.D., is where the word "paper" originates. India began using handmade paper manuscripts in the eighteenth century. Medicinal Pesticides such as snake slough and turmeric powder are applied. These texts are preserved using a leaf caster machine and reinforcement made of banana culture pins. Safeguarding the manuscripts is another benefit of digitising the content.

Manuscript Cataloguing: Method of classifying and placing items in a specific order. The reader can find the document more quickly and simply with the aid of cataloguing.

Examples of cataloguing in ancient India are found in Anukramanis and Nighantu.

Three Forms

- Card form ^[7]
- Form a book
- Form of a sheaf

Two Kinds

- Standard cataloguing ^[8]
- Detailed cataloguing:

Two Parts of Descriptive

Cataloguing First Part: Provides the manuscript's physical details, including the title, author, and the size and condition of the materials.

The second section includes text excerpts, colophons, and a few sentences from the start and finish of the manuscript.

List of Catalogues ^[9]: University of Madras has published the new catalogue catalogorum.

German Orientalist Theodor Aufrecht: Catalogus Catalogorum

Alphabetical list of authors' names or work titles that have been released in three volumes. The master catalogue, which included details on manuscripts both inside and outside of India, spanned 1195 pages in total ^[10].

Subsequent Actions

Composing by hand. Manuscript reading is an extremely challenging task. The work is made easier if it is written down on paper. Manuscripts can be copied and are available in several languages. For instance, if it is written in Sanskrit, copy it into Sanskrit; if it is written in Malayalam, copy it into Malayalam.

Translation is the process of changing one language to another. Translation is necessary since many native languages are not widely known, making proper knowledge transfer impossible. Text reconstruction in the Critical Edition. Reading carefully and analysing the information in detail. There are two steps involved.

- Reduced critique
- More severe criticism

Reduced Critique: Procedure for choosing the initial reading in light of the evidence. It includes three more processes once more.

i). **Heuristics:** To identify methodological evidence gathering, analysis, and study. There are three stages to this.

- **Siglum:** an odd marking used to identify manuscripts. This could depend on the script, the codex's source, or how old the copy is. For instance, K12 indicates that Kashmir is from the 12th century.
- **Collation:** The act of gathering all the data related to a single book. Typically, it is carried out using with the collation sheet's assistance. These days, an Excel spreadsheet is used to complete the task.
- **Secondary Sources of Information:** All publications that are gathered and are research that are immediately and closely related to the content. These could be translations or commentary.

ii). **Recension:** Refers to analysing the material critically. It involves selecting the desired reading copy of the document from a variety of copies. This is achieved by prioritising the author's intention.

iii). **Emendation:** the act of editing or modifying written works. The definition of emendation is text repair.

More Severe Criticism

The higher criticism comes after the lower criticism. The question of authorship, the author's date of birth, the effect of previous works in the field, style, languages, literary elements, the work's sources, the circumstances that led the author to produce it, the influence of other writers, and the work's popularity are all taken into account while editing the text.

Crucial components of the critical edition:

- Gather all surviving copies of the text, whether they are automated or not.
- Determine the reciprocal relationship and copy trustworthiness.
- Organise the copies into groups.
- Make up the critical reappraisal.
- Recognise any reading from a variety of sources as unique.
- Provide a critical analysis, factual description, and critiques to the global community.

Publication

This completes the Manuscriptology process. Very few manuscripts are accepted for publication. The reality that publishing a work is an enormous undertaking. For the sake of the next generation, we have to endure the suffering. The largest and most ambitious initiative of the 2003-founded National Mission for Manuscripts is to compile a database of all Indian manuscripts both domestically and overseas⁽¹¹⁾. The Mission's website provides access to the National Database of Manuscripts, Kṛiti Sampada.

Goals: Gathering and conserving.

Motto: Preserve history for the future.

Three distinct sources provide the Mission with information on manuscripts.

Superiority as a legacy contribution to the historical scholarship of India

Deficiency

Originating from the ancient or mediaeval era three formats are used to gather manuscript information.

Manus Data: A single manuscript is recorded on each Manus data sheet. It contains information about the manuscript's title, author, scribe, and commentator as well as information about the material it is written on, its location, and its state.

Manus Data sheet with guidelines

Survey Questionnaire a collection of manuscripts in a private or institutional collection is recorded using a questionnaire form. It gives a summary of all the manuscripts that are available in a collection.

Instructions for completing the questionnaire CAT-CAT a database containing all published catalogues of Indian manuscripts is also being assembled by the Mission. Over 2500 catalogues have been documented thus far. Its format is now being modified, and soon the documentation will start up again. Procedure for 23,40,000 pieces of electronic data are currently available^[12].

The method of preserving the future for the past is known as Manuscriptology. It maintains the historical pulse. It protects the legacy of literature, language, art, and culture. The preservation of the manuscripts is crucial.

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