CHAPTER - IV
CHAPTER - IV

GOVERNMENT POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES FOR COLLECTION, ORGANIZATION AND PRESERVATION OF MANUSCRIPTS

Civilization in olden times was governed by kings. Some of these kings were keen in well-being of society and used to give attention to the maintenance of libraries.

A brief review period before Christianity, Mughal period, Peshwa Period, British Period and the present time has taken below. It indicates that Governments were playing their important role in maintaining the treasures of knowledge.

(A) Early Period : Both in the West and the East there was royal patronage to learning and accordingly to libraries as evidenced by the works of Alfred Hessel, D.N.Marshall and N.B.Marathe shows that rulers were keen about the libraries.

Alfred Hessel narrates the accounts of great library at Alexandria, "The credit of founding the great library at Alexandria goes to Ptolemy Soter (283 B.C.). He and his son Ptolemy Philadelphus had a gigantic plan of collecting whole of Greek Literature" (1). During that time religion, used to play a vital role in social order. The priest of the monastery and other religious authorities, were having high respect in society. The king also used to respect them and accepted their higher position. This was congenial atmosphere for growth of knowledge and ultimately to the libraries.
During the rivalry of the kings, number of times the libraries, used to become prey at the time of wars. But with the same spirit, there are examples of restoration of libraries. D. N. Marshall has given an account of such event, in which Antony, by seeking help of Cleopatra, had restored a library at Alexandria (2).

Likewise, there in the East also, the royal families and the king themself used to have great respect for literature. Those who were indulging in the field of learning, their well-being was looked after by the kings. Moreover in order to promote the knowledge, kings during that time, used to have 'Special Darbars', for the discourses. N. B. Marathe has given an account of, how libraries and the learned etc. have a respectable position in the society (3).

(B) The Mughal period : Followed by the various dynasties in North and South India, mughals paved their way to India. The early founder of mughal sultanate, could not get enough time to pay attention to the proliferation of knowledge. But later on, during the time of Emperor 'Akbar', we have number of evidences, showing that Akbar was lover of libraries. Serwar Hossain has given an account of his 'Kitabkhana'(4). Followed by Akbar, Emperor Jahangir also was lover of books and libraries.

There are number instances shown, in history of Mughal period, that the libraries were the subject of interest of almost all rulers. Mughal Sultanate, which had firm roots in north, all
the time striving for conquering Deccan. And especially the small kingdom established by Shivaji. Their last ruler 'Aurangajeb', moved his capital to Aurangabad specially for this purpose.

(C) Peshwa period: During the struggle for maintaining the Swaraj, early Maratha rulers could not concentrate on the development of libraries. But during Peshwa period libraries and learning specially, enjoyed better position. The account of this, during Peshwa period, narrated by S. G. Mahajan, has been given below. "Peshwa's were the chief administrator of Maratha kingdom. Development of libraries seemed to have received an impetus during the regime of the Peshwas. For various types of activities they were having different departments which were known as 'Karkhana or Shala' one of such department was a 'Pustakashala'."

Copying of book or the manuscript was treated to be, as the ritual in learned Brahmins. The Peshwa's gave patronage to the learning, which was restricted to the privileged few i.e., shastris, pandits, teachers, scholars and writers.

Production of manuscripts by way of copying was a continuous activity. Accounts of the details of rates of copying, procurement of manuscripts, their maintenance etc. are given in the "Peshwa Daftar" (5).

Britishers took over the Maratha raj in 1818. Till that patronage to learning was in practice.
The rulers succeeding to Peshwas were keen in maintaining the tradition of providing patronage to libraries and to Brahmin in form of giving Dakshina until 1850's.

During the British period some of the British Officers wholeheartedly worked for collection, organization, management and preservation of MSS.

(D) British period: The British promoted education, and established native general libraries. Number of British scholars were ardent lover of oriental studies. As well as Governors like Elphinston, Jonathan Duncan, Sir William Jones, and others were both administrator and scholar. They gave impetus to the activity of search for MSS scattered all over India.

This movement gave rise to the scholars like – Bulhar, Kielhorn from the British side and Bhandarkar, Kane from the Indian side. Large amount of MSS surveys were carried out and the reports were submitted to the government during that time.

That was the healthy sign of accumulating information on availability of MSS. The 'catalogues catalogorum' of Sanskrit MSS in 15 volumes, is the outcome of those endeavors started in British period.

The activity of publishing MSS was also on increase during the 19th century. Some of the important, illustrated and rare MSS were transported to England by these scholars. These attempts gave rise to systematic study of MSS collections, cataloguing, classification and publication of manuscripts.
The learned societies and institutes of national repute were established during this period, e.g. 1) The Asiatic Society, Calcutta, 1784, 2) Asiatic Society of Bombay, 1804, 3) Bombay Natural History Society, 1883, 4) The Theosophical society, HQ, Adyar, Madras 1875, 5) Oriental Institutes in various states.

(Twentieth Century : A brief account of efforts made at various levels have been presented below. This will facilitate to understand the present position of MSS keeping at State, National and International level.

1) State Level - i) Maharashtra State Archives.

2) National Level i) National Archives of India, New Delhi.
   ii) Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage, Lucknow.
   iii) National Research Laboratory for conservation of Cultural Property, Lucknow.
   iv) Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts New Delhi.
   v) Indian Historical Records Commission New Delhi.

   ii) Ford Foundation, U.S.A.
1. STATE LEVEL

I) MAHARASHTRA STATE ARCHIVES, MAHARASHTRA

Elphiston College Building, Mumbai - 400 001

A record office in Bombay was established in 1821 with a view to keeping records of the Secretary's office and of the other offices in the Presidency Town. Later on it was named as Secretariat Record Office. Talboys Wheeler's Hand Book to Madras Records inspired the Government of Bombay in undertaking appraisal and examination of records in their custody and in 1863 Thomas Candy (of the Bombay Invalid Establishment) then Marathi Translator, Educational Department, was appointed for the purpose. Candy's Descriptive Report was printed in 1864. He was again placed on special duty in 1868 - 69 for rearrangement of records, removing duplicates and filling up of gaps. In 1871, John Jardine of Bombay Civil Service presented an interesting memorandum regarding the public records of that Presidency. The result was that Professor Wordsworth, officiating Principal of the Elphinston College, was appointed in 1872 for selecting and publishing the old records of the Bombay Secretariat. The Record Office occupies a portion of the Elphinston College building.
ALIENATION OFFICE, PUNE

In addition to these, there is an outstanding collection of records, a description of which is given below:

"The records of the Alienation Office, Poona, have as their nucleus the "Poona Daftar", or original Marathi records of the Peshwas' Administration, which were taken over by the British Government at the time of the conquest in 1817. The Daftar, anciantly stored in the Shanwar Palace in Poona City, was dispersed among the residences of certain persons after the fire which destroyed the palace in the reign of Bajirao; and was collected thence tolerably complete, but in a state of great disorder, by Elphinston in 1817. Its first home thereafter was Khasgiwala's Wada in the City and its next was Nana's Wada, whence it was removed to the present building in 1890. This original nucleus, comprising about 13,000 bundles consisted of the records of the Peshwas for 88 years, beginning with the year 1729, with a blank of 7 years from 1757 to 1763, the records of which were burnt when Poona was taken by Moguls" (6).

Maharashtra State Archives, works independently under the control of Ministry of Education and Culture. It looks after the archival materials in state, with the help of archives at District level.

Besides this, it works as buffer between the State and National Archives. Policies and Programmes adopted by Central Government in this regard, are transmitted to the grassroot level, through State Archives. Schemes and proposals made by any public library or individual needs to be forwarded through State Archives to National Archives of India.
II) DIRECTORATE OF LIBRARIES, GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA,
        Town Hall, Mumbai 400 001

Like state Archives, Directorate of Libraries, Govt. of Maharashtra, also take care of Marathi MSS collection.

Govt. of Maharashtra, opened a new cell for MSS Libraries in 1980 with the following categories of staff.

1. Manuscripts officer, 2. Technical Assistant, 3. Senior clerk
4. (Almari) Stack room attendant.

For policy making and advising to MSS officer, committee of experts was established in 1984.

Work of Expert Committee:

1. Procurement of important and rare MSS for government
2. To decide the worth Value of MSS
3. To advice the government from time to time for procurement and maintenance of MSS.

Secretary of the Education Ministry, Government of Maharashtra, used to be ex-officio president and Director of Libraries as a ex-officio secretary of this committee. This Committee took the following decisions:

1. To Collect the noteworthy MSS with literary value.
2. Xerox copies of notable Marathi MSS, within Maharashtra and outside Maharashtra,
3. To purchase MSS on sale.
4. To collect Memoirs of political personalities, their handwritten biographies etc.
Committee identified and photocopied of following collections:

1. Collections at Pandharpur, Thanjaur, and Jodhpur are identified by M. R. Joshi.

2. Fifteen canto's of Dasopant's 'Gitarnva'. canto no.3,7 and 18 are yet to be identified.

3. The unpublished works of 'Sridhar' (1678-1724).

4. Canto's from 'Eknavi Bhagwat' (Badank 394).

5. a) Aadiparva-Vishnudasnama, b) Ashwamedh-Nama Pathak,
   c) Mahabharat-udyogparva to swargarohan-vishnu dasnama.

6. Two notebooks of the late Jagnade maharaj's Abhang, from Shri. B. P. Bahirat.
   (Late Jagnade Maharaj, colleague of saint Tukaram, who used to play Cymbal during bhajan.)

7. The 'Christ Puran' of father Stephen, had been purchased from Shri B.M.Kulkarni.'

8. 8 MSS of 'Ganpati' Maharaj,' from Vidharbha.

9. 6 MSS of late 'Tuka vipra' from Pandharpur.

10. Prose commentary on 'Amritanubhav' by Shri Viveshwar, procured from, Shri. Samarth Vagdevta Mandir, Dhule.

11. 'Dnyaneshwari' of s'ake 1614, procured from Shri.Pralhad Maharaj Badwe.

12. 'Tukaram Arya' by Moropant and 'Shradhprayog' by Shri Pralhad Maharaj Badwe.

   Apart from these, number of Marathi MSS have been collected (7).
2. NATIONAL LEVEL

I) NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

Janpath, New Delhi-110 001

National Archives of India (NAI), known until Independence as Imperial Record Department, was established on 11 March 1891. It is the official custodian of all non-current records of permanent value of the Government of India and its predecessor bodies. It is the premier organized record repository in Asia, with its holding running over 30 km of linear shelf-space. The newly constructed annex provides an additional shelf-space of nearly 40 km. National Archives of India is an attached office of the Department of Culture. It has three regional repositories at Bhopal, Jaipur and Pondicherry.

Major activities of the Department include: (i) Accessioning of public records and making such records accessible to various government agencies and research scholars; (ii) preparations of reference-media; (iii) preservation and maintenance of records and conducting of scientific investigations for the said purpose; (iv) Evolving records management programmes; (v) Rendering technical assistance to individuals and institutions in the field of conservation of records; (vi) Imparting training in the field of archives administration, records management, reprography and repair and conservation of records, books and manuscripts at professional and sub-professional levels and (vii) Creation and promotion of archival consciousness in the country by celebrating 'Archives Week' every year (8).
Keeping in view that records are of national importance, National Archives of India provides financial assistance to state archives, voluntary organisations and other custodial institutions so that the documentary heritage is preserved and archival science is promoted. Proforma application is given in appendix number 8.

II) INTACH INDIAN CONSERVATION INSTITUTE LUCKNOW

B-10, Sector C, Aligaj Scheme, Lucknow-226 020

Introduction:

India has a very rich and varied cultural heritage which has descended to us from times immemorial. Although a major portion of it has been destroyed due to vandalism, ravages of war, effects of nature and negligence, but still we have a large number of art, archaeological and ethnological objects in the form of bronze images, stone sculptures, textiles, Manuscripts, paintings, monuments, archival material which need proper conservation. To cope with this problem, the Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage, popularly known as INTACH established a Conservation Centre at Lucknow in 1985 under the advisory guidance of Dr. O. P. Agrawal. To increase its scope further and to include other activities in its programme, the Centre was renamed INDIAN CONSERVATION INSTITUTE in 1990. In the same year an unit with a well equipped Studio and a Laboratory for Restoration of Oil Paintings was set up at New Delhi under the guidance of Mr Sukanta Basu.
Aims and Objects of the Institute:
1. To take up conservation of different art objects, viz. wall paintings, paper paintings, canvas paintings, thankas, manuscripts, etc.
2. To impart training in conservation, especially in those areas which are not covered at the moment by any of the present institutions of the country.
3. To bring out publications on pertinent subjects.
4. To organize Seminars and Workshops on conservation regularly.
5. To render technical advice about conservation of art objects.

Equipment:
The Institute has acquired necessary equipment for examination and restoration of different types of materials. U.V. Monitor, Lux Meter, Whirling Hygrometer, Trinocular research Microscope, Phase Contrast Microscope, Illuminated Magnifier, Photographic camera with necessary accessories, Binding and Repairing tools are some of the notable equipments owned by the Institute.

Divisions:
The Institute comprises of the following Divisions:

Facilities available in the Institute:
(i) Analysis and Examination of various types of Art Objects.
(ii) Preparation of Technical Reports on Art objects.
(iii) Conservation of different types of Art objects, for example: a) Paper paintings, b) Cloth Paintings, c) Oil paintings, d) Wall Paintings, e) Metal Objects, f) Stone Objects, g) Palm-leaf Manuscripts, h) Paper Manuscripts, i) Thankas and Miscellaneous types of objects.

(iv) Training Programmes, Workshops, Seminars, etc.

Main projects:
1. Project for Conservation of Wall Paintings.
2. Project for ascertaining the conservation status of Manuscripts, Books, Archival and alike material.

Achievements:
1. The institute has provided assistance to numerous institutions, like the Jat Regimental Centre, New Delhi, The Gadhwal Rifles Regimental Centre, Lansdowne, Maharaja Samthar's collection, State Museum, Lucknow, U. P. State Archives, Lucknow.
2. The institute received a large number of collections from different institutions, museums, individuals and army units for restoration. It has examined, treated and restored items such as flags, uniforms, weapons, documents, manuscripts, photographs, oil paintings and trophies, etc.
3. Technical Reports about several institutions and sites have been prepared by experts in order to provide them up-to-date report on the condition of their art objects.
4. The institute has conserved the Decorative Ceilings in the Raj Bhawan, Ooty, Wall Paintings at Chamba, Datia,
Nagaur Fort, Nayathod (Kerala), Nurpur, Chattris at Kusum Van Sarovar, Mathura, Wall paintings and Canvas Paintings of St. Aloysius Church, Mangalore, Miniature Paintings of N.C. Mehta Collection, Thankas of Patna Museum, Manuscripts from Akhil Bhartiya Sanskrit Parishad, Shanti Niketan and Datia Museums, Paropkarini Sabha, Ajmer, Art Objects from Bharat Kala Bhawan, B.H.U., Varanasi, Wall Paintings in Ramnagar Fort, Varanasi, Stone Carvings in Chaudhary Naunihal Singh Kothi, Allahabad, etc.

Workshops and Seminars:

The institute organizes Workshops for short duration on conservation themes. It arranges Seminars also. Workshops and Seminars are organized at Lucknow as well as at other places, as per demand.

Institute's helps to :

All public and private institutions, museums, individuals, army units possessing art objects can take advantage of the facilities.

All requests for availing help at Lucknow institute may be addressed to Mrs. Usha Agrawal, Programme Director, INTACH Indian Conservation Institute, B-10, Sector-C, Aliganj Scheme, LUCKNOW-226020. (Tel.Office : (0522)76187, Gram : INTACONSER, Fax : (0522) 242061, Telex : 535-436 FAST IN , 535-430 FAST IN.

For Delhi Unit contact :

Mr Sukanta Basu, Consultant,
ICI, INTACH,
71, Lodhi Estate, New Delhi - 110 003.
(Tel.Office : 611 362) (9).
III. NATIONAL RESEARCH LABORATORY FOR CONSERVATION OF CULTURAL PROPERTY,
Aliganj Scheme, Lucknow - 226020

Introduction:

This is a premier institution of its kind in South and Southeast Asia, was established in 1976 by the Department of Culture, Government of India to carry out research in the methods of conservation and for providing technical assistance and training to other museums, archaeological departments, archival institutions and related institutions. The laboratory started taking shape, when it was shifted to Lucknow in 1978. It has now finally shifted to its own premises constructed on two acres of land in Aliganj Scheme, Lucknow.

During this period, the laboratory has acquired a wide variety of advanced, sophisticated equipment required for its various areas of research and conservation. These equipment have been installed and standardised. The institute undertakes a number of long-term and short-term research programmes. Many of them have been successfully concluded. Considerable number of its scientific staff members have been trained in India and abroad. The institute also conducts several training courses and workshops for conservators as well as for curators. Programmes at the institute have been executed because of the continued interest of the Department of Culture, Government of India in the development of this laboratory and due to assistance received from UNDP and UNESCO for acquiring some advanced equipment and getting the institute staff trained.
Aims and Objectives:

1. Research for the development of better methods of conservation.
2. Technical studies of art and archaeological materials.
3. Technical assistance to museums, archaeological departments and other institutions.
4. Training.
5. Documentation

Over the years, the laboratory has developed into a multidisciplinary research centre. Research at the NRLC has been oriented in two major directions:

1. Improvement of existing and development of new conservation methods for different types of objects.
2. Technical studies of ancient materials to throw light on the ancient technology of objects.

A large number of institutions have approached the laboratory for assistance in the conservation of their collections. The laboratory has been deputing experts to such institutions whenever a request is received to inspect their objects and guide them. In many cases objects belonging to different museums and archaeological departments are received in the laboratory for treatment. Several major conservation projects have been undertaken to do the work at site.

Paper Division:

Paper is the basic material used for written communication and dissemination of information and knowledge. It is very fragile and vulnerable. Before the advent of paper,
writing was chiefly done on palm-leaf and birch-bark. There are a number of old documents, miniature paintings and precious books in the possession of archival repositories in India and their preservation is of utmost importance. The paper research division caters to the need of research for evolving better methods of conservation of archival materials. Facilities available in this division include machines for testing of physical parameters like folding endurance, tensile strength, bursting strength and tearing strength. Glass reflectance meter for the determination of brightness of paper and viscometer for determination of viscosity of adhesives and cellulose materials are available with the division.

Some of the research and other projects completed so far relate to the following:

1. Evaluation of Nepalese handmade paper for the lining of paintings.
2. Effect of Mowilith on fibrous material.
4. Testing of handmade papers and old papers.

A project to develop methods of preservation of birch-bark has been undertaken. The material being very fragile deteriorates quicker than paper. Methods have been evaluated for cleaning and bleaching of birch-bark manuscripts without leaching out their built in material. Future programmers include analysis and study of different types of ink used for writing at different periods of time and analysis of micro-samples of paper from old miniature paintings.
Conservation division:

The major objective of this division is to give technical assistance to museums, archaeological departments, archives and other institutions. Conservation treatment of all types of deteriorated art objects is done here. A large number of objects like manuscripts, paintings, iron and bronze objects, textiles, wood, bone and ivory are received from all over the country for treatment.

The objects are treated in a scientific manner. An attempt is made to fully investigate the causes of deterioration and then apply the available knowledge according to the specific needs of a particular object. For each object, a history sheet giving details like size and nature of the object, materials of which it is made, the nature of corrosion products, stage of deterioration, etc. is prepared. After careful examination, the conservation treatment begins. Photographs of the object, before, during and after treatment, are taken for proper documentation.

Training Division:

The institute provides two types of regular training programmes: (i) for conservators and chemists, and (ii) for curators, directors and others incharge of collections.

The training course for conservators and chemists is of six months, duration and is conducted in collaboration with UNESCO and ICCROM. The course aims at training students for practice in conservation of works of art. A maximum of eight students are taken every year. The Government of India awards four fellowships to India nationals. Some fellowships are awarded to candidates from South and Southeast Asian region by UNESCO and
ICCROM. The course offers facilities for practical work in the following subjects, besides lectures:

Besides regular training courses, intensive workshops on specific topics are also arranged for apprising the conservators in the field with the latest trends in conservation and to exchange ideas with other participants. Three such workshops on paper materials, library materials and textiles have been organized so far. A Regional Conservation Workshop was organised for countries of South and Southeast Asia in 1977 with the collaboration of ICCROM. Conservationists from Bangladesh, India, Iran, Indonesia, Japan, Nepal, Singapore and Thailand participated and exchanged views.

The division also arranges seminars on conservation. A three-day seminar of the directors of archaeology, archives and museums was held to discuss and frame a draft for conservation policy in India. A document including recommendations to the Government of India, to the State Governments, to institutions and to NRLC was prepared and circulated for action. Another seminar on 'Conservation in India - Problems and Prospects' was organised by the laboratory on July 15-16, 1985 to discuss in detail the various problems that come in the way of conservation of cultural property and the future prospects. Directors of museums, archives and archaeology and conservators and scientists participated in the seminar.
Publications:

The institute has brought out a variety of publications including technical notes, review papers, monographs, seminar reports and bibliographies (10).

IV) INDIRA GANDHI NATIONAL CENTRE FOR THE ARTS

Janpath, New Delhi - 110 001

Introduction:

Established in Nov. 1985, in the memory of Smt. Indira Gandhi, through its library 'KALANIDHI', does a great deal of work to collect and store enormous information on Manuscripts scattered all over India.

The Kalanidhi library performs following roles:

1) Reference Library - The reference library of IGNCA has a large collection of primary and secondary material in the broad areas of humanities and the arts. It constitutes books, reprographics of several folios of unpublished Sanskrit, Pali, Persian and Arabic manuscripts in microfilm and microfische, photographs and slides. The collection includes books on archaeology, philosophy, religion and ritual studies, history and anthropology, art and literature as well as folk, pastoral and community studies. A section of the library houses volumes in various tribal languages and on tribal cultures. The library subscribes to general and specialized journals. The visual library comprises a rich and wide collection of slides of art objects and illustrated miniatures found in Indian and foreign collections.
The library is enriched by many rare collections of illustrious scholars who have made contributions in fields related to arts.

Printed Material:

The library concentrates on encyclopedias, dictionaries, bibliographies, atlases and catalogues of unpublished manuscripts of Indian and Asian origin. Its holdings and expertise are complemented by those of the other divisions of the Centre.

Series and Catalogues:

An effort is being made to build a corpus of printed material on catalogues of manuscripts of Indic and Asian origin published in all parts of the world. So far the library has acquired catalogues of major Sanskrit, Persian and Arabic manuscripts from institutions in India, UK, USA, Germany, Italy, France and Japan.

Microfilm/Microfiche:

A unique feature of the IGNCA library is the reprographic compilation of unpublished manuscripts in Indian and foreign collections from private and public libraries. A pioneering attempt has been made to bring under one roof primary sources of the Indian tradition lying scattered, fragmented, inaccessible or worse, in danger of extinction. At present the library contains about ten million folios of unpublished Sanskrit, Pali, Persian and Arabic manuscripts.

Reprographic material of various primary and secondary texts has been obtained from many foreign institutions including Bibliothèque Nationale (Paris), Cambridge University Library.
(Cambridge, UK), Staatsbibliothek (Berlin), INION (Russia), Welcome Institute for the History of Medicine (London), and Oriental and India office Collection, British Library (London).

Manuscripts are acquired in the form of micrographic records from major institutions across the country, like Khuda Baksh Oriental Public Library (Patna), Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute (Pune), Asiatic Society (Calcutta), Manipur State Kala Academy (Imphal), Atombapu Research Centre (Imphal), Vaidika Samsodhana Mandala (Pune), Saraswati Bhavan Library (Varanasi), Government Oriental MSS Library (Madras), Oriental Research Institute and MSS Library (Trivandrum), Shri Ram Verma Government Sanskrit College (Tripunithura), Tanjavur Maharaja Serfoji’s Saraswati Mahal Library (Tanjavur), and Shri Ranbir Sanskrit Research Institute (Jammu).

Membership and Services:

* Free access to IGNCA faculty members.
* No fee for research readers using the reading room up to one week. They will have no access to the library stacks.
* Annual fee of Rs. 250 for senior visiting scholars who may apply for Visitor’s Card which will allow them to enter the library stack. Institutional recommendation will be required.

Catcat (Catalogue of Catalogues):

This database provides information on more than one thousand of catalogues of published/unpublished manuscripts.
The complete descriptive information of about 3,000 manuscripts of Gita Govinda, Meghaduta and Hatyasatra have been computerized as an experimental measure. This provides the base for the variant reading of manuscripts for critical editions planned as part of the Kalamulasatra fundamental text series programme.

Cultural Archives:

The archives are enriched by personal collections, ethnographic collections, documentation and cultural exchange. This has been collected under Literature, Architecture and Sculpture, Photographs, Music, Dance, Theatre, Puppet etc. (11)

V. INDIAN HISTORICAL RECORDS COMMISSION

35, Ferozeshah Road, New Delhi-110 011

The Indian Historical Records Commission was set up in March 1919 by a Resolution of the Government of India. It celebrated its Silver Jubilee in December 1948. The chronological discrepancy is easy to explain. During the lean years (1931-36) of financial stringency and economic slump it was in a state of suspended animation. A burden on the public exchequer, financially unproductive, the Commission was a natural victim of retrenchment for the official intellect is not too much obsessed with things of purely cultural interest. But the last war taught the belligerents to be more alert about their "musty old files," and the future of the Commission seems to be more assured to-day.

Constitution:

The Government of India, the Resolution runs, "feel that in matters relating to records they should have at their
disposal a permanent body of expert advisers whose opinion would carry weight with the Records Officers and the public. With such a body at hand for advice, they are convinced that the methods adopted would meet the real wants of genuine historical students. They have accordingly decided to constitute an 'Indian Historical Records Commission' consisting of:

1. The Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Education, Ex-officio President.
2. The Keeper of the Records of the Government of India, Ex-officio Secretary.
3. The Curator, Madras Record Office, Ex-officio Member.
4. The Keeper of Records, Bengal, Ex-officio Member.
5. Professor Jadunath Sarkar, M.A., Member.
6. The Hon'ble Archdeacon W. K. Firminger, M.A., B.D., B.Litt., Member.
7. Professor L.F. Rushbrook Williams, M.A., Member.
8. Mr. B.K. Thakore, B.A., Member.

Reform of constitution:

At the beginning of 1940, after the Commission had been in active existence for 20 years, it was thought necessary to take stock of its achievements and to reform its constitution, should past experience, present needs and future objectives so demand. The Commission had indeed gained immense popularity. But it was admitted that the measure of the Commission's popularity was not the measure of its success. No doubt, it provided research scholars with a convenient platform...
where their spokesmen ably pleaded their cause, but otherwise it was not much of an effective force. Its recommendations did not carry as much weight with the administrations concerned as historians and archivists might wish. Much of the weakness of the Commission was obviously attributable to serious defects in its constitutions.

Aims and achievements:

To this brief survey of the origin and progress of the Commission may be conveniently added a short estimate of what it attempted and what it achieved. Many of its early efforts proved ineffective, though they did deserve better results.

India's antiquity a huge mass of historical manuscripts was bound to lie unnoticed and uncared for in private ownership. The owners in many cases had neither the requisite means nor the necessary knowledge to provide for their safe storage and preservation, but in such cases individual delinquency, whether intentional or otherwise, was bound to cause national loss. The Commission, therefore, decided that historical manuscripts in private custody must be brought to light and, where necessary, salvaged and a country-wide survey must be organised with that object in view. During the crucial years of war, however, the central and provincial governments were too pre-occupied with military efforts to spare any money or men for such a survey, but the task would brook no delay. Tons of old manuscripts, irrespective of their literary or historical value, were being repulped in order to meet the prevailing paper scarcity. In other belligerent countries private enterprise had been enlisted to prevent any irreparable cultural loss due to
indiscriminate repulping. In India, however, the Commission was the only organised party interested in preventing such disasters. It requested the provincial governments to appoint regional survey committees but the only province to treat the recommendation with any seriousness was undivided Punjab. Nothing daunted, the Commission appointed its own ad-hoc Survey Committees. These Survey Committees were seriously handicapped by lack of funds. At last the Government of India sanctioned a small grant (Rs.6,500/-) in August 1947, which was subsequently slightly enhanced. It is no wonder that the Regional Survey Committees have nothing spectacular to their credit. They carried on a useful propaganda in support of their cause and have been responsible for a few discoveries and some preventive work. Although peace has long been established, the ad-hoc Regional Survey Committees still remain alone in the field, but small as their success has been, it must not be forgotten that but for their exertion the casualties might have been far heavier indeed. Even when the official machinery is set in motion, unofficial enthusiasm will have to be largely invoked if the Committees are to accomplish their allotted task (12).
3. INTERNATIONAL LEVEL

The awareness for collection, maintenance and preservation - conservation of perishable items like manuscripts, antiques and other cultural heritage items, has gained international attention, by way of UNESCO’S ‘memory of the world programme’.

UNESCO under its General information programme gave an exhaustive account of the ‘memory of the world programme’. According to which, all the information on library collections and archival holdings will be accumulated together. They have chalked out the scope of their programme as follows:

1) An inventory of library collections and archives holdings which have suffered irreparable destruction.

2) An inventory of ongoing operations to protect documentary heritage, and

3) A world list of endangered library collections and archive holdings.
Programme:

The written heritage reflects the diversity of languages, peoples and cultures. It is the mirror of the world and its memory. But that memory is fragile. Every day, fragments, if not whole chunks of the world's documentary heritage disappear forever. Precious documents, unique records of the history of arts, sciences and civilizations, sometimes even entire library collections or complete archives are lost forever through natural or human-induced disasters. Many others, subject to wear, neglect and natural aging are in such bad condition that, at any moment, they disintegrate. A considerable proportion of the world documentary heritage disappears through "natural" causes, acidified paper that crumbles to dust, leather, parchment, film and magnetic tape attacked by light, temperature, humidity or dust. The cinema, for instance, is in danger of losing most of the works that have made it the art of the century, just when it is celebrating its centenary. Thousands of kilometers of film could just fade away unless they are restored and preserved as soon as possible.

As well as natural causes, accidents regularly afflict libraries and archives. Floods, fires, hurricanes, storms, earthquakes...the list goes on of disasters which are difficult to guard against except by taking preventive measures. Every year, treasures are destroyed by fire, cyclones, monsoons and other extreme weather conditions.
Libraries and archives are as vulnerable as human lives to war and natural disaster. It would take a very long time to compile a list of all the libraries and archives destroyed or seriously damaged by acts of war, bombardment and fire, whether deliberate or accidental. No list has yet been drawn up of the holdings or collections already lost or endangered. The library of Alexandria is probably the most famous historical example, but how many other known and unknown treasures have vanished in Constantinople, Warsaw, Florence, or more recently in Bucharest, Saint Petersburg and Sarajevo. There are so many more, and sadly the list cannot be closed—not to mention holdings dispersed following the accidental or deliberate displacement of archives and libraries.

The sheer scale of the effort needed to preserve what is part of this irreplaceable "Memory of the World" requires the implementation of a consistent protection programme which will pool endeavors and make use of state-of-the-art technology.

Objectives of the "Memory of the World" Programme:

According to its Constitution, UNESCO has a duty to help maintain, increase and diffuse knowledge by assuring the protection of the world's documentary heritage and making it accessible to as many people as possible. Impelled by its responsibility to develop culture and protect the world cultural heritage, UNESCO launched a new programme in 1992 to protect and promote the world documentary heritage. The Programme, entitled "Memory of the World" and implemented by the Division of the General Information Programme, is
designed to embody a new approach to protecting endangered documentary heritage, democratizing access to it and ensuring its wider dissemination.

The Programme's objectives are complementary and of equal importance.

They concern safeguarding the most endangered handwritten, printed and audio-visual holdings and facilitating access to them by as many people as possible using the most appropriate technology, while ensuring that the originals are maintained in the best possible conditions of conservation and security. It should be possible to protect this heritage and, at the same time, make it accessible to the public by compiling high-quality image banks which could then be used to make reproductions in all sorts of forms, such as videodiscs, albums, books, postcards, microfilms, etc. Any proceeds from the sale of related products will then be ploughed back into the Programme.

Scale and Structure of the Programme

The International Advisory Committee of the "Memory of the World" Programme, whose members are appointed by the Director-General of UNESCO, recommended, at its first meeting held in Pultusk, Poland, September 1993, that the concept of documentary heritage be extended to include, besides manuscripts and other rare and valuable documents in libraries and archives, documents in any medium: in particular, audio-visual documents, computerized recordings and oral traditions, the importance of which varies from region to region. In all these fields there is a need for protection, sometimes as a matter of urgency if
we are to prevent collective amnesia and set up world cultural exchange.

The Programme should make governments aware that they must protect their documentary heritage, release potential for action, support the activities of professional, national, regional and international organizations and stimulate initiatives. A three-level set-up is envisaged:

An International Advisory Committee for the "Memory of the World" Programme to guide the planning and implementation of the Programme as a whole and make recommendations concerning fund-raising, the allocation of funds and the granting of the "Memory of the World" label to the projects selected, including those not receiving financial support from the Programme.

At the national level, it is planned that a committee will be appointed, firstly to select projects according to the criteria agreed upon and submit them to the International Advisory Committee and, thereafter, to follow them up. The committee will be composed of experts able to make an active contribution to the projects and of representatives of the users. Persons submitting projects must ensure that the rights of the owners of the holdings or collections are protected. In addition, each project will set up its own scientific committee of specialists to determine the general thrust of the project and to supervise its organization.

Lastly, whenever the need arises, a regional committee will be required to select projects of a regional nature, taking local characteristics into consideration, with a view to
submitting are to the International Committee. Finally, the partners of the Programme will be the experts, users, professional bodies, public and private organizations and institutions that agree to collaborate on the conceptual preparation of projects and also companies and firms which will provide technical and financial assistance.

Selection Criteria:

The Pultusk meeting recommended that the selection of holdings and collections for the "Memory of the World" Programme should be based on the following criteria: content (cultural, literary or scientific, artistic value), national, regional or international interest, physical condition, context, degree of risk, project feasibility (whether achievable within a reasonable time). The irreplaceable nature of the documents, holdings or collections concerned will be established by the combination of these criteria.

Furthermore, it was recommended that the organizers give some degree of priority to operations affecting several countries, national projects with a regional or international dimension and projects carried out in cooperation or in partnership, while not overlooking minorities and their cultures. Particular attention will be paid to reconstructing the memory of peoples in the case of collections or holdings that have been displaced or scattered.

Some Current Projects

1) Prague

The demonstration CD-ROM prepared by the National Library in Prague, in collaboration with UNESCO and Albertina Ltd., presents
some of the most valuable manuscripts and other documents in its historic collections.

The disc contains samples of these works with notes in Czech, English and French and the library intends to record some of its most valuable items on a set of discs.

Putting its most beautiful manuscripts and early printed books into digital form will make these treasures more accessible and prevent excessive handing of the originals, thereby helping to preserve them. In addition, while colours and ink react on contact with paper, parchment, silk and other traditional media, digital information does not fade with the passing of time. Even if some estimates put the life of a CD-ROM at no more than 20 or 30 years, it should be straightforward to transfer digital information on to the more lasting media which are expected to be developed in the future.

2) Saint Sophia

Devised by a group of Bulgarian and French writers, the "Saint Sophia" project is an attempt at a multimedia edition of Bulgarian manuscripts on an interactive compact disc. It is intended to evoke the symbolic figure of Saint Sophia, patron saint of Sofia, capital city of Bulgaria, in Bulgarian history, literature and civilization from the eleventh to the seventeenth centuries.

The documents selected include primarily the facsimile reproduction, in the form of digital images, of Bulgarian manuscripts, including the oldest one known: the eleventh-century Book of Apostolic Epistles of Enina. They are
supplemented by reproductions of illuminations, frontispieces and decorative motifs, and by photographs of various historic and archaeological sites. There are also printed transcriptions in Old Bulgarian of the manuscripts and their translations into modern Bulgarian, English where such translations exist, and French.

3) The Sana'a Manuscripts

In 1972, after heavy rain, a section of the wall of the Great Mosque of Sana'a collapsed. Work on the roof brought to light manuscripts which had been concealed in the ceiling in ancient times. They are parchment and paper fragments representing approximately one thousand different volumes, the oldest of which date back to the first century of the Hegira. Most are extracts from the Koran and are of considerable interest for the linguistic, religious and paleographic study of the literature of the early centuries of the Hegira and of the Arabic language.

The fortuitous and extraordinary discovery of these documents and their unique character make this find a remarkable event which will mobilize efforts and expertise on an international scale. Thanks to the active participation of the Federal Republic of Germany, a plan of work on the fragments was begun, which led to the construction of a House of Manuscripts, the restoration of some 12,000 fragments of parchment (out of 15,000), their storage, identification and classification and the training of Yemeni restorers and photographers.

The collections of manuscripts that it has been possible to examine have been outstandingly rich, justifying
their status as a "Memory of the World" project. Their historical, archaeological, scientific and documentary quality is such that they have all the features of collections worthy of heritage status.

Technical Context

From the examples mentioned above, it emerges clearly that the two basic principles which guide the "Memory of the World" Programme are the preservation of documents, holdings and collections and the democratization of access to them. The two principles are intrinsically linked, since access is conducive to protection and preservation ensures access.

The essential steps for carrying out any project in the "Memory of the World" programme are: selecting and preparing the documents, ensuring that they are placed in a suitable physical environment, photographing them where necessary, digitizing them, describing and annotating them, providing the staff to perform these tasks with appropriate ad hoc training where necessary, translating bibliographical descriptions where necessary, or even the texts themselves, and ensuring that the resultant product is distributed as widely as possible.

Provision has been made for the speedy establishment of two subcommittees, the first to make regular assessments of the technology that might be used by the Programme and the second to study methods for marketing and selling the Programme's products throughout the world.

So that UNESCO can play its role to the full as coordinator and catalyst, three inventories in the form of regularly
updated databases will be created in cooperation with IFLA, ICA and other competent professional bodies such as FID, FIAF, FIAT and IASA. They will be as follows:

1) an inventory of library collections and archive holdings which have suffered irreparable destruction;

2) an inventory of ongoing operations to protect documentary heritage; and

3) a world list of endangered library collections and archive holdings.

These three lists will take the form of databases periodically updated and will constitute the indispensable basis for the "Memory of the World" Programme.

Furthermore, UNESCO will shortly publish guidelines on the Programme's technical, legal and financial framework and its working structures.

Legal and Financial Framework:

Working in partnership in an international context means that a legal framework is an absolute necessity if "Memory of the World" is to be managed in a properly accountable manner. The framework must nevertheless remain sufficiently flexible to guarantee the originality of each project and take account of the diversity of national legislation.

It is essential that the rights of the owners of the collections and holdings in a project are respected and that the relationship between the owners and the technical and commercial users is clearly defined, particularly with regard to the division of rights among the various parties, the allocation of...
rights of ownership to the images produced and the sharing of the profits from the sales of produces made from images. It also seems clear, however, that excessive protection which might limit access to the documents would run counter to one of the Programme's fundamental principles.

Finally, with regard to financial support, an international fund will be set up within UNESCO to finance some of the Programme's projects. These will include, as a priority, projects with a regional or international dimension. Other projects which meet the agreed criteria could use the "Memory of the World" label without necessarily receiving aid from UNESCO of the fund.

Each "Memory of the World" project will be an entity in itself, especially as far as finance is concerned, each project must strike a financial balance between, on the one hand, the investment needed for digitizing, reproducing and distributing products and for preparing the reproduced collections and holdings for conservation and, on the other, initial contributions from local or outside funds and royalties from the sale of products.

This balance will not be achieved without the participation of sponsors and technical and financial partners. The search for partners is an important, not to say decisive, phase of all "Memory of the World" projects. Profit can never be a prerequisite for carrying out a project.
Conclusion

As soon as it was launched, the "Memory of the World" Programme began to arouse great interest. Requests for assistance, sometimes even appeals for help, regularly reach UNESCO. It is a daunting task and only the mobilization of all the parties concerned can translate declarations of intent into a vast world workshop to rescue, reproduce and disseminate endangered documentary treasures.

From that point of view, the economics of the operation and the considerable investment it will require, cannot be stressed enough. The two fold aim - securing the survival of the heritage and facilitating access to this collective memory so that it is within the grasp of as many people as possible - necessitates new approaches to funding, particularly through cooperation with the private sector. As Mr. Mayor said at the beginning of the Pultusk meeting, "Realism will be needed, but also daring and imagination" (13).

II) FORD FOUNDATION

320 East, 43rd Street, New York, NY 10017

A private philanthropic corporation, established in 1936 by Henry and Edsel Ford. Its Program at first restricted to Michigan charities, was vastly enlarged in scope in 1950 as the result of additional bequeaths from the Ford family. Of its total grants approximately some $875,000,000, more than half has been spent on education in the United States since 1951.
The largest item was an appropriation in 1955 of $260,000,000 to raise the level of faculty salaries in qualified private colleges and universities. In the same year the nation's voluntary, nonprofit hospitals were granted a sum of $200,000,000 by the Foundation.

In so far as possible, existing institutions benefit from the varied program of philanthropy, with the specific areas of activity designated as education, public affairs, economic development and administration, behavioral sciences, international understanding, and overseas development, medicine, public health, and the natural sciences are not generally considered, although the grant to the hospitals indicates the flexibility of the established standards. Among existing institutions conspicuously benefiting from the Foundation have been the great universities, the Brookings Institution the National Bureau of Economic Research, the American Bar Foundation, the National Civil Service League, the National Municipal League, and TV-Radio Workshop, producer of the program "Omnibus". In the international level funds have been granted for research and development of projects in India, Pakistan, Burma, Tukey, other countries of the East, and Africa (14).
REFERENCES

1) Hessel, Alfred : A history of libraries, tr. by Reuben Peiss.

Oxford and IBH publishing company, New Delhi 1983. P.21

3) Marathe, N.B : Bharatiya Granthalyancha Itihas.
Abhinav Prakashan, Mumbai - 1979, PP. 31-47.

4) Hossain, Serwar : Akbar - The great library Administrator
In Handbook of Libraries, Archives and Information Centres in
India, Vol.9, Aditya Prakashan Delhi 1991, PP.209-212

5) Mahajan, S.G. : History of the public library movement in
Maharashtra : Erstwhile Bombay Presidency.
Shubhada - Saraswat, Pune 1984, PP. 1-12

6) Ghose, Sailen : Archives in India. Directorate of Archives,
Government of India, New Delhi 1963 PP. 174-185

7) Director of Libraries, Maharashtra Government correspondence
with the Researcher, 1994.

Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Govt. of India,
P.123.

9) INTACH - ICI, Brochure.

10) Gupta, B.M. : NRLC - In Handbook of Libraries, Archives and
Information centres in India Vol.9 Pt. I, Aditya Prakashan,

11) Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, Brochure 1994.
