ABSTRACT

1. GENESIS OF THE STUDY

India's glorious past is embedded in Manuscripts literature. By knowing importance of them, National Archives of India, started providing grants for the preservation, listing, cataloguing, evaluation and publication of Manuscripts.

Jayakar Library of the University of Pune, is one of the beneficiary of such schemes. Present author had an opportunity to work in these projects. The participation in these projects gave rise to the idea of studying organisation and Management of Marathi MSS.

Marathi MSS are preserved all over India but specially in Maharashtra. In order to study their present status and with the following objectivies in mind the present topic is chosen for study.

2. THE OBJECTIVES

a) To conduct a survey of the Marathi MSS available in various parts of India and specially in Maharashtra.

b) To identify institutions and individuals preserving Marathi MSS collection.

c) To study the physical condition of the MSS available with various institutes and individuals.

d) To study cataloguing system and classification schemes adopted.

e) To study measures taken for preservation and conservation of MSS.

f) To study the ways and means adopted for the bibliographic control of the manuscripts collections.

g) To study the physical facilities provided to scholars, i.e. photocopying, copying, microfilming etc. by the institutions.

h) To study the salient features of the Marathi MSS and to note down notable manuscripts.

(i)
3. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Library surveys are one of the most frequently used investigation methods for such studies. This method helps to obtain and analyze information that might allow more intelligent decisions about the development of library systems, collections, services, and other aspects.

Questionnaires are often used as the primary data collection instrument. In the present study, this instrument or tool has been used for collection of data. The questions are generally classified into two major categories—structured and unstructured.

In this study, unstructured questions have been designed. As per Busha and Harter, unstructured questions allow respondents to reply freely without having to select one of the several provided responses. Thus these questions could be described as "open ended".

The questions, which are designed for the present study, reveal the state of the art situation of MSS collections from responding institutions.

The first three questions from this questionnaire reveal the location/address, year of establishment, and the brief history of the institution. Questions four and five help in giving information about the total collection of MSS with languagewise breakup, coupled with budgetary provisions for purchase and maintenance. Questions six and seven help to reveal acquisition procedure in detail. Question eight deals with cataloguing and classification. Preservation and conservation status have been identified by asking ninth question. Question ten deals with bibliographic control activity i.e. published manuscripts, catalogues, published MSS and special collections, if any. Questions eleven, twelve, and thirteen are designed to acquire information on salient features, use, extent of use, and additional information respectively.

All these questions are open ended, which in consequence, helped in acquiring detailed profiles of the institutions under the study. These profiles form major portion of chapter two of the present study.

4. THE ORGANISATION OF THE STUDY

The study is organised in six chapters. Chapter one covers purpose of selecting the topic followed by introduction. Introduction covers means of communication, early learning process, early writing materials, early Marathi language and
literature. Definitions of particular terms like Manuscripts, Archives, Organisation and Management etc., are given after the introduction. Fifteen studies have been reviewed in order to support the present study. Aims and objectives of the study, outline of the study, research methodology and Data Collection Schedule, are given in detail.

Chapter two is the nucleus of the study, giving profiles of the forty institutions responded to the survey. They have been categorised as:

A) Academic institutes - Eleven
b) Archives / Govt Institutes - Seven
c) Museum - One
d) Private collections - Four
e) Public libraries (institutes) - One
f) Religious institutea - Five
g) Research institutes - Eleven

Second part of this Chapter covers interviews and discussions with the scholars. Chapter three gives graphic presentation of locations of the institutes, their number and proportion to the total number. Thereafter, with the help of description and tables, data has been analysed.

Chapter four provides policies of the government for collection, organisation and preservation of manuscripts. The three tier hierarchy has been presented i.e. State, National and International level efforts have been described here. At state level, activities of two institutes - a) State Archives and b) Directorate of Libraries, Maharashtra State, have been considered.

Activities of five institutes at national level have been taken into account -

a) National Archives of India, New Delhi
b) INTACH - Indian Conservation Institute, Lucknow
c) National Research Laboratory for Conservation of Cultural Property, Lucknow.
d) Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, New Delhi.
e) Indian Historical Records Commission, New Delhi.

At International level, activities of two institutes are described.

a) UNESCO - Memory of the world programme, Paris.
b) Ford Foundation, U.S.A.
Chapter five gives information on preservation and conservation. Names and addresses of institutes, providing training in preservation and conservation have been given. This Chapter also discusses the place of preservation and conservation in Library and Information science education.

The study is concluded with findings and suggestions. Glossary and appendices are given at the end.

5. FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

a) Seventy institutes possessing MSS are identified for the survey. Out of these, forty institutes responded. Response percentage is 57%.

b) Responses received -

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Number of Questioned</th>
<th>Number of Responded</th>
<th>Overall Percentage</th>
<th>Areawise Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Within Maharashtra</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>56%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outside Maharashtra</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>57%</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

c) Responding institutes with year of establishment:

Oldest - Khanak-E-Naqshbandia, Balapur, 1649 A.D. (Maharashtra)


d) Number of MSS identified

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Sanskrit</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>Marathi</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6,93,792</td>
<td>2,97,654</td>
<td>42.90</td>
<td>56,152</td>
<td>8.09</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

e) Government and Archives institutes are the major repositories of MSS, followed by Research and Academic institutions.

f) Religious institutes possess maximum number of Marathi MSS (38.16%) compared to other categories of institutions.
g) Institutes in Maharashtra lack modern preservation/conservation equipment and facilities.

h) Bibliographic control activities are maximum in institutes outside Maharashtra, whereas institutes in Maharashtra are lagging behind.

i) Private and public institutions lack adequate physical facilities.

6. SUGGESTIONS

a) Present survey is a representative one. Rigorous efforts on the Government level are needed to be taken, in order to identify the enormous collection with institutes and individuals.

b) Government of Rajasthan has a centralised system for manuscripts acquisition and preservation. Centralised places like Jodhpur, Jaipur, Bikaner, helps in regional acquisitions. On these lines, Government of Maharashtra also may take steps and have acquisition programmes for manuscripts.

c) The present study reveal holdings of manuscripts in institutes and individuals, in representative manner. It is necessary to compile a catalogus catalogorum of Marathi MSS. This activity may be carried out by Rajya Marathi Vikas Sanstha.

d) Modern technologies such as Microfilming, digitalized texts be used for the preservation and conservation of MSS as is carried out by the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, New Delhi.

e) Marathi manuscripts are available in some foreign countries. Union catalogue of Marathi manuscripts available abroad may be compiled on computer.

f) Recommendations made by Curriculum Development Committee of UGC may be implemented immediately.