CHAPTER- 4

SCOPE OF UTILIZATION OF MANUSCRIPTS IN UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

4.1 INTRODUCTION

Manuscripts are the richest collection of written documents, texts and scripts. These written documents provide information on the existence of different civilizations and emphasize the importance of their survival. Manuscripts are the knowledge bank that contains the original concept behind the progress. These are the vital sources of history. The manuscripts are of different types depending upon the material on which they are written and the subject matter covered. They comprise various themes, scripts, languages, calligraphies, illuminations and illustrations. The manuscripts are the mode of transferring knowledge from one generation to the other. They are preserved because of their value as fixed and unchanging sources for corroborating or challenging personal memory. Such artifacts and documents are merely surrogates for memory, but they provide the most reliable evidence available for understanding the past. The heritage, history and culture of the country are aptly depicted in the manuscripts. Manuscripts try to connect past with the present.

In constructing historical memory, historians rely mainly on primary sources created at the time when the events, they describe took place or soon thereafter. Rules of evidence and authenticity require the historian to use only sources that can be trusted. Manuscripts stand as surrogates of memory and as sources for historical inquiry. A generation ago it was assumed that the principal clientele for manuscripts were scholars, particularly historians.¹ With growing interest in genealogy and local history, and greater recognition of the possible uses of manuscripts for legal, investigation, administrative, and other type of research added to the clientele and increased the scope of utilization of manuscripts.

The subject matter of manuscripts covers almost all the fields of human concern. The range of the subject is very wide and includes medicine, science and technology, veterinary science, logic, agriculture, calligraphy, music, history, poetry, biography, philosophy, geography, law, economics, magic, mathematics, geometry, etc. Every aspect of life is covered in one or the other manuscripts written by our ancestors. Therefore, manuscripts are related not only to historians but are also related to doctors, engineers, mathematicians, economists, magician, musician, agriculture scientists, poets, philosophers, artists, etc.

Manuscript treasures of India include the manuscripts which are considered as an outstanding resources on the basis of their antiquity, content, insights and discoveries, records of attainments in disciplines such as the science, philosophy, scripture, history and the arts, ornamental features such as calligraphy, paintings, decorations and their unique contributions to India's life and history. These pioneering manuscripts that contain insights and discoveries and that have, at different points of time, broken new grounds in India's knowledge systems are recognized and highlighted for their value and unique contribution. One scarcely believes such things could have been available, especially in the market of quite recent years. Libraries having very rich collection of printed books are having very few manuscripts. Their curators often think of illuminated manuscripts as "art object".

It is a matter of regret that the importance of manuscripts is being over shadowed by the spread of a lifestyle dominated by modern science and technology. Knowledge in manuscripts is not seen as relevant to our time but manuscripts are fascinating and rewarding means of uncovering a hidden past. The gradual disappearance of traditional knowledge is caused mainly due to the misconception that the traditional knowledge recorded in manuscripts is not relevant to modern style of living.

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Currently, there is world wide interest in traditional systems of medicine such as Ayurveda and Unani, building science such as Vaastu Shastra and in older canons of literature and philosophy, there is revival of the search for manuscripts. The fun in the usage of manuscript lies in the uniqueness of manuscripts, in contrast to the "sameness" of the printed books.\(^5\) Manuscripts preserve texts which we may not find in printed form. These qualities of uniqueness and of original value in manuscripts have always been prized to some extend, but they are rather definitely more highly valued today than they were a few decades ago. Richly prepared and richly decorated manuscripts have always had a special appeal.

The scope of manuscripts utilization lies in the fact that these written forms of documents open a new vista in the existing knowledge. It is high time to know and recognize the knowledge imparted in manuscript heritage and also to utilize it. The manuscripts also speak about their era and presence of different arts and science of that era.

Hence, the scope of utilization of manuscripts is as vast as the imagination of the human beings. Archives have traditionally been regarded as neutral and objective repositories for authentic records of human activity against which the researcher can evaluate other more subjective sources of information.\(^6\) Archivists and librarians now recognize that they serve a broad array of clientele.

The manuscripts need to be approached and used cautiously. The user-scholar busy in publishing manuscripts either in original form or comparative edition; or their transliteration and translation into favoured languages, or critical study of the manuscripts should not regard manuscript collection as a mine of unpublished material designed to produce easy publication.


4.2 VALUE AND IMPORTANCE OF MANUSCRIPTS

Manuscripts enjoyed a highly privileged position in man’s religious and cultural life. A sense of religious sanctity was associated with manuscripts. They were worshipped like holy relics on occasions like Saraswati Puja and Vasant Panchami day. Making gifts of manuscripts was regarded as highly meritorious.

Prof. Chintaharan Chakravarti7 (1950) has made an interesting thematic study on the value and importance of manuscripts in olden days from the evidences of verses and imprecations found in colophons of manuscripts. They, unequivocally, have any of four themes at their end. The first theme relates to vulgar insulations and abuses for all those who commit theft of manuscripts and infringe upon their piety. All sorts of curses are heaped on them. The second theme makes a frequent appeal for proper preservation of these fragile objects. The third theme relates to apology seeking by transcribers for the inadvertent errors that may have crept in the process of transcription. The forth theme solicits prosperity, happiness and welfare of all whose labors have gone to the making and preservation of manuscripts.

The manuscripts were not only important in the olden days but are of equal importance in the present days as these manuscripts contain references of events of the past. At the same time, those manuscripts that have survived for centuries, themselves have significance of antiquity. Manuscripts have been written by eminent personalities of their times, they contain knowledge and wisdom that have developed over millennia through the efforts and experience of generations of families. The manuscripts are links in the progress of people of a region and of humanity. Much of this knowledge may not have been recorded or known and if such knowledge disappears through the loss of manuscripts, then it will be very unfortunate to have lost this memory of human progress.

The material of the manuscripts, the methods and techniques with which the leaf, the bark or the paper was processed and the manner in which

the inks were prepared also have great historical importance as most of these practices have fallen to disuse and the manuscripts are the only unique surviving examples of these practices. Many of the manuscripts have beautiful illustrations, exquisitely formed letter, and show a fine sense of composition in the layout of the text. The leaf, the paper or the barks itself that has been produced by master craftsmen have artistic value.8

4.3 ROLE OF MANUSCRIPT REPOSITORIES

The manuscripts are selected, acquired, and preserved to make them accessible for use. Intellectual and physical accessibility are vital components of managing these important information resources. Different repositories having different type of manuscript collection attract scholars and are useful to different users.

Repository that manages manuscripts need to identify its user clientele, develop outreach methods for informing potential users, provide intellectual and physical access, establish and administer access policies. It is essential to identify and understand user clientele in order to provide effective service. Some records contain sensitive or classified information which can be accessed only by qualified users. Since manuscripts are not self-indexed or arranged by subjects, intellectual access also requires interaction between patrons and staff. Reference use of manuscripts always requires mediation by the reference staff.9

Manuscripts are collected, preserved and catalogued for readers who are usually more specialized in their interests and more advanced in scholarly technique than the general run of readers of printed books. It is assumed that a scholar turning to manuscripts has thoroughly explored the printed sources available to him, and has command of the basic facts involved. Not only the user has a special point of view, but he is also having a good idea of what he is looking for, and he will be able to defend himself to a greater degree than


the average library user. If a reader approaches manuscripts material without a proper background in his subject, he is in no position to make the best use of the manuscript.10

Users of archives and manuscripts seek solution to their information needs, not specific items. The users are willing to spend hours examining large quantities of records to find information they need. The librarian has a moral responsibility to see that the manuscripts in his care receive the best scholarly treatment possible, in so far as his control extends. Apart from providing the physical access to the user the responsibility to preserve the original for future use also lies on the shoulder of the repositories.

4.4 IMPEDIMENTS IN THE USE OF MANUSCRIPT COLLECTION

The study of manuscripts opens new vistas in the existing knowledge. Manuscripts are written on different subjects in different languages spoken and used at that particular time. There are some languages that are on the verge of extinction but are in use by few just because certain manuscripts are written in that particular language. There is dearth of scholars who have adequate knowledge of the old and obsolete languages and scripts. The number of scholars who can read decipher, translate, take up research and use manuscripts are dwindling day by day. It is regrettable fact that some of the scripts are now practically extinct as the scholars and researcher are unable to decipher them. Since scholars are unable to read or write these scripts, they are unable to get an insight into some of the wisdom of the past generation.11

Secondly, manuscripts are found in different repositories ranging from museums, institutions of learning to private homes and temples. It becomes difficult to trace out the manuscripts. One of the frustrations and challenges for manuscript repositories is that many people who could benefit from using such collections do not even know that these repositories have the type of

information they seek. Other potential users think that manuscripts research will be too time-consuming as manuscripts are not open to them. It is essential to create an active outreach programme to overcome such misunderstandings and to inform the potential users about the potential benefits of using the manuscripts.¹²

A translation facility is one of the pre-requisite for the proper utilization of manuscripts by desirous scholars. Even the transcription of manuscripts on demand in a current or a favoured script can open the horizon of research activities. The acquisition and utilization of manuscripts is a literary detective work, which requires special acumen.

4.5 INITIATIVES UNDERTAKEN TO IMPROVE UPON THE UTILIZATION OF THE MANUSCRIPTS

Lack of information regarding the availability of the manuscripts and lack of knowledge of the languages and the scripts of the manuscripts are the biggest hindrances in the utilization of the manuscripts. For the manuscripts to be documented, conserved and for the knowledge contained in them to be disseminated, it is crucial that they first be located. In order to overcome these hindrances the efforts are being made to trace the manuscripts placed in different repositories and document them for their preservation and proper utilization. The individuals, institutions and organization who have been working in the field of documentation, preservation, conservation have contributed a lot in safeguarding the collection. Some of National organizations that have done commendable work in the field are mentioned below:

4.5.1 Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH)

The Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH) was founded on 27th January 1984 with a view to create general awareness about the rich cultural and natural heritage of India. It was hoped that the trust, once formed, would help a revival of interest amongst the people, to look at their

culture with the respect and dignity it rightly deserves.\textsuperscript{13} The initiatives and achievements of INTACH in field of preservation, documentation of manuscripts are as follows:

- INTACH sponsored a survey to study the number of manuscripts in the country in 1989-90. The survey shows total number of manuscripts in India is 5 million. 60,000 Indian manuscripts are available in European countries and 1,50,000 are in South Asian and Asian countries (Table 4.1). Out of the total manuscript wealth of India only 1 million (approx.) manuscripts has so far been recorded in catalogues, which shows only 16\% are recorded where as 84\% are yet to be recorded in catalogues\textsuperscript{14}(Figure 4.1).Language wise division shows 67\% of the total Indian manuscripts are of Sanskrit language ,25\%are of other Indian languages and only 8\% are of Arabic, Persian and Tibetan languages\textsuperscript{15}(Figure 4.2).

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<th>S. No</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Total number of manuscripts in India</td>
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<td>Indian manuscripts in European Countries</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Indian manuscripts in South Asian and Asian Countries</td>
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Table 4.1

Total Number and Location of Availability of Indian Manuscripts


\textsuperscript{15} Ibid.

\textsuperscript{16} Ibid.
INTACH launched a project for the conservation of manuscripts. Under this project a survey of temples and *granthagars* is being undertaken.
along with the preparation of conservation status report of each manuscript.

- INTACH has surveyed 300 sites in three districts of Orissa and prepared an inventory of 47,000 palm leaf and paper manuscripts.  

4.5.2 National Research Laboratory for Conservation of Cultural Property (NRLC)\(^\text{18}\)

The National Research Laboratory for Conservation of Cultural Property (NRLC) was established by the Department of Culture of the Government of India in 1976. The main activity of the Institute is to carry out research in the methods and technologies of conservation of cultural property. NRLC is registered as an associate member of the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM), based in Rome. NRLC, has a regional center by the name of Regional Conservation Laboratory, in Mysore. This regional centre was set up in 1986. The main objectives of the NRLC are as follows:

- To conduct research for the development of better methods of conservation.
- To provide technical assistance to museums, archeological departments and other institutions
- To study the technical aspects of art and archeological materials

National Mission for Manuscripts in collaboration with NRLC, Lucknow has undertaken four research projects\(^\text{19}\) for:

- Evaluating indigenous method of laminating paper manuscript.

\(^{17}\)Ibid., p.10.


- Evolving the most suitable adhesive for the repair of palm leaf manuscript.
- Developing simpler method of mass de-acidification of manuscript.
- Evaluation of indigenous repellants and fungicides and finding ways to increase their efficiency.

4.5.3 National Archives of India (NAI)\textsuperscript{20}

The National Archives was established in March 1891 in Calcutta as an Imperial Record Department. It was shifted to Delhi in 1911 and was shifted to its present building in 1926. The core mandate of NAI is to function as a central repository of public records. The National Archive has taken few initiatives in the field of preservation and cataloguing of the manuscripts.

• **National Register of Private Records**

The National Archives has been implementing this project National Register of Private Records since 1957. This is an all India inventory of the archival wealth in private possession in the country. The information compiled is based on information relating to valuable documents, manuscripts etc. furnished by different states from year to year. The National Archives has published 23 volumes of the National Register of Private Records. The volumes contain list of documents from Rajasthan, Karnataka, Orissa, Punjab, Tamilnadu, Bihar, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Assam, Maharashtra, Jammu and Kashmir, Delhi, Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, Arunachal Pradesh and West Bengal. The database is not a comprehensive reference guide about manuscripts.

• **NAI Implements Two Schemes of Financial Assistance:**

1. Scheme of financial assistance to state/ union territories archival repositories, government libraries and museums.
2. Scheme of financial assistance for preservation of manuscripts/rare books.

The financial assistance under these schemes is given for preservation, conservation, repair of manuscripts, rare books, microfilming of manuscripts, cataloguing manuscripts, air-conditioning of the room where records, manuscripts, rare books are kept, purchase of preservative and reprographic material and equipment. These schemes were started in 1980-81. Since 1980-81 NAI has disbursed grant of Rs 50.6 million to 800 voluntary organizations, educational institutes and universities and Rs 38 million to the state archives since 1986-87 for cataloguing, preserving and upkeep of manuscripts and rare books.21

4.5.4 National Mission for Manuscripts

The National Mission for Manuscripts was established in February 2003, by the Ministry of Tourism and Culture, Government of India. IGNCA acts as a nodal agency. The mission seeks to unearth and preserve the vast manuscript wealth of India.

India possesses an estimate of five million manuscripts, probably the largest collection in the world. These manuscripts lie scattered across the country and beyond, in numerous institutions as well as private collections, often unattended and undocumented. To connect India's past with its future, its memory with its aspirations Mission aims to locate, document, preserve

http://www.namami.org/index.htm

Fig. 4.4 National Mission for Manuscripts

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and make them accessible for use to scholars. The main objectives\(^\text{23}\) of Mission are:

- Locate manuscripts through national level survey and post-survey.
- Document each and every manuscript and manuscript repository, for a National Electronic Database that currently contains information on one million manuscripts making this the largest database on Indian manuscripts in the world (Fig. 4.5).


![Fig. 4.5 Kritisampada: The National Database of Manuscripts.](http://www.namami.org/pdatabase.aspx)
• Conserve manuscripts incorporating both modern and indigenous methods of conservation and training a new generation of manuscript conservators.

• To train the next generation of scholars in various aspects of manuscript studies like languages, scripts and critical editing and cataloguing of texts and conservation of manuscripts.

• To promote access to manuscripts by digitizing the rarest and most endangered manuscripts.

• To promote access to manuscripts through publication of critical editions of unpublished manuscripts and catalogues.

• To facilitate public engagement with manuscripts through lectures, seminars, publications and other outreach programmes.

The achievements and activities of National Mission for Manuscripts24 are mentioned below:

• Identified and created a network of partner institutions at various levels involved in manuscript documentation and preservation.

• Set up web based national database of manuscripts with information on one million manuscripts.

• Set up 46 Manuscripts Resource Centres (MRC)

• Set up 33 Manuscripts Conservation Centres (MCC)

• Conducted survey in 16 states of India.

• Set up 42 Manuscripts Partner Centres (MPC)

• Set up 300 Manuscripts Conservation Partner Centres (MCPC)

• Evolved standards on storage and preventive conservation of manuscripts.

• Evolved standards on digitization of manuscripts.

• Initiated trainings, lectures, outreach programmes.

4.5.5 Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA)

The Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) was launched on 19th November, 1985 by the late Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi. The Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts Trust was constituted and registered at New Delhi on 24th March 1987. IGNCA was established in 1987 as an autonomous institution under the Department of Culture, and envisioned as a centre for research, academic pursuit and dissemination in the field of the arts. The regional centres of IGNCA are located at Bangalore, Guwahati and Varanasi.

The IGNCA established Cultural Informatics Lab in 1994 with UNDP assisted multimedia documentation project titled “Strengthening National Facility for Interactive Multimedia Documentation of Cultural Resources”. It acts as a focal point for the digitization of the manuscripts, slides, books, audio and video to preserve the holdings in digital mode and to disseminate the contents in various digital format to scholars, researchers and the people in general.

Kalasampada is a digital repository of content and information related to Indian Cultural Heritage has been developed to encompass and preserve the rare archival collections of the IGNCA. The project was initiated in collaboration with Ministry of Communication and Information Technology for the development of databank of cultural heritage. The Kalasampada facilitates the scholars to access and view lakh of manuscripts, over one lakh slide, rare books, thousands of rare photographs, audio and video along with highly researched publications of the IGNCA. These materials are available for online access on IGNCA Intranet.

IGNCA has undertaken microfilming of manuscripts since 1989. Under this project it has done microfilming of 66 libraries in India covering around 2,50,000 manuscripts running into 11 million folios. IGNCA has acquired microfilms from foreign libraries also.

The survey was conducted by IGNCA in 1999 to collect the information of the libraries having manuscripts in their collection.

Though the efforts are being made to trace the manuscripts and to conserve and preserve them and document them, still it is not sufficient to improve their utility. Inability to read the languages and scripts of manuscripts is a serious problem in proper utilization of manuscripts. In order to overcome the problem twenty four universities and institutes have introduced the course on manuscriptology and paleography. As a result of the efforts of teaching manuscriptology, new generation will witness the emergence of a cluster of accomplished specialists with the skills that are necessary for independent archival research with original historical documents. A perceptible knowledge in manuscriptology will equip the students with necessary skills to proceed with the study of manuscripts on different subject groups and different branches of knowledge system in Indian tradition.

The universities undoubtedly are playing their role in imparting knowledge and helping in improving the use of manuscripts. The universities play significant role in the preservation and conservation of the manuscripts also. In order to study the preservation and conservation of the manuscript collection in the university libraries, the university libraries of Punjab, Haryana and Chandigarh were selected and studied.

4.6 PROFILE OF THE UNIVERSITIES UNDER STUDY

The universities of Punjab, Haryana and Chandigarh under study include Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar (GNDU), Punjabi University, Patiala (PUP), Kurukshetra University Kurukshetra(KUK), and Panjab University, Chandigarh(PUC).

4.6.1 PANJAB UNIVERSITY, CHANDIGARH

The Panjab University, Chandigarh is one of the premier centers of higher education and research in major discipline of pure and applied sciences, social sciences, languages and humanities in India. It traces its
ancestry to the University of Panjab, Lahore (Pakistan) which was established in 1882, and has a maternal relationship with its offshoot universities situated at Amritsar, Hisar, Jammu, Kurukshetra, Ludhiana, Palampur, Patiala, Rothak, Shimla, Solan, and Srinagar. The East Panjab University now called the Panjab University, Chandigarh was established in 1947 by an ordinance of the State Government, consequent upon the partition to the country. Its campus office was located at Shimla and thereafter administrative office functioned at Solan. The various teaching departments were located in different cities within and outside Punjab. In 1957 the University shifted to its new home in Chandigarh. The library and various other departments are located on 550 acres campus. It has 75 teaching departments, 15 centres/chairs for teaching and research, one Business School, two institutes University Institute of Engineering and Technology (UIET) and Dr. H S Judge Institute of Dental Sciences and more than 188 affiliated colleges.

4.6.1.1 A.C. JOSHI LIBRARY

The central library of the Panjab University, named officially as A.C. Joshi Library, after the name of an illustrious Vice-Chancellor of this University, was established in the U.S. Club, Shimla in the year 1947 after the partition of the country. When the Panjab University started shifting its office to Chandigarh, the new capital of Panjab, then the foundation stone of the new library building was laid by Dr. S. Radhakrishnan, the then Vice-President of India in 1958. The library in its new premises was formally inaugurated in 1963 by Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru, the then Prime Minister of India. The Panjab University library system consists of main library along with 55 small departmental libraries including two major institutes; University Institute of Engineering and Technology (UIET) and Dr. H S Judge Institute of Dental Sciences.

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27 Panjab University. Retrieved March 15, 2010 from [http://www.puchd.ac.in/](http://www.puchd.ac.in/)
Sciences. The library system has approximately 7,15,483 collection. The library has latest reference tools along with CD-ROM and online databases. Online Public Access Catalogue can be accessed through any terminal on the campus network. The library has its Web-OPAC on university website, www.webopac.puchd.ac.in. The library subscribe to nearly 660 current periodicals in print form. Its holding of back volumes of periodicals goes back to 19th century. The library subscribes to MathsciNet online comprising current Mathematical publication and Mathematical reviews, and has an access to 225 online fulltext journals. Approximately 5000 online fulltext journals are available through INDEST- Consortium and UGC-INFONET since 2003. Library has a separate section called digital library to facilitate users to access online journals.

4.6.1.2 MANUSCRIPT SECTION

Panjab University has the rare distinction of representing a plural culture of different nationalities existing in the region. Looking back into the history, the university originally had been established in Lahore (present Pakistan) was the 4th university of India and was the hub of education in the entire northern territory of the colonial India. With the partition of colonial India into two independent nations that of India and Pakistan, the university in India got its own campus in 1963 as Panjab University, Chandigarh. Panjab University, owing to its unique history, development, a sizeable collection of literature (manuscripts/rare collection), represents the aspect of changes and continuity of that period.29


The manuscripts collection is the most invaluable collection of the library. Manuscripts are preserved in the Special Collection Section. There is a collection of 1493 rare manuscripts. The collection is well maintained and organized and stored systematically in 15 godrej almirahs. The manuscripts are stacked in shelves and arranged on the basis of accession number assigned to each manuscript in the manuscript register.

The traditional catalogue of the manuscripts is also maintained in the library. The catalogue gives brief description of each manuscript in order to reveal the author, title, external features, and bibliographic information at a glance for the researchers. The bibliographic details of the manuscripts of A.C.Joshi library are also available in national database of manuscripts Kritisampada, compiled by National Mission for Manuscripts (Fig 4.6 and Fig 4.7).

http://www.namami.org/pkstate.aspx

Fig. 4.6 Panjab University Manuscripts Part of National Database
The manuscript collection comprises mainly in Punjabi, Persian, Sanskrit, Hindi and Urdu. It covers range of subjects like Hindu religious texts, poetry, writings of the Sikh Gurus and various translations and documents of Maharaja Ranjit Singh’s court. The library has procured through gift and purchased manuscripts bringing the number total to 1,493. Scholars can consult these manuscripts in the section in presence of the in-charge of the section.

4.6.1.3 DIGITIZATION OF MANUSCRIPTS

The manuscripts are the priceless possession of the library. Despite of best efforts it is difficult to preserve manuscripts in physical form beyond certain time limit. Digitization is essential because these holdings are having both cultural and historical significance. A. C. Joshi Library, Chandigarh
started the digitization process in the year 2004. The necessity of such an approach became true because of few important factors. First and foremost was the importance of the collection. The second was the process of physical preservation. Third and the most important factor are guidelines from the National Mission for Manuscript (NMM) for digitization and digital preservation.

The Panjab University library is riding digital wave to preserve its rare manuscripts. Once converted into digital format, the manuscripts would be available online, making them accessible at the click of a mouse. The library at present has 1,493 manuscripts, of which 537 manuscripts have been digitalized as part of the National Mission for Manuscript.

In order to convert texts into a digital format, experts with extensive knowledge of various scripts first sort out the manuscripts. Afterwards every page of a manuscript has been checked to ascertain whether the text matches with the content, they are photographed with a digital camera. The images are then transferred to computers. One acute problem the library faced in the project was to find the right experts. It’s difficult to find experts because the scripts are very old. But, once the process of digitization is complete library would select the software to archive them. The project intends to make the manuscripts widely available. It is not possible for everyone to use them at present but users will be able to access them easily once the material is available online. Presently, the library is in the process of preparing metadata of the manuscripts and the same will be accessible through the website of the university.

4.6.2 PUNJABI UNIVERSITY, PATIALA (PUP)

Punjabi University Patiala, one of the premier institutions of higher education in the North India, was established on the 30th April, 1962 under the Punjabi University Act, 1961. This is the second university in the world to be named after a language, the first being Hebrew University of Israel. The main objective is to establish and incorporate a university for the advancement of
Punjabi Studies and development of Punjabi language as a medium of instruction or otherwise for providing instruction in humanistic and scientific subjects and generally for the promotion of higher education and research.  

The Punjab Government appointed a commission in 1960 to make recommendations for the establishment of Punjabi University. The commission recommended for establishment of a unitary, multi-faculty university distinguished from affiliating ones for the advancement of Punjabi Studies and development of Punjabi language as a medium of instruction or otherwise for providing instruction in humanistic and scientific disciplines. Consequently, the university was founded on 30th April, 1962 and was formally inaugurated on 25th June, 1962 by Dr. S. Radhakrishnan, the then President of India. The university has a modern well planed campus located about seven kilometers from the Patiala city, called the city of gardens. The campus is spread over about 316 acres with imposing buildings in lush green, pollution free environment away from the hustle and bustle of city life. The character of the university changed to an affiliating one in 1969 and at present it has 65 teaching and research departments, five regional centre and 208 affiliated colleges.

Jurisdiction of Punjabi University extends to the districts of Bhatinda, Faridkot, Patiala, Ropar, Sangrur, Mansa and Fatehgarh Sahib of Punjab state. The university has three regional centers namely the Guru Kashi Regional Centre at Bathinda, the Guru Kashi Campus at Talwandi Sabo and the Nawab Sher Mohammad Khan Institute of Advanced Studies in Urdu, Persian and Arabic at Malerkotla. Recently, Punjabi University, Patiala has


setup an extension centre for computer education at Jaito. The university has established a well stocked extension library at Mohali.  

4.6.2.1 PUNJABI UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

Punjabi University Library started functioning in 1963 and a plan for the development of the library building was prepared and submitted to University Grants Commission in February, 1963. It was initially housed in Punjab State Archives building located in Baradari Gardens. The hall was small and away from the teaching departments. In August, 1963, Shri M.L. Khosla, Principal, Mohindra College, very kindly placed the gymnasium hall of the college at the disposal of the university for housing the library. Later on it was moved to the campus in June, 1965 and was temporarily housed in Homi Bhaba Boys Hostel. Its offices were located in twenty rooms of boys’ hostel. The science section of library continued to function in a room at the local Thapar Institute of Engineering and Technology. The construction work of the present building started in 1964 and it was completed in 1966. The library did not have its own building till 1966. The building was formally inaugurated on 28th August, 1966 by the Education Minister in the Union Cabinet, Sh. M.C. Chagla. The library building is in a five storied modular structure with a total floor area of 56,000 square feet. The building is in harmony with the campus architecture and is centrally located. The library was named as Kahn Singh Nabha Library on 29th September, 2004. Periodical section and newspaper reading facilities have also been provided on the ground floor for the convenience of the users. A magnificent reading hall with a seating capacity for 400 readers is located on the first floor.


4.6.2.2 PUNJABI REFERENCE LIBRARY

Punjabi reference library functioning as an independent wing of the university library was established in 1981 to build up a strong collection on Punjab history, culture, Sikhism, Punjabi language and literature. The collection of this library has been housed in a separate new building inaugurated in 1996. This building has been inter-connected with the university library building. This library has got nearly 99,267 documents out of which 57,719 documents have been received as donations from persons of eminence. Under the Microfilming of Indian Publication Project (MIPP), jointly sponsored by the US Library of Congress and Govt of India. This library was identified as the nodal centre for microfilming of Punjabi publications published before 1950 and 1500 Punjabi titles published during 1901-1950 were microfilmed under this project. Punjabi Reference Library was also chosen as the nodal center in North India by Developing Library Network (Delnet). The library was named as Dr.Ganda Singh Punjabi Reference Library on 29th September, 2004.

4.6.2.3 MANUSCRIPT SECTION

Manuscript section of the library has rare and priceless manuscripts. Manuscripts are preserved in the Special Collection Section. There are 1145 rare manuscripts in the collection. The collection is well maintained and organized and stored systematically in 15 godrej almirahs. The manuscripts are stacked in shelves and arranged on the basis of accession number assigned to each manuscript in the manuscript register. Scholars can consult these manuscripts in the section in presence of the in-charge of the section. This section also provides the reading room facility to the researches as the use of rare and valuable manuscripts is restricted to the reading room only. The manuscript collection comprises mainly in Punjabi, Persian, Sanskrit, Hindi and Urdu. It covers range of subjects like Persian court etiquette, poetry, and writings of the Sikh Gurus. Manuscripts in the personal libraries of men of eminence, gifted to the university have enriched its collection. The library has
procured 1134 manuscripts through gifts and purchased only 11 manuscripts bringing the number total to 1145.

Library has prepared the catalogue of bibliographic description of the manuscripts relating to Punjabi, Urdu and Persian. The catalogue is available in print format. The online catalogue of the manuscripts is also available and can be accessed through website of university (Fig 4.8).

http://punciabiuniversity.ac.in/pages/new_library.htm

Fig. 4.8 Manuscripts Catalogue of Punjabi University

The bibliographic details of manuscripts of Punjabi University are also accessible through Kritisampada, compiled by National Mission for Manuscripts.
4.6.2.4 DIGITIZATION OF MANUSCRIPTS

The library at present has 1145 manuscripts, of which 780 have been digitized. The digitization of manuscripts started in Feb.2008, when university library got digital camera as a gift.

4.6.3 GURU NANAK DEV UNIVERSITY, AMRITSAR (GNDU)

As part of the quincentenary celebration of Guru Nanak Dev in 1969, it was decided to setup a university after his name. The Punjab Government went further ahead by establishing Guru Nanak Dev University at Amritsar vide Act No. 21of 1969. According to this act the new university was established to make provision for imparting education and for promoting research in the humanities, learned professions, sciences, especially of applied nature, technology and such other broachers of learning and course of study as it may deem fit. The Guru Nanak University came into being on 24th November, 1969 under the Act 21 of the Punjab Government. The nomenclature of the university was changed to Guru Nanak Dev University vide Punjab Government gazette (extra) dated August 21, 1975.36 It was also stipulated that the university would promote Punjabi studies, provide for research in Punjabi language and literature and undertake measures for the development of Punjabi language, literature and culture. Jurisdiction of the university comprises the districts of Amritsar, Gurdaspur, Jalandhar, Nawanshehr and Kapurthala. The university has 37 academic departments, two regional centers, two university colleges and more than 100 colleges located in five districts of Amritsar, Jalandhar, Kapurthala, Nawanshehar and Gurdaspur.37

4.6.3.1 Bhai Gurdas Library

Guru Nanak Dev University library was set up in 1970 on Khalsa College Campus with very small collection of 12,000 books. In 1972, when the university developed its own campus, the library was shifted to the physics block.\(^{38}\) The foundation stone of the present library building was laid on Feb. 9\(^{th}\), 1975 by Giani Zail Singh, the then Chief Minister of Punjab. In November, 1979, the library was finally shifted to its newly constructed building and it was formally inaugurated on November 24\(^{th}\), 1979 by Sardar Parkash Singh Badal, the then Chief Minister of Punjab. The name of library was changed from “Guru Nanak Dev University Library” to “Bhai Gurdas Library”.\(^{39}\) University library has been named after the great sikh scholar Bhai Gurdas, who had the privilege of taking dictation from the reverend fifth Sikh Guru, Guru Arjan Dev ji for the compilation of holy scripture of the Sikhs, the Adi Granth.

The library building is a marvel and a masterpiece of architecture. This building is five storied, inverted pyramid shaped magnificent building covering an area of 97,400 sq.ft. The library has a rich collection of 4,46,000 documents. The library also subscribes to about 513 current periodicals. It has created special section for manuscripts, rare books, dissertations, textbooks and history and culture of Punjab. It has also allocated a separate floor for the display and reading of research journals. For the upkeep of old and damaged documents, it has an in-house book binding section. The library has its own computer center and all its operations relating to cataloguing of new books and existing books are carried out with computers. The GNDU Library system consists of a Bhai Gurdas Library and 22 departmental libraries which collectively support the teaching, research and extension programme of the university.\(^{40}\)


\(^{40}\) Guru Nanak Dev University. Retrieved June 15, 2010 from [http://www.library.gndu.ac.in](http://www.library.gndu.ac.in).
4.6.3.2 MANUSCRIPT SECTION

Guru Nanak Dev University has good depository of manuscripts. This section was started with the establishment of the library itself. With the passage of time library has collected 1516 manuscripts.

The manuscripts collection is the most invaluable collection of the library. Manuscripts are preserved in the Manuscripts and Rare Book Section of the university library. Bhai Gurdas Library has 1516 rare manuscripts out of which 1391 are purchased and 125 are procured through gifts. The collection is well maintained and organized and stored systematically in 18 godrej almirahs. The manuscripts are stacked in shelves and arranged on the basis of accession number assigned to each manuscript in the manuscript accession register. Naphthalene balls are used as preservative. Most of the ‘Pothis’ are wrapped in red cloth. The manuscript collection comprises mainly in Punjabi, Persian, Sanskrit, Hindi and Urdu. The manuscript collection relates to Punjab history, culture, Sikh religion and other faiths. Scholars can consult these manuscripts in the section in presence of the in-charge of the section. This section also provides the reading room facility to the researches as the use of rare and valuable manuscripts is restricted to the reading room only.

The bibliographic details of manuscripts of Guru Nanak Dev University are accessible through Kritisampada, compiled by National Mission for Manuscripts.

Bhai Gurdas Library has prepared the catalogues of bibliographic description of manuscripts. Catalogue of manuscripts is available in five volumes. These volumes are available in print as well as CD/DVD form. The catalogue of manuscripts can be accessed through the website of the university, www.gndu.ac.in. (Fig 4.9)
4.6.3.3 DIGITIZATION OF MANUSCRIPTS

Bhai Gurdas Library, Amritsar started the digitization process in the year January 2007 and digitized the manuscripts collection in March 2008. The library has separate microfilming unit. So far microfilming of 600 manuscripts have been completed.

4.6.4 KURUKSHETRA UNIVERSITY, KURUKSHETRA

Kurukshetra University is one of the premier universities of the nation. It was established by the State Legislature Act XII in the year 1956 "as a unitary, teaching and residential university for promotion of higher education and research, especially in Sanskrit, Pali and Prakrit, Indian Philosophy, Religion, Ancient Indian history, Culture and other aspects of Indology."
The foundation stone of the university was laid by Dr Rajendra Prasad, the first president of India on 11th January, 1956. It started only with the department of Sanskrit now it has grown into a multi-faculty university as one of the premier centers for advanced study and research in the region. By a notification of the government the character of the university was changed to a teaching and affiliating one from June 1974. The name of the university was ‘Birendra Narayan Chakravarty University’ from 2nd April 1976 to 6th April 1977. Original name of the Kurukshetra University was restored on 7th April 1977. The university has 44 postgraduate departments, 2 university colleges and 457 affiliated colleges and institutes. The jurisdiction of the university consist of the districts of Kurukshetra, Karnal, Jind, Ambala, Hisar, Kithal, Fatehbad, Panipat, Panchkula, Yamuna Nagar and Sirsa.\textsuperscript{41}

4.6.4.1 JAWAHARLAL NEHRU LIBRARY

The library was started in Kalsia House with sanskrit books and later on continue to be housed at two places, i.e. the main library in the college of education and Indic studies section in the top floor of administrative block.

The foundation stone of the present building was laid on 17th July, 1967. The library was shifted to new building on 18th July 1972. In 1984-85 the building was extended and presently has plinth area of 49,230 sq.ft. The extension of the present building as a Golden Jubilee reading hall is in progress. The foundation stone of Golden Jubilee reading hall was laid on 30th October, 2005 by Chief Minister Sh. Bupinder Singh Hooda. The library is three storied has a rich collection of 3,41,210 documents. The library subscribe to 430 current periodicals. The library acts as a central node for campus-wide networking.

\textsuperscript{41}Universities Hand Book.(2003). Kurukshetra University. New Delhi: Association of Indian Universities, p.611.
Kurukshetra University has a long history of collecting manuscripts and rare books for research and training. It has a collection of 14,500 manuscripts. The manuscript section was established by Pandit Sthanudatt Sharma in Jawaharlal Nehru Library in 1962. The library is the richest repository of manuscripts in Haryana. The MRC, at Kurukshetra University has also been functioning since October 2003 to locate and document the manuscripts in public and private repositories of Haryana.

The manuscript collection mainly comprises in Sanskrit, Hindi, Persian, Urdu and Punjabi. The current number of manuscripts are available on various subjects like history, alankar, upanishad, poetry, mathematics, astrology, logic, tourism, religion, law, geography, grammar, etc. The collection is well maintained and organized and stored systematically in 42 wooden stacks and 22 godrej almirah in manuscript section. The manuscripts are placed in shelves and are arranged on the basis of accession number assigned to each manuscript. All manuscripts are wrapped in red cloth and naphthalene balls are placed in the stacks.

The manuscript collection is open for access for the students and scholars from allover the world as well as members of general public. As manuscripts are old and fragile so it is always at a risk that they may get damaged while students and scholars use and mishandle the manuscript. To safeguard the collection use of manuscripts is restricted to the reading room of manuscript section. To facilitate the use of manuscripts by the users the manuscripts catalogue was compiled by Sthanudutt Sharma in 1966 and was published by Kurukshetra University Press. This catalogue contains information of about 1352 manuscripts on 42 different subjects which were collected during the period ranging from 1st July 1963 to 11th January 1965.

Another catalogue was compiled by Sthanudutt Sharma containing information of about 1444 manuscripts collected during 11th January 1965 to 12th June 1967. The same was published by Kurukshetra University Press in

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1967\textsuperscript{43}. In 1997 Dr Pinakpani Sharma compiled an accession wise list of 1500 manuscripts on thirteen subjects.

The bibliographic details of manuscripts of Kurukshetra University are also accessible through Kritisampada, compiled by National Mission for Manuscripts(Fig.4.10).

\textbf{Fig. 4.10} Details of Manuscripts of Jawaharlal Nehru Library in National Database.

\textbf{4.6.4.3 DIGITIZATION OF MANUSCRIPTS}

The library manuscripts collections is useful not only for the students and scholars of the university but are useful for scholars around the world. Collection includes manuscripts even five hundred year old. These are old and fragile so are always at a risk that they may get damaged. The efforts to digitize the collection are in progress. 421 manuscripts have been digitized

with the help of a Chandigarh based NGO "Nanak Shahi Trust". The trust using the latest technologies have provided this service to the university free of cost.

4.7 CONCLUSION

Manuscripts are important documents not only because of their contents but also because of their antiquity. They are preserved for the reason of their importance and nature. Realizing their importance and understanding the need to improve upon their utilization efforts are undertaken at national level to preserve, conserve, document and impart education to utilize the manuscripts. Number of institutes and universities has initiated teaching manuscriptology. Institutions like INTACH, NAI, IGNCA have contributed a lot in preserving documentary heritage. Though under the project, National Mission for Manuscripts, the efforts are being made at national level to achieve the target of tracing, documenting and preserving the manuscripts. A lot more is required to be done to improve the utilization of manuscripts. Universities can play significant role in safeguarding and efficient utilization of pride collection. A survey regarding manuscripts preservation, conservation, utilization in the universities of Haryana, Punjab and Chandigarh is made and presented in the chapter entitled "data analysis and interpretation". There is a dire need of the united effort of the Government of India, organizations and institutions having manuscripts collection, to come forward united and play their role efficiently contributing to the preservation, documentation, digitization as well as utilization of the invaluable resources.