6.1 Introduction
The present survey of oriental libraries having manuscripts throws light on overall functioning of oriental libraries in Deccan in the organization of manuscripts and various related aspects. The data collected from 75 oriental libraries was analyzed critically and reported in the form of observations in previous chapter. Analyzing the data gathered the present investigator draws the following findings and based on them some suggestions.

6.2 Findings
- A very rich religious and cultural heritage is reflected through the manuscripts treasure available in India. Simultaneously, a lot of ancient knowledge lies buried in the thousands of manuscripts which are in the custody of temples, masjids, mutts, private libraries, museums, archives, colleges, universities and various oriental research institutes in the Deccan in particular.

- Every religious sect in India has contributed immensely in collecting and preserving the manuscripts. The contribution of famous dynasties / kings including from Muslim kingdoms of Deccan history was enormous in this regard.

- The oriental library initiative took place in ancient India, which flourished in the medieval era of Mughals, who contributed to a great deal to the development of oriental libraries. Though the invaders destroyed the major portion of our knowledge heritage but inspired people to collect and learn the basics of knowledge in manuscripts and that reached to its peak in the period when the British and other Europeans came to India.

- Deccan region is divided into four zones Maharashtra, Karnataka, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh.
The present research identified 105 oriental libraries from different information sources and noticed that there are 44 oriental libraries in Maharashtra, 36 in Karnataka, 13 in Telangana and 12 in Andhra Pradesh. It is noticed that state of Maharashtra has the highest number of such libraries i.e. 44, whereas the state of Andhra Pradesh has the lowest with 12 libraries.

Out of 105, 75 oriental libraries in Deccan region have contributed their data on manuscripts collection for the present study. Out of these, 12 libraries are from Telangana, 7 are from Andhra Pradesh, 23 are from Karnataka, and 33 are from Maharashtra.

It is also found that the Sri Murugha Matha, Chitradurga, Karnataka is the oldest establishment from 17th century and next to this Asiatic Society, Mumbai, is establishment of 1804, whereas Karnataka Sanskrit University, Bangalore is a fairly recently established institution in 2010 where oriental manuscripts are available in its library.

Majority of oriental libraries were established in between 1901-1950 i.e. (42%) and 28 (37%) libraries were established in between 1951-2000. In these 100 years there was a remarkable growth in the establishment of Oriental libraries in Deccan. There was only one (1%) library which was established in 17th century, two (3%) libraries were established in between 1801-1850, seven (9%) libraries were established in between 1851-1900, and six (8%) libraries were established in between 2001-2010. Thus it is noticed that trends in developing oriental libraries is continuous. This indicates that the importance of oriental libraries still exists even today.

It is found that all 75 libraries in Deccan have rich collection of manuscripts collectively have 370836 manuscripts. There are 55 (73.33%) libraries, which individually have their manuscripts collection below 5000. Oriental Research Institute, Mysore, has the largest collection of 33000 manuscripts.

Manuscripts in various forms like book, manuscript, illuminated/illustrated, scrolls, and codices are existed in this region. But out of all, manuscripts form is the dominant one.
Various areas of knowledge are embedded in the manuscripts like sacred/religious, ritual worship, academic, and classical learning on logic etc. Religious manuscripts are available in majority with the libraries.

Paper manuscripts are available in majority and palm leaf manuscripts are also available with many libraries. Apart from this there are copper plates, parchment manuscripts, cloth manuscripts, birch bark manuscripts, wooden boards, hansi-pata (eagle wood/bark) manuscripts, and clay tablets. Other resources like stone inscriptions, bronze plates, metal plates, calligraphic works on glass panels, sculptures, paintings, maps, and coins are also available.

Sanskrit manuscripts are found in majority in Deccan. Marathi manuscripts are available in majority in Maharashtra, Telugu manuscripts are available in majority in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh together, and Kannada manuscripts are available in majority in Karnataka, as those are the local/regional language mediums used in those particular states. After this Urdu, Arabic, Persian, and Hindi manuscripts are available in numbers in most of the libraries.

Sanskrit and Marathi manuscripts are available in majority. The manuscripts in Devanagari scripts are found in larger numbers. The manuscripts like Kannada, Telugu, Urdu, Arabic, and Persian scripts come next in this hierarchy.

Manuscript covering the subject areas like Religion, Ritual Worship, Literature, and Epics dominates the collection.

It is found that majority of the oriental libraries (62) in Deccan have developed the collection of manuscripts by the way of donations received through the various sources.

The majority of oriental libraries (52) in Deccan do not have separate budgetary provision for purchasing and maintenance of manuscripts.

Less than 50% of oriental libraries (35) have accessioned, classified, and also catalogued the manuscripts collection.
Almost 50% of oriental libraries (37) have followed subject-wise classification scheme to classify their manuscripts.

More than 50% of oriental libraries (47) have published descriptive catalogue of their manuscripts. This way the bibliographic control over the manuscript collection is growing strong.

Only nine oriental libraries in Deccan have computerized their catalogue of manuscripts.

Most of the oriental libraries (48) have preferred to arrange their manuscripts collection by accession number, which is a very easy method to organize and to retrieve the manuscripts from the stacks.

Majority of oriental libraries have closed access system in their manuscripts section.

Few oriental libraries are taking special efforts to make people aware of their manuscripts collection by arranging awareness camps, providing orientation to visitors, organizing exhibitions, publishing news articles, giving information about valuable collection on websites and through brochures, conducting workshops and short term courses, publishing critical editions of manuscripts etc.

Users of the manuscripts collection are mostly scholars and researchers in the area of Orientology, Sanskrit, Indology and Ancient Indian History etc.

The oriental libraries act as reference libraries and do not issue their manuscripts out of the library, as manuscripts collection is very rare, valuable, and impossible to replace if damaged or misplaced.

Almost all oriental libraries offer Xeroxing facility in respect of manuscripts. Some libraries extend scanning and microfilming facilities too. But very few libraries give translation facility in their library and most of the libraries do not give this facility due to lack of trained staff.
A few oriental libraries allow digital photography and provide CD’s of required manuscripts on prior permission.

In the area of preservation almost all libraries are taking care to preserve the manuscripts as these are rare and needs special care to preserve. Most of the libraries give more emphasis on dusting and cleaning but many a times other methods are also required like fumigation, de-acidification, and lamination etc. It is traced that some libraries are using these authentic methods of preservation in routine. It is found that still majority of libraries (31) are using organic methods of preservation and using natural products in this process. It is also found that many libraries (34) make use of chemical insecticides for pest controlling, some libraries (23) libraries uses fumigation chambers for preservation, some libraries (13) apply de-acidification process to clean the paper manuscripts which have gone yellowish, some libraries (11) apply lamination process to fragile and brittle manuscripts using acid free tissue/butter paper, and a limited number of libraries (5) undertakes binding work for manuscripts which are in book form.

Very few libraries are using Air Conditioners in the storage area of manuscripts to maintain the temperature and relative humidity required.

Many of libraries have microfilmed their manuscripts for preservation purpose.

Some libraries are using fire fighting instruments as a safety measure in disaster management activity.

Digitization of manuscripts is a must for saving this treasure and few libraries have already scanned their manuscripts. But many libraries have not yet adopted this technique. Some libraries have started the process of digitization of manuscripts and some libraries have initiated planning for digitization.

Majority of libraries (36) have digitized their manuscripts collection and almost all of them wish to give access to it on intranet rather than internet.
Some libraries are using digital library management software’s like Manus Granthavali, D-Space, and Slim-21 etc. to manage their digital library of manuscripts.

In majority libraries they do not have skilled personnel who are well versed with the techniques of conservation as well as classification and cataloguing of manuscripts.

6.3 Suggestions
The present survey research represents an in-depth exploration of the organization of manuscripts available with various oriental libraries in Deccan. In the light of the findings, certain suggestions and recommendations can be made, which may be helpful in bringing about positive changes in the oriental libraries in Deccan region.

1. Budgetary Provision
There should be separate provision in budget for maintenance of manuscripts. The institutes can try to obtain financial aid for the conservation of manuscripts under the Financial Assistance scheme of the Department of Culture, Government of India, National Archives of India, New Delhi or from the State Governments. A separate budget needs to be provided for modernization and digitization of libraries.

2. Skilled Staff/Trained Personnel
Separate skilled staff should be appointed in manuscripts section, who are well versed with the techniques of conservation as well as classification and cataloguing. It is noticed that staff is preserving documents but they are not professionally trained. It is strongly suggested that staff of oriental libraries should be trained from the institutes like national libraries as well as library associations need to take a role in organizing training in traditional preservation as well as digitization of documents. So that staff can acquire necessary skills in managing, organizing and preserving documents.

3. Training
The Institute should depute their working personnel for training to short-term courses in the conservation of manuscripts.
a) The School of Archival studies under the National Archives of India, New Delhi conducts a short term training course on Care and Conservation of Manuscripts, Books and Archival Material. The course is designed for those candidates who are working in educational institutions, manuscripts libraries and archival institutions.

b) The INTACH, Lucknow, organizes a training programme in conservation of documents, manuscripts and paintings on paper.

c) The NRLC, Lucknow, also provide training in the field of conservation.

4. Descriptive Catalogue of Manuscripts
There is a need to publish the descriptive catalogue of manuscripts covering the whole collection. That catalogue should also be in computerized form and should be made available on web, and then only it will be known to the public.

5. Exhibitions
Exhibitions should be arranged from time to time of special manuscripts, for making people aware of the rich collections.

6. Digitization
Digitization of manuscripts should be done and it should be made available on web, for increasing its accessibility.

7. Microfilming
Most of the manuscripts are in deteriorating condition, so wherever digitization facility is not available these should be micro-filmed quickly and preserved scientifically.

8. Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC)
Computerised cataloguing of manuscripts should be done and its OPAC should be made available on Internet, for making people aware of the Institute’s manuscripts collection.

9. Use of Air Conditioners
Air Conditioners should be installed in the stack areas of manuscripts to control temperature and humidity. It should be operated round the clock.

It is also strongly suggested that using Information and Communication Technology (ICT) oriental libraries should be digitized and developed a network of these libraries for the effective resource sharing.

11. Use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT)

ICT applications are also fruitful in oriental libraries and can add:

- Digitization of the collection and scanning for auto indexing.
- Searching becomes more powerful with multiple access points.
- Records of manuscripts can be made available in different forms to users for consultation.
- ICT based services can be provided to users especially CAS, SDI, Bibliographies, Alert and Digest etc.
- Descriptive and union catalogue development is easy.
- Web Pages of oriental libraries can be developed and linked to access the data.
- Networking of libraries is possible.
- Resource sharing may be enhanced.
- Preservation of data in a searchable mode.

ICT use needs to be enhanced due to these multifold benefits.

6.4 Prominent Recommendations

- A well qualified and properly trained staff with specialization in manuscript handling – preserving (Manuscriptology) should be appointed as special officer in-charge to look after the rare collection of manuscripts consisting of variety of languages.

- It is also recommended that this staff should have the knowledge of at least three languages such as Sanskrit, Urdu, and Marathi/Kannada/Telugu/Tamil etc. for manuscript reading and translating. He should also know the peoples who are well versed with other languages of which manuscripts are in the collection.
Digitization, preservation and cataloguing of this rich collection should be given utmost importance. For these professional organizations like NMM, IGNCA and INTACH should be involved.

Manuscripts collection needs to be organized systematically and scientifically and its access needs to be increased as the material is very informative.

All libraries have to adopt the scientific ways of physical preservation of manuscripts. Special technology should be adopted for content preservation. ICT use is to be enhanced to modernize libraries.

6.5 National Information, Assistance and Management System for Archives and Manuscript Collections: Focusing on Deccan Region in Particular

Different organizations are collectively working towards the archiving of manuscripts collection at national level. Researcher has grouped those organizations under the banner of National Information, Assistance and Management System for Archives and Manuscript Collections works in India in general and in Deccan Region in Particular. The researcher has tried to depict this cluster of efforts towards archiving of manuscripts are highlighted through flowchart 6.1.
Flowchart 6.1: National Information, Assistance and Management System for Archives and Manuscript Collections: Focusing on Deccan Region in Particular
National Mission for Manuscripts (NAMAMI) is an independent organization under Ministry of Culture, Government of India, established to survey, locate and conserve Indian manuscripts, with an aim to create national resource foundation for manuscripts for enhancing their access, awareness and use for educational purposes. This mission was initiated in February 2003. Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) is the nodal agency for the implementation of this project. It has created bibliographic databases of Indian Manuscripts and involved in the conservation, preservation, and digitization of the manuscripts to promote access and scholarship through research and publication. It has also established a national network of institutions and manuscript repositories for documentation, preservation and digitization of the wealth of manuscripts. Through different Manuscript Resource Centres (MRCs), NMM has documented and digitized the manuscripts. There are total 11 MRCs, managed with the help of grants from NMM working in Deccan region. Manuscript Conservation Centres (MCCs) are identified across the country which conserves manuscripts with the help of grants from NMM. There are total 10 MCCs working for this purpose in Deccan region. The Mission has identified prominent institutions with large holdings of manuscripts for partnership with the Mission as Manuscript Partner Centres (MPCs). These are required to document own collections and catalogue them to Manus Granthavali. At present, there are nine MPCs from Deccan region are associated with the Mission. The Mission nominates institutions with large holdings of manuscripts as Manuscript Conservation Partner Centres (MCPCs). Under this programme, each MCC nominates 10 institutions as MCPCs. These institutions are provided conservation assistance through the MCCs. The MCPCs are provided with an advice on storage and maintenance of their collections in a scientific manner. The Mission also provides conservation and storage material (acid–free board, acid–free paper, etc.) for storage of important manuscripts in these collections. Preventive and curative conservation work on the manuscripts where required is also undertaken by MCCs. At present, there are three institutions from Deccan region are associated with the Mission as MCPCs.

The National Informatics Centre (NIC) has developed a new software (based on IGNCA's electronic format) called Manus Granthavali. It is based on Dublin Core
Metadata Standards that are accepted globally. By using this software the Mission has developed a national database of 2 million manuscripts called *Kritisampada*, which can be accessed through http://www.namami.org/pdatabase.aspx.

The proclamation of 45 pioneering manuscripts titled as the *Vijnananidhi: Manuscript Treasures of India* is also launched by the Mission. These nominated manuscripts are landmarks in Indian intellectual history and have unique heritage value that contains insights and discoveries and that have, at different points of time, broken new ground in India’s knowledge systems.

Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH), a non-profit NGO and INTACH Conservation Institutes (ICI) works in the area of heritage conservation with objective to preserve manuscripts heritage for future generations. The ICI regularly organizes training courses, workshops and capacity building programmes for raising awareness in all aspects of heritage conservation and management. At present INTACH Chitrakala Parishath Art Conservation Centre (ICKPAC), Bangalore and INTACH Conservation Institute (ICI), Mumbai are nominated as MCC under the NMM.

Even the National Archives of India (NAI), an office attached to the Ministry of Culture, Government of India, provides financial assistance for preservation and conservation of documentary heritage including manuscripts. The financial assistance scheme is intended for National/State level voluntary organizations, educational institutions, including private colleges, libraries and museums, universities, deemed universities, autonomous bodies of the Government (Central as well as States/Union Territories) archives and museums, families of erstwhile princely houses, old aristocratic families, individuals, temples, churches, *khanqahs*, and *mutts* etc. having inherited collections of manuscript/records of historical importance. The assistance is provided for scientific preservation/conservation/repair/restoration, microfilming, listing, cataloguing, evaluation, translation, publication/ reprint of manuscripts/historical documents, charts, maps etc. in their custody as also for purchase of manuscript. The assistance is also provided for purchase of items required for preservation of manuscript i.e. Air conditioners, vacuum cleaners, fumigation chambers and chemicals for
treatment. The Scheme also provides financial assistance for digitization of manuscripts (including support for digitization job work as well as purchase of equipments viz. camera, scanner, computer, reprography equipments like printer, copier), for construction/addition, alteration/renovation of the building. Also, it offers one year diploma course in archives and records management and short term certificate courses in archives management, records management, reprography, care and conservation of manuscripts and archives, servicing and repair of records, etc.

Besides this, the National Laboratory for Conservation of Cultural Property (NRLC), Lucknow, is a subordinate office of the Ministry of Culture, Government of India established in 1976 to provide support in the conservation of cultural property in cultural institutions throughout the country. It provides training in the field of conservation, helps in setting up conservation laboratories, and provides advice on preventive conservation. The Regional Conservation Laboratory (RCL), Mysore, is a unit of NRLC, extends technical assistance in conservation of heritage objects of the country.

Under the Government of India Rules, the work pertaining to the libraries of national importance, the, Delivery of Books Act and publication of rare manuscripts is assigned to the Department of Culture. They have introduced their schemes of financial assistance to voluntary organizations, educational institutions, libraries, museums and universities, for preservation, listing, cataloguing, evaluation, and publication etc. of manuscripts. The Central and State Governments also provides financial assistance to libraries in various parts of the country for certain approved purposes like purchase of books, furniture and equipment and construction of buildings.

The organizations working under the Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India, like Central Institute of Indian Languages (CIIL), Mysore, Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan (RSS), New Delhi, National Council for Promotion of Urdu Language (NCPUL), New Delhi, and National Council for Promotion of Sindhi Language (NCPSL), New Delhi, through their schemes for financial assistance for publication of books give grants for the
publication of descriptive catalogue of rare manuscripts, classics, old manuscripts and also their translation and transliteration.

The manuscripts repositories in Deccan region can easily approach to the above organizations and get benefited in the direction of finance, preservation/conservation, digitization, documentation, training, publication activity, and other physical facilities required to organize their manuscripts collection in more scientific and systematic way for future generations.

6.6 Model on Management and Organization of Manuscripts in an Oriental Library: Best Practices in Managing Collection

The researcher after evaluating the oriental libraries in Deccan has prepared a plan on managing oriental libraries and presented it in the form of a model with best practices as under. The same is depicted through flowchart 6.2 for easy understanding and ready reference. All these activities may be implemented by every oriental library for proper, systematic, and scientific management and organization of manuscripts they possess.
Flowchart 6.2: Model on Management and Organization of Manuscripts in an Oriental Library
a) Acquisition, Classification, Cataloguing, and Publication
Initially, oriental libraries have to identify the availability of manuscripts with individuals and then these have to be acquired by way of donation or purchase. The acquired collection needs to be classified according to subject and language for easy arrangement and accessibility of manuscripts. Further, these are to be catalogued either manually or mechanically considering all physical and bibliographical aspects of manuscripts. A descriptive catalogue of manuscripts is needed to publish; it’s a job of oriental institutes to publish rare texts in manuscripts also to make people aware of ancient knowledge hidden inside these manuscripts.

b) Services
The oriental libraries have to offer certain services with regards to manuscripts like reprographic service involving photocopying; microfilming; providing soft copies of scanned manuscripts in the form CD’s, translation, transcription/copying, transliteration, reading/deciphering, reference services.

The activities of classification, cataloguing, translation, copying, transliteration, and deciphering need expertise in respective languages and scripts and certainly there is need to appoint skilled personnel for library.

c) Preservation, Conservation and Restoration
Since manuscripts are very old and rare resources of the oriental library, the following preservation measures need to be applied for the building where manuscripts are kept and for the manuscripts physically to enhance its durability.

- The building has facility for secure storage area for manuscripts.
- The environmental conditions have to be stabilized at standard level using artificial heat controlling units, air conditioning, and dehumidifying equipments.
- There is a need to have proper ventilation with good air circulation to prevent the growth of fungus. Air-filtration plants required to control pollution and dust.
- Light level / natural light is to be controlled using screens/curtains.
Humidity and air pollution are serious factors of deterioration. These cannot be controlled unless HVAC (Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning) is installed.

The temperature is required to be maintained in range of 15-20 C and relative humidity (RH) to be maintained between 35% and 65%.

Silica Gel, an effective humidity absorbent material, can be used to stabilize the required level of humidity by keeping it inside the manuscript showcases.

Stacks need to be chemically inert (non-corrodible) and fire-proof. It’s always better to use metal racks than wooden.

Basement storage has to be avoided or sufficient space should be left at the bottom of shelf to avoid damage from water flooding, also space should be at the top of shelf for easy air circulation.

Manuscripts need to be wrapped by acid-free paper, folders or boxes.

Chemical cleaning or bleaching can be done inside the building with regular intervals.

Pest-controlling treatments and methods of disinfestations need to be applied with regular intervals for the library premises.

Fumigation chamber and vacuum chamber can be used to treat the termite affected manuscripts. Generally a chemical like Thymol is used in fumigation chamber and Ethylene Oxide is used in vacuum chamber.

Freezing technique also can be applied to kill insects, their larvae, and their eggs inside the manuscripts. This treatment can be given in a modified domestic freezer by setting it on 18°C. Radiation treatments also can be used for same purposes.

The effective disinfestations, fumigation, and radiation treatments can be applied by properly trained personnel with proper equipments.

De-acidification method can be used to clean the papers of manuscripts after the writing inks and pigments have been tasted for fastness in the material to be used for cleaning. In aqueous de-acidification method the affected paper is immersed in or brushed with an alkaline solution. Magnesium Bicarbonate is the effective alkaline solution used to neutralize the acidity of an old paper. In spirit de-acidification alkali is dissolved in an organic solvent and that can
be applied in spray form on paper of a manuscript. In Vapor phase de-acidification chemicals in gaseous forms are used to neutralize the acid on a paper.

- The fragile paper of manuscript is mended with infilling, framing, and backing methods.
- After de-acidification and mending, lamination process can be undertaken to increase the strength of a paper. In this process transparent Japanese tissue is pasted on both sides of a paper.
- Encapsulation method also can be used instead of lamination. In this process document is encased in an envelope of inert transparent polyester film e.g. ‘Mylar’, and then it is sealed either using ultrasonic welding system or putting zigzag stitches using machine sewing method.
- For content preservation microfilming as well as scanning / digitization methods are preferred in ICT environment.

d) Staffing
In the staffing pattern, there is a need for developing a position of Preservation Manager for survey, draft, manage, and execute the preservation and conservation program. The position of Archivist is also essential to undertake the work of deciding appropriate conservation treatment. Executing those treatments is actual responsibility of Conservator / Curator. In this activity he is supported by the Trained Technicians, who undertake treatments of lamination, encapsulation, etc.

e) Disaster Management
Disaster management is also a must as precautionary step for managing any manuscripts repository. This system works anticipatorily against disaster and in emergency, which occur due to fire, flood, tempest, light, vermin, pollution, cycling of environmental conditions, earthquakes and human-made attacks, etc. In disaster management activity following mentioned provisions can be made well in advance.
• Fire / smoke detectors and alarm system, fire extinguishers (both chemical and water), and hoses / sprinklers can be placed within the storage room.
• Flood alarm system can also be installed.
• An arrangement for portable de-humidifier can be made.
• Digitized manuscripts data-backups can be kept at different places for fast and easy recovery of data.
• Disaster management policy / recovery plan should be drawn well in advance.
• Contact numbers of local police station and fire brigade should be listed in contacts list for emergency.

All the above said activities/best practices can be implemented only when sufficient funding, proper guidance, appropriate procedures, and required trainings are made available to the oriental libraries. All such assistances can be availed from the organizations as shown in flowchart 6.1, namely, National Archives of India (NAI), National Mission for Manuscripts (NMM), National Research Laboratory for Conservation of Cultural Property (NRLC), Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH), Central Institute of Indian Languages (CIIL), and Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan (RSS). If libraries are well aware of the various existing assistance schemes and are capable enough to convenience their requirements through proposals they can bring ultimate changes in the functioning, organization and management of the manuscripts.

6.7 Scope for Further Research

This study encompasses the oriental libraries in Deccan region only. In future such study can be carried out in other zones of India having oriental libraries.

6.8 Conclusion

Libraries have always had a pivotal role in the storage, processing, and dissemination of information; in a way, in civilizing and making people culture conscious. Present development always stands on the foundation of the past. Development of society has no meaning without cultural ethos that is enriched with our knowledge of past
human behavior and thought processes. Record of all the events related to this process and evolution is mandatory for any civilized society to grow with harmony and peace and oriental libraries play the most vital role in maintaining this.

Information, knowledge, and wisdom in the form of manuscripts carry the legacy of traditions from one generation to generation. A very rich religious and cultural heritage is depicted through the manuscripts treasure available in India. Simultaneously, a lot of ancient knowledge lies buried in the millions of manuscripts in the possession of temples, masjids, mutts, private libraries, public libraries, museums, archives, colleges, universities and various oriental research institutes in the Deccan in particular. Oriental manuscripts are present in different libraries in Deccan but university libraries lead others in preserving these manuscripts, with a few exceptions. Manuscripts are available in different oriental languages and in different forms. Every religious sect in India has contributed immensely in collecting and preserving these manuscripts. The contribution of famous kings as well as Muslim sultanates of Indian history was also enormous in this regard. The oriental library initiative took place in ancient India, which flourished in the medieval era and Mughals contributed to a respectable amount to the development of oriental libraries. Though the invaders destroyed the major portion of our knowledge heritage but inspired people to collect and learn the fundamentals of knowledge in manuscripts and that reached to its peak in the period when the British and other Europeans came to India.

Most of the libraries have been successfully collected and cared the manuscripts for future use. They are bringing out those manuscripts in the form of printed editions. Techniques from modern science and technology have been put to good use in the noble work of preservation and digitization of these manuscripts.

This study reveals that oriental libraries in Deccan have played important role in the growth of oriental studies and that have played a big role in the spread of higher education. It also reveals that the focus of higher education has shifted from southern and eastern Deccan to western Deccan in late medieval period and its development reached its peak during the British period. Since then western Deccan in particular has become the main centre of higher education and learning.
In order to ascertain the existing situation of oriental library system of the Deccan, the history and origin of libraries found out to what the scenario altogether was like in the Deccan specifically. It was therefore pertinent to identify the origin, history, problems and constraints that were involved in oriental library system of Deccan and identify their real contribution so as to formulate appropriate policies and suggest measures which can contribute to the improvement of the libraries in Deccan to meet the present-day-challenges.

This study thus has filled up the gap in our knowledge of the history of the developments of oriental library movement in Deccan in particular and India in general. If studies of history of library movement on same such lines are undertaken, it would certainly enable in constructing the intellectual history of the country.

The problem of investigation was to present ideal model of Oriental Libraries in 21st Century with special reference to Deccan with reference to their documentary sources and information services offered to research community in oriental studies. It includes identification of strengths, weaknesses of the system, and its effectiveness in oriental research and education.

The literary treasures depicting our culture, customs, early life and much more need to be preserved and organized scientifically. Updating of oriental library system is highly desirable in order to preserve the heritage for future use and disseminate the indigenous knowledge to the society. Since ancient period there has hardly been a gap in oriental libraries. However, in present scenario when Information Technology and cosmopolitan lifestyle are literally ruling the roost, it is important for us to realize the importance of oriental libraries and find ways for not only to ensure their survival but update the library collection and facilities for adaptability with the present. An oriental library system should try to reorient the library in such a way that it keeps the interests of both traditional and the e-users to get attracted to refer the manuscripts with same enthusiasm.

At national level, the organizations like National Archives of India (NAI), National Mission for Manuscripts (NMM), Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA), National Research Laboratory for Conservation of Cultural Property
(NRLC), Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH), Central Institute of Indian Languages (CIIL), and Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan (RSS) etc. are working successfully towards documentation and preservation of this literary treasure in the oriental libraries in India. Only needed is that the libraries should get aware of the different facilities available and should get benefited out of the assistance schemes extended and training programs organized at national level for better organization and management of their manuscript libraries.

References


