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## THE OPINIONS OF KARNATAKA RESIDENTS ABOUT RARE MATERIALS IN LIBRARIES

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### **ABSTRACT**

**Introduction:** *If a book is already brittle, de-acidification will only temporarily halt its degradation.*

**Aim of the study:** *the main aim of the study is The Opinions of Karnataka Residents About Rare Materials in Libraries*

**Material and method:** *After developing a user-friendly questionnaire, the researcher paid a return visit to each library and handed out surveys to library patrons in person.*

**Conclusion:** *The 561 respondents whose thoughts were sought on various matters pertaining to rare materials revealed that, in order of preference, they primarily use the following types of rare resources: out-of-print books, old manuscripts, palm leaves, printed catalogues of books, reports, antiquities, archaeological stones, coins, and CD ROMs.*

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 OVERVIEW**

#### **1.1.1 Techniques Used for Preservation Of Library Materials**

Rare materials may be preserved using a variety of methods, including:

- **Chemical De-acidification**

If a book is already brittle, de-acidification will only temporarily halt its degradation. Collaboratively, it may be more cost-effective to film or scan the best available copy of an old book once and then duplicate it than to de-acidify all of the copies. In addition, a copying master and a bibliographic record are produced by microfilming, allowing for greater accessibility. Books in different libraries may be de-acidified separately. Paper treatment, which involves spraying a chemical fog over each sheet, is more expensive than copying, even for a single copy. For books without significant artifactual value, the expenses of these more involved preservation techniques, which entail disassembly and rebinding of each item, are essentially prohibitive. Nevertheless, the only methods that protect the book itself are those that focus on paper preservation and individual book conservation.

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- **Microfilming**

Even though the finished book will be on fiche, the microfilming process often entails creating a roll film master. While microfiche are not itself a preservation format, they may be made from roll film that has been preserved for posterity. Microfiche is cheaper than microfilm reading equipment and allows for instantaneous random access to a specific frame. For a microform book catalogue, microfiche are the standard media. Micro film and microfiche are not popular with all readers. De-acidification will only slow the deterioration of a fragile book for a short time. Instead of de-acidifying every copy, a group could find it more efficient to film or scan the finest copy of an old book and then make duplicates from that. In addition to making the material more easily accessible, microfilming also creates a copying master and a bibliographic record. It's possible to acid-wash books in various libraries independently. A single copy costs less than paper treatment, which entails spraying a chemical fog over each page. The costs of these more sophisticated preservation processes, which require disassembly and rebinding of each item, are virtually prohibitive for books without considerable artifactual value. Yet, only paper conservation and book conservation techniques can guarantee the safety of the book itself.

- **Digital imagery**

A viable alternative is digital imaging, which involves scanning books into computer storage. The ability to quickly move books across libraries is made possible by storing digital pictures of their pages. Similar to film photos, they may be seen or printed off, but at a higher price nowadays. In addition, digital photography allows for extensive reprocessing, such as the modification of contrast, picture size, etc. Disk drives, screens, and printing devices are all rapidly improving, but few libraries have the expertise or equipment necessary to handle these pictures.

## 2. LITERATURE REVIEW

**Pradhan, Bijayananda&Bhoi, Ratnapriya (2015)** In order to provide its patrons with access to useful information, libraries must first acquire, catalogue, organise, preserve, conserve, and secure printed and non-printed materials. The burden on library directors to gather and organise materials for future generations has increased dramatically as the volume of published material has exploded. There is a risk of information overload due to the increasing complexity of the challenge of handling the growing volume of accessible information. In a nutshell, securing documents from unethical behaviour, information overload, collection creation, preservation, and dialogue for long-term advantages are all areas of concern. Not only is it necessary for people and their everyday lives, but institutions like libraries also need to feel safe and secure. Major security concerns at libraries include, but are not limited to, book vandalism, theft, intentionally mis-shelving volumes, unauthorised use of library cards, forgery of ownership stamps, etc. This study also discusses several library conservation strategies and the many library security issues that arise.



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**Kelly, Matthew (2015)** For a very long time, there has been a schism in the library community along the axis of user demand and intellectual rigour on how selection of items, interpreted as subject expertise, should occur for non-fiction collections in public libraries. Several attempts at a synthesis have fallen short of doing either school of thought credit. The purpose of this study, written as a praise song to the materials-centered methodology, is to investigate what is sacrificed when librarians put the emphasis, as a last resort, on the user's part in creating topic expertise for a complete collection with an eye towards civic society.

**Velmurugan, Chandran (2013)** In this study, we examine live digital preservation systems, with an emphasis on IRCs (IRC). E-journals, technical reports, electronic records, project papers, scientific data, etc. are only few of the many types of digital items taken into account. Text, data, audio, video, and other format archiving are all discussed in the paper. The ideas and insights related to digital preservation are presented in this work. It covers the big picture of digital preservation and the problems faced by the information resource centre (IRC). The goals, procedure, and technical challenges of digital preservation are also discussed in this work. In last, the article describes the steps taken in digital preservation projects. The report finds that the adoption of numerous technologies may help accomplish the digital preservation aim, but that the management environment and the nature of the materials should also be studied properly before using digital preservation approaches. Also, it is discovered that document restoration via digital preservation protects them against deterioration, theft, and loss. This article provides a high-level review of the technical techniques and tactics to digital preservation, as well as the difficulties faced by the information resource centre (IRC).

**Wole, By &Olatokun, Wole (2008)** To that end, researchers in Nigeria surveyed the conservation and preservation practises of a subset of academic libraries. In particular, it analysed the origins and characteristics of degradation, the prevalence of preservation and conservation programmes, the methods employed to mitigate its effects, and the limitations on their effectiveness. A survey strategy was used. We made a deliberate selection of fifteen (15) college libraries. The information was gathered with the use of a semi-structured questionnaire. Using the SPSS statistical programme, the collected data were organised into categorical frequency distributions. Despite having preservation policies in place, the results showed that university libraries were not making good use of preservation and conservation methods. The survey also found that cleaning and dusting are the most often used methods for maintaining library collections. The research confirmed the existence of degradation, with cracked and scratched volumes being the most noticeable outcomes. It was also discovered that not all libraries make good use of the digital preservation methods they have adopted. Inadequate financing was found to be the primary barrier to successful preservation and conservation efforts in academic libraries. Recommendations were made to better preserve and conserve library materials based on the results.



**Sahoo, Jyotshna (2004)** A library houses the collective knowledge of some of the world's most brilliant minds. It's a public organisation with the goal of ensuring that everyone has access to information. Libraries are a vital part of society because the information they contain is essential to the continuation of human knowledge through time and space. To both the current and future generations, the records of the past are an invaluable resource. Any destruction of such items would be devastating. Hence, it is not simply the professional obligation of librarians and information scientists to preserve this intellectual and cultural treasure; it is also a moral obligation. Moreover, library items may be distributed effectively provided they are in excellent and useful form. Because of this, it's crucial that library books and other resources be kept in good condition. The numerous causes of library material degradation and the potential solutions for their preservation should be familiar to every librarian tasked with the preservation of these recorded heritages. The majority of libraries still rely on paper for their reading resources, including historical documents, books, magazines, paintings, drawings, charts, maps, and more. These library resources are prone to natural decay and disintegration since their fundamental elements and contents are mostly organic in origin. Board, fabric, leather, thread, ink, glue, etc. are some of the many additional materials used in books. All of these waste products provide food for certain creatures. Thus, safeguarding the library's collections against degradation elements is essential.

### 3. METHODOLOGY

After developing a user-friendly questionnaire, the researcher paid a return visit to each library to hand out surveys to library patrons. Several respondents were interviewed after we received their completed surveys to double-check the results. There were 561 users who were sent a questionnaire and responded to it. The investigator simultaneously conducted an observational study of how uncommon papers were used and handled by both employees and visitors. The information gathered via interviews, surveys, and in-person interactions with service consumers was compiled, evaluated, and interpreted. The information is also offered in a report format.

## 4. RESULTS

### 4.1 Analysis of Respondents Opinion

#### 4.1.1 Institution - wise Distribution of User Respondents

The study surveyed users of the nine libraries for their thoughts on the value and need of preserving rare works, collecting data from 561 individuals. Number of users interviewed by scholar organised by institution

**Table 4.1 Institution - wise Distribution of Respondents**

Sl No	Library/Archives	No of Respondents	Percentage
1	Mysore University Library, Mysore	179	31.9
2	Oriental Research Institute, Mysore	72	12.83
3	Kannada Research Institute Darwad	57	10.16
4	Divisional Archives Office library, Mysore	56	9.98
5	Academic Sanskrit Research, Melukote	54	9.63
6	ICHR library, Bangalore	40	7.13
7	Karnataka Theological Library & Archive, Mangalore	38	6.77
8	CCL, Mysore	37	6.60
9	SCL, Bangalore	28	5.00
	Total	561	100.

The table below shows that Mysore University Library has 179 users, or 31.91% of the total. There have been 72 interviews with users from the Oriental Research Institute in Mysore. There are 57 documents from the Kannada Research Institute, 56 from the Divisional Archival Office in Mysore, and 54 from the Academic Sanskrit Research Center in Melukote. The numbers add out to 12.83 percent, 10.16 percent, 9.98 percent, and 9.63 percent. In addition, there are 38 (6.77%) interviewees from the Karnataka Theology Library & Archives in Mangalore, 37 (6.60%) from the City Central Library in Mysore, and 28 (5.01%) from the State Central Library in Bangalore.

#### 4.1.2 Category wise Distribution of Respondents

Based on their titles, the 561 respondents have been divided into 10 distinct groups. This distribution of responders by kind is seen in table 4.2.

**Table 4.2 Category wise Distribution of Respondents**

SINo	CategoryofUsersinterviewed	NoofRespondents	Percentage
1	ResearchScholars	247	44.03
2	Teachers	150	26.74
3	Students	57	10.16
4	ResearchAssistants	34	6.06
5	Resourcepersons	21	3.44
6	RtdOfficers	17	3.03
7	Researchassociates	16	2.85
8	MuseumCurators	08	1.43
9	Scientists	05	0.89
10	ProjectHeaders	04	0.71
11	Assistanteditors	02	0.45
	Total	561	100

The table shows that 247 Research Scholars and 150 Instructors have been interviewed. They account for a combined 44.03 percent and 26.74 percent. 34 are Research Assistants, 21 are Resource People, 17 are Retired Officers, and 16 are Research Associates, out of a total of 57 Students questioned. The percentages are as follows: 10.16, 6.06, 3.44, 3.03, and 2.85. Nineteen more users (3.48 percent of the total) have been interviewed; they work in fields such as museum curation, science, project management, and assistant editing.

#### 4.1.3 Gender - wise Distribution of Respondents

Table 4.3 shows the number of responders from each library, broken down by gender, for this analysis.



**Table 4.3 Gender - wise Distribution of Respondents**

SINo	Library/Archives	Male	Female	Total	Percentage
1	MULM	122 (68.15)	57 (31.84)	179	31.12
2	ORIM	50 (69.44)	22 (30.55)	72	13.25
3	DAOM	35 (62.5)	21 (37.5)	56	10.31
4	KRID	36 (63.15)	21 (36.84)	57	9.57
5	ASRM	29 (53.70)	25 (46.29)	54	9.39
6	ICHRB	28 (70.0)	12 (30.0)	40	7.36
7	KTLAM	20 (52.63)	18 (47.37)	38	6.99
8	CCLM	30 (81.08)	07 (18.91)	37	6.81
9	SCLB	16 (57.14)	12 (42.85)	28	5.15
	Total	366 (65.24)	195 (34.75)	561	100.00

**4.1.4 Age - wise Distribution of respondents**

The 561 users that were polled are broken down into age ranges. Table 4.4 shows the age breakdown of the respondents.

**Table 4.4 Age - wise Distribution of User Respondents**

SINo	Age	TotalNoofRespondents	Percentage
1	16-20	07	1.24
2	21-25	70	12.47
3	26-30	161	28.69
4	31-35	123	21.92
5	36-40	75	12.83
6	41-45	41	7.30
7	46-50	36	6.41

8	51-55	29	5.16
9	56-60	10	1.78
10	61-65	04	0.71
11	66-70	05	0.89
		561	100.00

The ages of the users, as seen in the table, span from 16 to 70 years. Nonetheless, the largest demographic of users is between the ages of 26 and 30 and 31 and 35. Together, they account for 28.69% of responses, whereas separately, they account for 21.92%. Of the total respondents, 13.36% are between the ages of 36 and 40, and 12.47% are between the ages of 21 and 25. The age groups 61–65, 66–70, 16–20, and 56–60 had the fewest user replies. They make up 0.89 percent, 1.24 percent, and 1.78 percent of all responses, respectively. The remaining age groups (7.30 percent, 6.41%, and 5.16 percent) include those aged 41 to 45, 46 to 50, and 51 to 55. The aforementioned age ranges are provided for institution-specific responders in Annexure-2.

#### 4.1.5 Institutional Affiliation of User Respondents

Institutional affiliation is used to categorise the total user responses outside of international users. Table 4.6 shows the breakdown of user replies according to their place of employment.

**Table 4.6 Institutional Affiliation of User Respondents**

Sl No	NameoftheInstitution	No.of Respondents	Percentage
1	IKS, DeptsofHistory,AncientHistory&Archeology,Anthropology,SocialWork&Linguistics,UOM	141	27.92
2	KRI,DeptofHistory,Archaeology,InstituteofKannada Studies,KUDharwad	69	13.66
3	DeptofPol.Science,History,InstituteofKannadaStudies,BangaloreUniversity	29	5.74
4	GovtAyurvedicCollege, Mysore	27	5.35
5	DeptofArchaeology,GovtofIndia	23	4.55
6	Dept of Linguistics, Kannada Studies, KuvempuUniversity,Shimoga,,	22	4.36
7	KannadaUniversity,Hampi	18	3.56
8	DravidianUniversity	17	3.37
9	TeresianCollege,Mysore	17	3.37





10	Maharaja's College, Mysore	16	3.17
11	Oriental Research Institute, Mysore	16	3.17
12	St Philomena's College, Mysore	14	2.77
13	Madras Institute of Development Studies	12	2.38
14	Dept of History, Kannada, Mangalore University	11	2.18
15	SIIL Mysore	11	2.18
16	ASRMelikote	10	1.98
17	Telugu University	09	1.96
18	CIIL, Mysore	09	1.96
19	St Philomena's College, Mangalore	08	1.58
20	DFRL Mysore	06	1.19
21	S.V University, Tirupati	06	1.19
22	Govt First Grade College, Mangalore	05	0.99
23	ISEC, Bangalore	04	0.79
24	Others	05	0.99
	Total	505	100

## 5. CONCLUSION

The 561 respondents whose thoughts were sought on various matters pertaining to rare materials revealed that, in order of preference, they primarily use the following types of rare resources: out-of-print books, old manuscripts, palm leaves, printed catalogues of books, reports, antiquities, archaeological stones, coins, and CD ROMs. These resources are put to use in a variety of ways, including but not limited to: research, instruction, book writing, class projects, report writing, presentation of special lectures, and so on. Around 55% of users think these unusual items are beneficial in a significant way, 34% think they are helpful in a moderate way, and 12.6% think they are helpful in some way. Around 8.5% of users argue that these uncommon resources are not useful. When asked if the unusual materials they utilised were helpful, more than 78 percent indicated they were, while 21 percent said they weren't. About ninety-one percent of users agree that spreading awareness about the benefits of these uncommon resources is important. Digital preservation of the complete rare collection and original documents is the chosen method of preservation by a significant number of users.



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