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## PRESERVATION AND CONSERVATION OF LIBRARY MATERIALS, PRACTICES AND TECHNIQUES AT LAW COLLEGE LIBRARIES IN KARNATAKA: A STUDY

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### ABSTRACT: -

A survey using a structured questionnaire was conducted to study preservation and conservation practices in Law college libraries affiliated to Law University, Hubli. The study revealed that there was an unwritten policy on preservation and conservation in nearly all libraries. In addition to the lack of written preservation policy, makers need to be convinced to make provision for library staff and budget not just for preservation but seemingly for the long-term survival of libraries.

**KEYWORDS:** Preservation and conservation; Print and Non print Materials; Law College Libraries; Law University.

### INTRODUCTION:

A library is a repository of wisdom of great thinkers of the past and the present. It is a social institution charged with the responsibility of disseminating knowledge to the people without. The past records constitute a natural resource and are indispensable to the present generation as well as to the generations to come. Parchment is reported to be more durable than leather in many respects before the advent of paper. Various other materials were also used as medium for writing by the Babylonians, papyrus was used by the Egyptians, inscribed clay seals were used by the people of Harappa in India during Indus valley civilization in the undivided India during 3rd millennium B.C. Upanishads denote the study and practice of the innate truth, 'Brahmavidya', denotes the supremacy of the spiritual contemplation. Silk and strips of wood were used in China, Clay tablets, metal plates, barks and leaves of trees such as palm leaf, birch bark, Sanchi-pat, or Hansi Paat, Tula-pat have been used in North East India and South East Asia. Paat in Assamese refers to

Agar tree leaves and term 'pat/paat' in Assamese means sheet. In Africa, early America and Europe parchment and vellum were used.

Except a few libraries, all others have paper-based reading materials in the form of manuscripts, books, periodicals, paintings, drawings, charts, maps etc. The basic materials and constituents of the physical entity of these library materials are mostly organic in nature, which are susceptible to natural decay and deterioration. In books, apart from paper the other materials used are board, cloth, leather, thread, ink, adhesives. All these materials used are nutrition to some living organisms. So the library materials need protection from factors of deterioration.



## 2. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

### The main objectives of the study are

- + To know the availability of Preservation and conservation of Library Materials at law college libraries.
- + To find out types of library materials held in the law college libraries
- + To identify the major preservation challenges facing the law college libraries
- + To know the effective practices and techniques of law colleges library materials affiliated to Law University, Hubli.

## 3. METHODOLOGY

Data for this study was collected through the use of a questionnaire, personal observations and literature review. A structured questionnaire was distributed to 100 librarians working in the law college libraries affiliated to Law University, Hubli. About 96% of respondents were received back. The responses received were analyzed. Along with questionnaire method personal observations were also conducted in the library to determine preservation practices, methods and chemicals used to clean the library and also to check the presence of pests.

## 4. DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATIONS

**Table-1: Print and Non Print Library Materials**

S/N	Parameters	Responses in percentage (N=96)					Mean	SD	$\chi^2$	P Value
		1	2	3	4	5				
<b>Print Library Materials</b>										
1	High acidity levels	16 (16.67)	14 (14.58)	18 (18.75)	21 (21.88)	27 (28.13)	3.30	1.44	5.35	0.253
2	Wear and tear due to excessive photocopying	05 (5.21)	15 (15.63)	18 (18.75)	24 (25.00)	34 (35.42)	3.70	1.24	24.1	0.000
3	Air pollution	09 (9.38)	13 (13.54)	18 (18.75)	21 (21.88)	35 (36.46)	3.63	1.34	20.66	0.000
4	High temperature level	06 (6.25)	15 (15.63)	21 (21.88)	22 (22.92)	32 (33.33)	3.61	1.26	19.1	0.000
5	Relative humidity	11 (11.46)	18 (18.75)	19 (19.79)	22 (22.92)	26 (27.08)	3.35	1.35	6.39	0.171
6	Excessive light	27 (28.13)	14 (14.58)	19 (19.79)	19 (19.79)	17 (17.71)	2.84	1.47	4.83	0.305
7	Dust particles	16 (16.67)	14 (14.58)	19 (19.79)	17 (17.71)	30 (31.25)	3.17	1.43	8.27	0.082
8	Biological agents (cockroaches etc.)	13 (13.54)	12 (12.50)	15 (15.63)	25 (26.04)	31 (32.29)	3.51	1.40	14.62	0.005
9	Bad shelving	09 (9.38)	12 (12.88)	20 (20.83)	18 (18.75)	37 (38.54)	3.65	1.35	24.72	0.000

10	Wear and tear due to overuse	15 (15.63)	14 (14.58)	21 (21.88)	15 (15.63)	31 (32.29)	3.34	1.45	10.66	0.030
11	Poor shelving	16 (16.67)	18 (18.75)	16 (16.67)	24 (25.00)	22 (22.92)	3.19	1.41	2.75	0.600
12	Students riot	-	-	29 (30.21)	30 (31.25)	37 (38.54)	4.08	0.82	65.97	0.0001
<b>Non Print Library Materials</b>										
1	Oxidation	7 (7.29)	11 (11.46)	18 (18.75)	29 (30.21)	31 (32.29)	3.69	1.24	23.58	0.000
2	Magnetism	12 (12.50)	14 (14.58)	18 (18.75)	29 (30.21)	31 (32.29)	3.44	1.37	16.43	0.002
3	High humidity and heat	16 (16.67)	11 (11.46)	21 (21.88)	19 (19.79)	29 (30.21)	3.35	1.44	9.2	0.056
4	Moisture	02 (2.08)	17 (17.71)	19 (19.79)	27 (28.13)	31 (32.29)	3.71	1.15	26.08	0.000
5	Dust	11 (11.46)	15 (15.63)	17 (17.71)	23 (23.96)	30 (31.25)	3.48	1.37	11.5	0.021
6	Biological agents (terminate, etc.)	12 (13.54)	17 (17.71)	18 (18.75)	16 (16.67)	32 (33.33)	3.39	1.44	12.09	0.016
7	Atmospheric pollutants	-	15 (15.63)	15 (15.63)	30 (31.25)	36 (37.50)	3.91	1.07	41.81	0.0001
8	Excessive light	10 (10.42)	14 (14.58)	34 (35.42)	24 (25.00)	14 (14.58)	3.19	1.17	19.83	0.000
9	Biological agents	03 (3.13)	09 (9.38)	22 (22.92)	21 (21.88)	41 (42.71)	3.92	1.14	44.41	0.000

Key: 1 – Very High; 2 – Above Average; 3 – Average; 4 – Below Average; 5 – Very Low; SD = Standard deviation; N=Number of Respondents; Numbers in Parentheses Indicates Percentage;  $\chi^2$  = chi-square; P = Probability; P < .05 – Significant; P > .050 – Not Significant.

### PRINT LIBRARY MATERIALS

The Causes of Deterioration faced by the librarian is 'High acidity levels' for which the respondent's biggest choices 'Very Low' scoring 27 representing 28.13 percent. Followed by the choice 'Below Average' scoring 21 (21.88 percent). Causes of Deterioration Print Library Materials - with a mean value of 3.30 and SD being 1.44.

For 'Wear and tear due to excessive photocopying', as a reason for the causes of deterioration Print Library Materials in the library, the respondents who say is 'Very Low' score 34 representing 35.42 percent; followed by 'Below Average' 24(25.00 percent). The responses for the choice 'Average' Thus, Wear and tear due to excessive photocopying - with a mean value of 3.70 and SD being 1.24.

One more reason for Causes of Deterioration Print Library Materials in the library is 'Air pollution', the respondents who say 'Very Low' scores 35 representing 36.46 percent; followed by 'Below Average' scores 21 (21.88 percent) responses; number of respondents who say 'Average' Thus, Air pollution - with a mean value of 4.60 and SD being 0.51.

The Causes of deterioration adopted is 'High temperature level' for which the respondent's main choice

is 'Very Low' scoring 32 representing 33.33 percent; followed by, the choice 'Below Average' scoring (22; 22.92 percent); whereas, for the choice 'Average' scoring 21 (21.88 percent); High temperature level – with a mean value of 3.61 and SD being 1.26.

The important Causes of deterioration adopted are 'Relative humidity' for which the respondent's main choice is 'Very Low' scoring 26 representing 27.08 percent. Followed by, the choice 'Below Average' scoring (22; 22.92 percent); Thus, Relative humidity - with a mean value of 3.35 and SD being 1.35.

Another reason for Causes of deterioration in the library 'Excessive light' respondents chosen 'Very High' scoring 27 representing 28.13 percent; whereas, equal scores for the choices 'Below Average' and 'Average' scores 19 (19.79 percent) responses each; so also, 'Very Low' scores 17 (17.71 percent) responses; Thus, Dust particles - with a mean value of 3.17 and SD being 1.43.

The important Causes of deterioration adopted is 'Biological agents (cockroaches etc.)' for which the respondent's main choice is 'Very Low' scoring 31 representing 32.29 percent. Followed by, the choice 'Below Average' scoring (25; 26.04 percent); whereas, for the choice 'Average' Biological agents (cockroaches etc.) - with a mean value of 3.51 and SD being 1.40.

The respondent's main choice is 'Very Low' for 'Bad shelving' with score of 37 representing 38.54 percent; followed by 'Average' with a score of 20 (20.83 percent)., Bad shelving - with a mean value of 3.65 and SD being 1.35.

Another reason for Causes of deterioration in the library 'Wear and tear due to overuse' respondents chosen 'Very Low' scoring 31 representing 32.29 percent; whereas, equal scores for the choices 'Below Average' and 'Above Average' Thus, Wear and tear due to overuse - with a mean value of 3.34 and SD being 1.45.

For 'Poor shelving' of document, the respondent's choice is 'Below Average' scoring 24 representing 25.00 percent Thus, Poor shelving - with a mean value of 3.19 and SD being 1.41. The Causes of deterioration by the librarian is 'Students riot' for which the respondent's biggest choice 'Very Low' scoring 37 representing 38.54 percent. Thus, Students riot - with a mean value of 4.08 and SD being 0.82.

### NON PRINT LIBRARY MATERIALS

In case of the Causes of deterioration - 'Oxidation', the respondents main choice is 'Very Low' scoring 31 representing 32.29 percent; Thus, Oxidation - with a mean value of 3.69 and SD being 1.24. Regarding the Causes of deterioration - 'Magnetism', the respondents main choice is 'Very Low' scoring 29 representing 30.21 percent; Magnetism - with a mean value of 3.44 and SD being 1.37. For 'High humidity and heat' as a Causes of deterioration, the respondents main choice is 'Very Low' scoring 29 representing 30.21 percent; High humidity and heat - with a mean value of 3.35 and SD being 1.44.

Other kind of deterioration 'Moisture', the respondents main choice is 'Very Low' scoring 31 representing 32.29 percent; Moisture - with a mean value of 3.71 and SD being 1.15. Whereas, for the deterioration 'Dust', the respondents main choice is 'Very Low' scoring 30 representing 30.25 percent; with a mean value of 3.48 and SD being 1.37.

Similarly for the deterioration 'Biological agents (terminate, etc.)' in the document, the respondents main choice is 'Very Low' scoring 32 representing 33.33 percent; Biological agents (terminate, etc.) - with a mean value of 3.39 and SD being 1.44. The respondent's main choice is 'Very Low' for 'Atmospheric pollutants' with score of 36 representing 37.50 percent; Atmospheric pollutants - with a mean value of 3.91 and SD being 1.07.

In case of 'Excessive light' the choice of the respondent's is 'Average' score of 34 representing 35.42 percent; Excessive light - with a mean value of 3.19 and SD being 1.17. Similarly for the deterioration 'Biological agents' in the document, the respondents main choice is 'Very Low' scoring 41 representing 42.71 percent; Biological agents - with a mean value of 3.92 and SD being 1.14.

**Table-2: Digital Preservation Techniques**

S/N	Digital Preservation Techniques	Responses in percentage (N=96)					Mean	SD	$\chi^2$	P value
		1	2	3	4	5				
1	Refreshing (Periodical copying from one physical medium to another)	08 (8.33)	21 (21.88)	17 (17.71)	34 (35.42)	16 (16.67)	3.30	1.22	18.89	0.000
2	Technology preservation (Replicating any old configuration of hardware and soft ware)	15 (15.63)	08 (8.33)	31 (32.29)	27 (28.13)	15 (15.63)	3.20	1.26	18.79	0.000
3	Migration (transfer of digital materials from one generation of computer technology to a subsequent generation)	18 (18.75)	19 (19.79)	21 (21.88)	17 (17.71)	21 (21.88)	3.02	1.42	0.66	0.956
4	Emulation (Preservation the original application program)	7 (7.29)	11 (11.46)	33 (34.38)	29 (30.21)	16 (16.67)	3.58	1.25	26.70	0.000
5	Encapsulation (Creating the original application that was used to create or access the digital object on future computer platforms)	15 (15.63)	18 (18.75)	26 (27.08)	11 (11.46)	26 (27.08)	3.01	1.31	9.31	0.053

The librarians were asked to indicate the different types of digital preservation techniques to library collection. The responses collected were presented in the table 4-26 which depicts, which depicts, the preservation techniques - 'Refreshing (Periodical copying from one physical medium to another)', the respondents main choice is 'Dissatisfied' scoring 34 representing 35.42 percent;

Regarding the digital preservation - 'Technology preservation (Replicating any old configuration of hardware and soft ware)', the respondents main choice is 'Neither' scoring 31 representing 32.29 percent; with a mean value of 3.20 and SD being 1.26. Other kind of digital preservation - 'Migration (transfer of digital materials from one generation of computer technology to a subsequent generation)', the respondents main choice is 'Very dissatisfied' and 'Neither' scoring have equal responses of 21 (21.88 percent) each. with a mean value of 3.20 and SD being 1.26.

For 'Emulation (Preservation the original application program)' as a digital preservation, the respondents main choice is 'Neither' scoring 33 representing 34.38 percent; Emulation (Preservation the original application program) - with a mean value of 3.58 and SD being 1.25. Regarding the digital preservation - 'Encapsulation (Creating the original application that was used to create or access the digital object on future computer platforms)', the respondents main choice is 'Very dissatisfied' and 'Neither' scoring have equal responses of 26 (27.08 percent) each. with a mean value of 3.01 and SD being 1.31.

**Table-3: Purpose of adopting Digital Preservation Techniques**

S/N	Digital Preservation Techniques	Responses in percentage (N=96)					Mean	SD	$\chi^2$	P value
		1	2	3	4	5				
1	To provide equipment to protect the original materials while in use	33 (34.38)	17 (17.71)	19 (19.79)	22 (22.92)	05 (5.21)	2.47	1.31	21.08	0.000
2	To make library resources accessible	35 (36.46)	15 (15.63)	22 (22.92)	19 (19.79)	05 (5.21)	2.42	1.30	24.83	0.000
3	To ensure long term survival of library resources	36 (37.50)	07 (7.29)	17 (17.71)	20 (20.83)	16 (16.67)	2.72	1.54	23.27	0.000
4	To provide security and safety of library resources	36 (37.50)	10 (10.42)	22 (22.92)	20 (20.83)	08 (8.33)	2.52	1.38	26.08	0.000
5	To provide an extremely attractive environment for the use of books	38 (39.58)	15 (15.63)	21 (21.88)	12 (12.50)	10 (10.42)	2.39	1.38	26.60	0.000
6	To provide means for adequate electricity supply, fan and air conditioner in the library	50 (52.08)	18 (18.75)	15 (15.63)	08 (8.33)	05 (5.21)	1.96	1.22	67.43	0.000

7	To promote and encourage vest practices in records management	50 (52.08)	14 (14.58)	15 (15.63)	12 (12.50)	05 (5.21)	2.04	1.28	64.93	0.000
8	To promote an end to wasteful use of non renewable information resources.	36 (37.50)	14 (14.58)	21 (21.88)	16 (16.67)	09 (9.38)	2.46	1.38	22.22	0.000
9	To enhance education of library users as well as members of library staff on the best	31 (32.29)	08 (8.33)	23 (23.96)	20 (20.83)	14 (14.58)	2.77	1.45	15.97	0.003
10	way of handling library resources	44 (45.83)	24 (25.00)	8 (8.33)	13 (13.54)	07 (7.29)	2.11	1.31	49.52	0.000
11	To train and develop staff appropriately in preservation and conservation techniques	44 (45.83)	24 (25.00)	8 (8.33)	13 (13.54)	07 (7.29)	2.11	1.31	49.52	0.000

The first purpose of adopting preservation and conservation practices the librarian is 'To provide equipment to protect the original materials while in use' biggest choices 'Strongly agreed' scoring 33 representing 34.38 percent. with mean value of 2.47 and SD Being 1.31.

The purpose of adopting preservation and conservation practices the librarian is 'To make library resources accessible' biggest choices 'strongly agreed' scoring 35 representing 36.46 percent. with mean value of 2.42 and SD Being 1.30.

Yet for one more purpose of adopting preservation and conservation practices the librarian is 'To ensure long term survival of library resources' biggest choices 'strongly agreed' scoring 36 representing 37.50 percent. with mean value of 2.72 and SD Being 1.54. Yet for one more purpose of adopting preservation and conservation practices the librarian is 'To provide security and safety of library resources' biggest choices 'strongly agreed' scoring 36 representing 37.50 percent. with mean value of 2.52 and SD Being 1.38. The respondent's main choice is 'Strongly agreed' for 'To provide an extremely attractive environment for the use of books' with score 38 representing 39.58 percent. To provide an extremely attractive environment for the use of books – with mean value of 2.39 and SD Being 1.38.

The respondent's main choice is 'Strongly agreed' for 'to provide means for adequate electricity supply, fan and air conditioner in the library' with score 50 representing 50.08 percent. To provide means for adequate electricity supply, fan and air conditioner in the library – with mean value of 1.96 and SD Being 1.22. The respondent's main choice is 'Strongly agreed' for 'To promote and encourage vest practices in records management' with score 50 representing 50.08 percent. To promote and encourage vest practices in records management – with mean value of 2.04 and SD Being 1.28.

The respondent's main choice is 'Strongly agreed' for 'To promote an end to wasteful use of non renewable information resources.' with score 36 representing 37.50 percent. To promote an end to wasteful use of non renewable information resources – with mean value of 2.46 and SD Being 1.38. The respondent's main choice is 'Strongly agreed' for 'To enhance education of library users as well as members of library staff on the best' with score 31 representing 32.29 percent. To promote an end to wasteful use of non renewable information resources – with mean value of 2.77 and SD Being 1.45.

The respondent's main choice is 'Strongly agreed' for 'way of handling library resources' with score 44 representing 45.83 percent. way of handling library resources – with mean value of 2.11 and SD Being 1.31. The purpose of adopting preservation and conservation practices the librarian is 'To train and develop staff appropriately in preservation and conservation techniques' biggest choices 'strongly agreed' scoring 44 representing 45.83 percent. To train and develop staff appropriately in preservation and conservation techniques – with mean value of 2.11 and SD Being 1.31.

## 5. MAJOR FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

### Major findings of the study are:

- The Causes of Deterioration faced by the librarian is 'High acidity levels' for which the respondent's biggest choices 'Very Low' scoring 27 representing 28.13 percent. Wear and tear due to excessive photocopying', as a



reason for the causes of deterioration Print Library Materials in the library', the respondents who say is 'Very Low' score 34 representing 35.42 percent.

- Causes of Deterioration Print Library Materials in the library is 'Air pollution', the respondents who say 'Very Low' scores 35 representing 36.46 percent.
- 'Relative humidity' for which the respondent's main choice is 'Very Low' scoring 26 representing 27.08 percent.
- 'Biological agents (cockroaches etc.) for which the respondent's main choice is 'Very Low' scoring 31 representing 32.29 percent. 'Bad shelving' with score of 37 representing 38.54 percent.
- 'Oxidation', the respondents main choice is 'Very Low' scoring 31 representing 32.29 percent; with a mean value of 3.35 and SD being 1.44.
- 'Excessive light' the choice of the respondent's is 'Average' score of 34 representing 35.42 percent; with a mean value of 3.92 and SD being 1.14.
- About 33 representing 34.38 percent; Emulation (Preservation the original application program) - with a mean value of 3.58 and SD being 1.25.
- To ensure long term survival of library resources' biggest choices 'strongly agreed' scoring 36 representing 37.50 percent.
- To provide means for adequate electricity supply, fan and air conditioner in the library' with score 50 representing 50.08 percent.

## 6. SUGGESTIONS

A good policy on preservation and conservation of print as well as non print materials should be formulated. The library staffs should apply advance preservation and conservation techniques such as lamination, binding, minor repairs of books before getting deteriorated. At least semi professionals or professionals staff have to be deputed/recruited for preservation of conservation activities. The parent organization should provide hand on training to library staff for conducting preservation and conservation activity in their library effectively. .

## 7. CONCLUSION

The study investigated the preservation and conservation of library materials in law college libraries affiliated to Hubli. Many scholars and national and international agencies have emphasized the need for preservation of these resources. UNESCO has brought out the guidelines for preservation of rare materials. Governments of many countries such as UK, USA, France etc., have formulated national. These rare materials are in different forms such as palm leaves, manuscripts, out of print books and journals, atlases, rare photographs, drawings, stones, coins and antiquities. Most of the Law college libraries which are suffering from Lack of funding, un proper infrastructure facilities, lack of knowledge about preservation and conservation, practices, techniques, untrained manpower skills how to handle the preservation and conservation techniques, no written policy, outdated hard ware and software, administration problems etc. This study provides suggestions on preservation and conservation techniques which can be adopted.

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