Challenges in Preservation and Conservation of Literary Material

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Abstract- The premise of the present study is to find out problems faced while preservation and conservation of literary material in Indian scenario. The idea of this study is also to identify whether the old literature has been preserved or conserved by Indian libraries in any ways and different ways to preserve and conserve library material, main problems for deterioration of print material, hindrance to effective preservation or conservation of library material.

Index Terms- Conservation, preservation, library material, literary heritage

I. INTRODUCTION

Libraries in older days only keep printed material such as books, periodicals, newspaper cuttings, manuscripts, etc., but modern libraries keep other material such as paintings, drawings, charts, maps CDs, DVDs, audio and video recordings, films, microfiches, microfilms, art reproductions, computer software, online database, external hard disk or server for backup and other digital material. So all the printed and non printed material of library needs preservation and conservation to make it in the readable and presentable condition and for future use.

Preservation and conservation of library heritage are very important as it could be related to social, economic, political, historical, law or religious and could be used for future purpose. Preservation and conservation of library heritage are vital so that other generations can take advantage of it. It is the duty of the head of the institution and management to draft a policy to preserve or conserve rare or old material in different ways.

Now-a-days many big libraries are taking efforts to preserve and conserve library material, but more efforts are required by other small libraries in this area also.

The idea behind applying both preservation and conservation is to safeguard library, literary heritage from harm / loss, damage, destroying / decay and maintaining it in good condition for present and future use. It is important to distinguish between preservation and conservation to understand it fully.

Preservation and conservation are commonly used interchangeably. Preservation means regular maintenance of library material, whereas Conservation means the remedial treatment and restoration of the already damaged material.

II. LITERATURE SURVEY

The concept of preservation and conservation of literary heritage is not new. In olden days also libraries are using binding, cleaning, pasting, etc. to preserve the printed material. So to preserve non printed material multiple some techniques like copies of CD or floppy or backup of hard disk has been done. The brief description of literature studied from 1981 to 2015 is given below. Henderson (1981), describes preservation and conservation of library material by preparing a committee to examine environmental conditions, the history of previous disasters, making disaster plan, different preservation activities, creation of a comprehensive preservation program etc. Clements (1987) has conducted a survey and presented in detail about problems such as environmental, building, biological, change in preservation condition, handling / use by the general public. The resources available in the institution for preserving material, preservation of special documents, different properties of different documents, education and training, policy development and implementation measures, treatment options available etc. Kademanl (2003), presented about the BARC library preservation program. The modern library has to preserve not only traditional media of learning, but also modern media of learning such as CD-ROM, DVD, photographs, and microfilms and also adopt themselves with the changing technology and changing scenarios. Sahoo, Jyotshna (2005), stated in detail about different factors responsible for deterioration of library material such as environmental, biological, chemical, human factors, disasters and also provided preventive measures against all these factors. Adekanni and Wahab (2015) have conducted a survey in selected libraries of Nigeria to identify different types and frequencies of deterioration of library material, causes of deterioration of library material, preservation and conservation techniques adopted for print and non-print material from by different libraries and use of ICT in preservation and conservation of library material.

III. DIFFERENT WAYS TO PRESERVE AND CONSERVE LIBRARY MATERIAL

The library material can be conserved in different ways such as physical, chemical, photocopying / reprographic and digital conversation.

i. Physical Conversion: Mending, repairing and binding, cleaning and dusting, shelving library material for the free flow of air, lamination, installing air-conditioners, adequate security

ii. Chemical Conversation: use insecticide to reinstate brittle and damaged book, fumigation to destroy eggs and larvae of insects and termites, encapsulation

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iii. **Photocopying / Reprographic:** through photocopying and microfilms are taken
iv. **Digital conservation:** scanned and copied in CD and DVD, replicating of old CD / hard disk or server backup

IV. **MAIN CAUSES OF DETERIORATION OF LIBRARY MATERIAL: PRINTED MATERIAL**

There are various causes of deterioration of print material. Some of them are: High acidity levels, wear and tear due to more usage and photocopying and rough handling, air pollution, high temperature in the library, relative humidity, high light, dust, termite, spiders, cockroaches, congested or bad shelving etc.

**Non-printed material**

The causes for deterioration of non print material is due to rough handling which causes scratched in CD or DVD, dust, wavy pack, air-conditioning temperature, humidity etc.

V. **MAIN HINDRANCE TO EFFECTIVE PRESERVATION OR CONSERVATION OF LIBRARY MATERIAL**

1. Lack of Digital qualified staff and trained personnel
2. Lack of complete infrastructure
3. Lack of training to the existing staff
4. Severe environment conditions
5. Hardware or software not available
6. Lack of library committee or management initiative
7. Lack of written policy on preservation or conservation
8. Lack of finance

VI. **RECOMMENDATION AND SUGGESTIONS**

1. The library should list down the preservation and conservation techniques for print and digital material.
2. The library should find out the reasons for proper conservation or preservation policy and find out its solution.
3. In case of any natural calamities like fire, flood, etc. there should be written plan.
4. In every library there should be fire detection and suppression system installed.
5. In the library budget there is proper provision of allocation of amount for preservation / conservation of library heritage
6. The library should find out the cause of deteriorating of print or digital material.
7. Workshops should be conducted and different training courses should be started for preserve and conserve library material in different ways
8. Training should be given to operate different equipments such as microfilm cameras, fire extinguishers, scanners, photocopying, copying in CD and DVD, server backup, etc.

9. The librarian should give awareness to the management / higher authority/ library committee about the preservation and conservation of library material
10. “Prevention is Better than Cure” this philosophy should be adopted by libraries of all institutions.
11. Librarian should learn to adapt themselves with the changing technology and changing scenario.

VII. **CONCLUSION**

After reading the literature survey, it is observed that Indian institutions have adopted preservation and conservation techniques for printed material but digital material is overlooked. Almost all the institutions have adopted mending, repairing and binding, cleaning, dusting, shelving, laminating, installing air-conditioners, adequate security, fire extinguishers, use of insecticide, fumigation, photocopying for library material so that its life can be increased. Still these libraries lack scanning, microfilming, and conversion of DVD and CD and replicating digital material such as CD and DVD, timely server backup due to finance, manpower, and crunch of digital and other resources.

**REFERENCES**


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