

Libraries as Centers for Disseminating Indian Knowledge Systems

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ABSTRACT

The broad and varied Indian Knowledge System (IKS) results from thousands of years of combining historical knowledge, scientific breakthroughs, and cultural legacies. As guardians of knowledge, libraries play a crucial role in creating, advancing, and maintaining this system. For India's knowledge systems to be preserved and shared, libraries are essential. They facilitate learning, promote literacy, and give individuals access to knowledge. By capturing, digitizing, and documenting traditional knowledge, libraries also contribute to its preservation. A library maintains both traditional records like books, journals, and newspapers as well as non-traditional documents like charts, maps, and so forth. is essential in forming our civilization. Through books and other resources, it transmits and disseminates the knowledge that has been gathered. Instrument knowledge, intellectual knowledge, and spiritual knowledge are the three general categories into which knowledge is divided.

KEYWORDS: intellectual knowledge, libraries, information dissemination, and the Indian knowledge system.

INTRODUCTION

Libraries are essential for official and informal education, research and development, cultural endeavors, spirituality, leisure, and amusement. Libraries are well known for their capacity to connect people to knowledge and each other. Supporting libraries and the profession: In addition to promoting state and federal policies that benefit libraries and library users, the group actively works to increase public awareness of the critical role that libraries and librarians play and to provide the resources, education, and support networks that local communities need. The systematic technique of promptly providing each reader with the most recent information according to their particular area of interest is known as "selective dissemination of information." To pass on information to the following generation, society needed to preserve it. Libraries and information centers have a new function in the contemporary information society. This is because more people are using electronic services and web-based information sources. Because of their effective work organization and adaptable communication system, libraries are also being run more democratically. They also focus on the needs of their customers.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Sarkhel, J. K. (2017). Libraries act as repositories of indigenous knowledge and are essential to the preservation, promotion, and defense of indigenous communities' traditional knowledge, cultural history, and local expertise. They promote intercultural understanding, creativity, and sustainability in addition to aiding in the revival, acknowledgment, and dissemination of indigenous knowledge. Libraries continue to be significant keepers of indigenous knowledge in the contemporary world, helping to ensure that it is understood, cherished, and conserved for future generations.

Mishra, S. (2016). The most radical phase of the information society's evolution began at the end of the 20th century and was the fourth of four transformative stages. With the advent of information and communication technology, this stage has brought about an ongoing transformation. The fall of the industrial sector in comparison to the thriving, information-rich service industry is one example of the exceptional events that have occurred during this time and have had a significant impact on the social structure.

OBJECTIVES

- **Preservation**

Libraries gather, catalog, and store traditional knowledge in order to preserve it.

- **Funding for research**

Research that advances and clarifies conventional knowledge is supported by libraries.

- **Digitization**

To make conventional information more accessible, libraries establish digital repositories.

- **Sharing Information:** especially traditional wisdom, is shared by libraries with the general public.

The Indian Knowledge System (IKS): What is it?

In subjects like mathematics, medicine, philosophy, and more, the IKS incorporates tribal knowledge and traditional teaching techniques.

The National Manuscript Mission (NMM), the Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL), and the National Digital Library of India (NDLI) is a few examples of libraries and information hubs that preserve traditional knowledge.

Libraries act as repositories of traditional documents, support educational initiatives, and allow research-all of which add to the Indian Knowledge System. The study also examines the challenges libraries face in this endeavor and offers solutions to raise their profile in the digital age. Through a review of the literature and case studies, this study highlights the vital role libraries play in protecting India's intellectual heritage and promoting its development in the present era.

Libraries Contribution to IKS Preservation

1. Manuscript Preservation

Large collections of ancient manuscripts written on paper, birch bark, and palm leaves may be found in several Indian institutions, including the National Library in Kolkata and the Sarasvati Mahal Library in Thanjavur. Scholars and researchers studying the Indian Knowledge System can gain a lot of knowledge from these works.

- **Case Study:** The Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute in Pune has a renowned manuscript collection, particularly for its Sanskrit literary holdings. It is crucial to the preservation of the literature needed to understand ancient Indian philosophy and science.

2. Archiving Digitally

In the digital age, knowledge storage and accessibility have undergone a substantial shift.

To ensure preservation and greater accessibility, libraries are increasingly digitizing their collections. The National Mission for Manuscripts, which aims to scan and conserve manuscripts across India, is one notable initiative in this field.

- For instance, the Digital Library of India effort has digitized thousands of texts, making them available online to scholars worldwide.

IKS Promotion in Libraries

1. Assisting with Education and Research

Libraries are important resources for scholars, researchers, and students who are interested in the Indian Knowledge System. They facilitate access to both primary and secondary sources of knowledge, which encourages learning and research.

2. Outreach and Community Involvement

Libraries frequently engage in community outreach initiatives to promote awareness and understanding of the Indian Knowledge System. They organize discussions, displays, and other cultural activities that highlight India's rich literary history.

Issues Libraries Facing

Although they face numerous challenges, libraries have significantly aided in the growth of the Indian Knowledge System.

- **Financial Restraints:** Many libraries struggle with a lack of funding, which makes it challenging for them to expand and preserve their holdings.
- **Technological Limitations:** The transition to digital platforms requires significant expenditures in infrastructure and technology, yet many institutions lack these resources.
- **Skill Development:** Librarians require ongoing training in order to effectively manage digital resources and support research.

Techniques to Improve Library Contributions

There are several strategies that libraries can employ to improve their role in developing and expanding the Indian Knowledge System:

- **Collaborative Networks:** Creating partnerships with academic institutions, governmental bodies, and international organizations can provide additional resources and expertise.
- **Public-Private Partnerships:** Including private companies in digitalization projects might help them obtain funding and technical assistance.
- **Capacity Building:** By funding training initiatives, librarians can enhance their capacity to support research endeavours and oversee digital collections.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, libraries are essential to the development, promotion, and preservation of the Indian Knowledge System. By adapting to technological advancements and addressing contemporary concerns, libraries can maintain their crucial role in conserving India's intellectual heritage. Through deliberate initiatives and partnerships, libraries can significantly contribute to making the Indian Knowledge System an important and crucial part of global knowledge.

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