

**GENERIC STUDY ON "DIGITIZING AND INTERPRETING OLD MANUSCRIPTS" – EXEMPLARY OF THE INDIAN ANCIENT SCRIPTS WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO AYURVEDA****Disha Roshan Bhakta**

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**ABSTRACT**

*Bibliotheca is the most ancient and fascinating place which stores the deepest knowledge on how the world operates, what it conserves and how it evolved. Bibliotheca is a Greek Latinized word which describes a public place for reading books, magazines and other scripts. Many great and life-changing phenomenons have taken place on this earth since the time of its inception. The only way to see what happened in past and have an imagination of it is to visit Bibliotheca. People have recorded what they have seen in form of writing. The paper talks about the ancient writings and how Bibliotheca has preserved it. It also emphasis on how digitized world is helping for a better conservation and preservation. The paper focuses on the older manuscripts of Indian heritage revealing information on Ayurveda and its peripherals. Ayurveda is a conventional medicinal system having its roots in India. It comprises of knowledge and science together which helps in living life in longevity. This paper helps to understand on whether the manuscripts can be made public and if technology can help to interpret them. Also how technology can derive knowledge from them and help future connecting the past assets.*

*Keywords: Library, manuscripts, Sanskrit scripts, Ayurveda manuscripts, Digitization, digital library, manuscripts digitization, ayurveda, knowledge systems.*

**SCOPE**

The paper focuses on study of Indian manuscripts which are not yet digitized. It takes in consideration the ancient scripts which needs preservation. Ayurveda scripts are the major component the paper is considering. It also emphasizes on how technology and artificial intelligence can help in preserving and understanding the manuscripts in an easy and efficient way. The paper limits its area to Indian academic and monastic libraries, although there are many Indian manuscripts outside India. Ancient paintings and scriptures are not taken into consideration. Artificial system will gradually develop considering the available knowledge and new inputs provided by researchers.

**INTRODUCTION**

Languages have played a great role to the world that we see today. Library is a place which is outcome of the languages evolved. However the languages that we use today for communication, reading, writing have their evolution. When we say these the very first image that comes to our mind is the manuscripts written by ancient people. In India Sanskrit is referred as an oldest and the powerful language. Information from the past is a major bridge to what we see in present. There have been many events which had taken place in Indian history and the source of them could be the ancient manuscripts which may now have been published in variety of languages. In ancient times the way to record the events was to write it and preserve it for the next generation. The writing was used to be on various leaves, wood and at times even stone. In a very diligent way it was preserved and passed on. Indian history holds a very special place in these writings as they are something which reveals some fundamental aspects of life. Some special references are "Bhagwad-Gita", "Upanishads", "Vedas", "Manuscripts by Saint Kabir" and many more on religious grounds. India also has a large literary collection of old manuscripts. "The constitution of India", "Rare letters of Mahatma Gandhi" is some of the manuscripts which hold a great place with respect to political grounds. Indian history holds a special place in field of medicinal science as it is the biggest reservoir of Ayurvedic scripts. Library is place where we get an opportunity to see all these great work and we can also feel them. Researchers always are in quest of this information and their interpretation as they reveal some of the rare things. Various bodies like National Mission for Manuscripts (NMM), Manuscript conservation center (MCC) are working in collaboration with libraries to preserve the scripts. Many academic libraries are having sections for these scripts which can be studied. Initially these libraries were known as Monastic Libraries.

**OBJECTIVES**

- To study the status of the manuscripts in the libraries.
- Understanding the method by which these libraries store these manuscripts and how they preserve them.
- Challenges faced while preserving the scripts.
- How frequently readers, researchers and academicians get an access to these scripts

- Does the ayurvedic scripts are referred by the pharmaceutical companies who have their brand name in Ayurveda.
- How digitization of these scripts will help the libraries as well the readers and researchers
- How technology can help in better understanding of these scripts and how we can extract better knowledge from it.
- How Indian preserved knowledge can reach out a global scope by digitizing it.

**RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

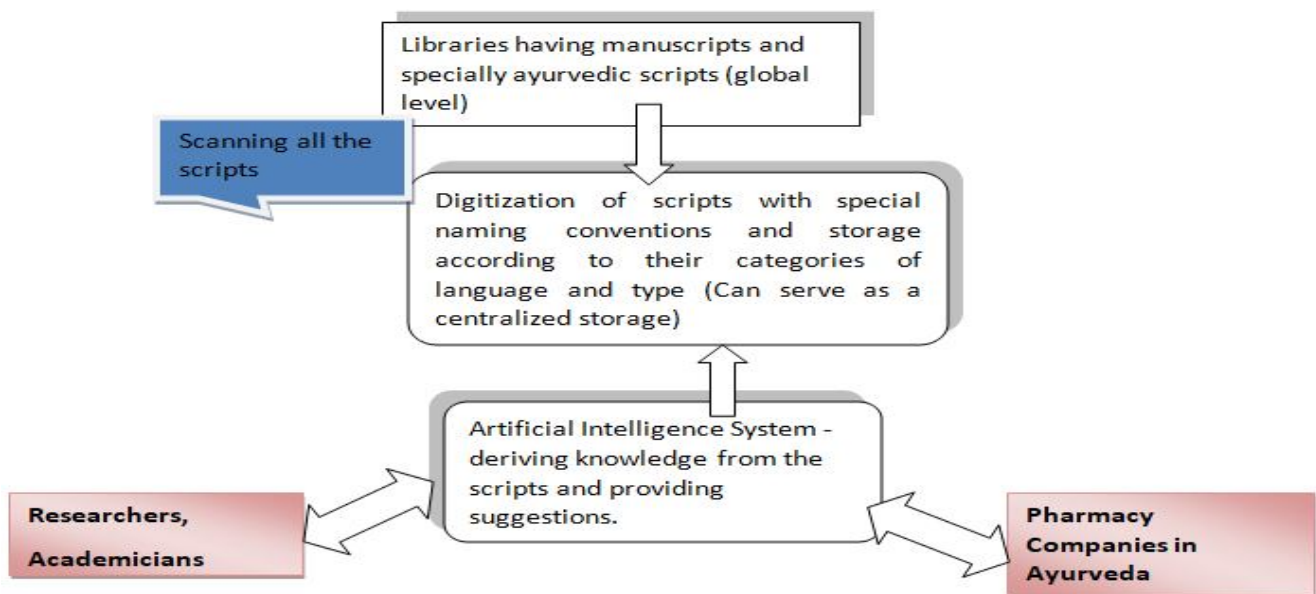
The first step required it to collect the information on how many and which types of manuscripts are available. It has to be found out to which libraries hold these manuscripts and their preservation techniques need to be understand. There are many libraries outside India also which has a large preservation of Indian manuscripts.

According to Scindia Oriental research Institute, India the total manuscripts available in India in 5 million approximately. Indian manuscripts available in European countries are 60,000 approximately and an Indian manuscript available in Asian counties is 150,000 approximately. As per the Department of Archaeology, Government Oriental Manuscripts Library and Research Center has a preservation of 50,180 palm leaf manuscripts, 22134 manuscripts and 26,556 rare printed books (Department of Archaeology - <http://www.tnarch.gov.in/>).Ministry of Culture is having Manuscript Resource Centers and Manuscript Conservation Center in collaboration with National Culture Fund, Incredible India, and Museums of India. Libraries in all the zones of India as well as outside India have manuscripts with the writing in Sanskrit with which a medicinal branch Ayurveda has come. These libraries and manuscripts have to be identified as they will be used for the research scholars’ understanding Ayurveda across the globe.

The current system will take information of these and also segregate the information on the basis of its storage and language used. The system will have provision to scan all the manuscripts received and store in an appropriate way without its originality being lost.

An artificial intelligence system can work on these scripts and help us to derive the knowledge the scripts are embossed with. This system will also help to compile and connect the existing knowledge with the knowledge the scripts are providing. It can prove very useful to the pharmaceutical companies and their researchers who are working under Ayurveda medicines. The system can always take new knowledge derived by researchers and can pass on it to next level. This will help all the scripts to be located at one place and allowing all the global researchers to have an access on it. There by passing the knowledge preserving it in a better way.

**Brief Model On Working Of The System**



The model has two works on two levels. Initial level will be gathering the information and next level will be proper storage of it. For the first phase also technology can help to collect the information of such manuscripts from the libraries and ask them to put the images of them by scanning them at a specialized storage. Libraries not having such facility can always take aid from the organizations funded by Government which are working in these areas.

Once the information is collected it can be stored at a centralized server with proper naming conventions. The naming conventions will help to quickly access them. The next step is to design software that can access the information and present to the user as and when required. Also the model will have proper authorization levels to do so. The information will be segregated to its type. Even Ayurveda itself has many levels, so the system will also aid in keeping the information to that levels. By this stage information of the manuscripts is digitized and is accessible.

Artificial Intelligence will play a role in learning these scripts and deriving knowledge from them. Also it will help in translating the scripts to different languages. Once the knowledge is generated it can get clubbed with the knowledge of research scholars and a better study can be performed. Years by years the knowledge will be rich enough for growth on Ayurveda. Pharmaceutical companies can be beneficial by this knowledge. Also small medium entrepreneurs can take Ayurveda to a next level. And lastly all the day to day remedies can be suggested by this system.

### **INTERPRETATION AND SUMMARIZATION**

The model will help digitization of Indian manuscripts which are holding special information on ayurvedic medicinal branch. It will aid academicians and scholars as this information can be used and some inventions in field of ayurveda can be possible. The information will aid readers to use Ayurveda and its remedies in their daily life as first level cure. The artificial system using Natural Learning will become much stronger and in turn can support as a back bone and central platform for ayurvedic learning. The advantage is that the knowledge and information from other sources can be linked at a single place thereby providing much broader view of the content.

### **FUTURE SCOPE**

The model can integrate the information on a global level. It can club with Internet of Things providing a visual realization of the knowledge derived. Libraries can share information on a global platform. The geographical boundaries in doing a research can get a different level. Libraries will be a source of information provider as well as knowledge generator.

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