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Preservation and Conservation Practices of Print Materials in Selected College Libraries in Yadagir District of Karnataka :A Study

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Abstract

According to the findings of this study, library materials are being preserved and conserved in selected college libraries in Karnataka's Yadagir district using a variety of techniques. This includes the use of various preservation and conservation strategies, the presence of these strategies, and the constraints that prevent successful preservation and conservation. To acquire data, a survey was conducted. Researchers discovered that despite the fact that all college libraries have preservation policies, preservation and conservation measures were not being successfully implemented. Cleaning and dusting library objects was also found to be the most often employed strategy, according to the study. The study found that there are instances of deterioration, with the most common result being books that have been shredded, cacked, and scratched by the elements. The lack of funds was found to be the most significant impediment to effective preservation and conservation initiatives in college libraries, according to other research. Recommendations were given to improve preservation and conservation processes in the libraries in light of the findings.

Keywords : Collections Preservation and Preservation of Library Materials at Colleges

INTRODUCTION

Essentially, libraries are memory institutions tasked with the task of collecting and organizing cultural and scientific legacy in order to preserve it for future generations. It is the responsibility of the library to acquire, process, and disseminate its information to the public, and these materials wear and tear as a result of their constant use. To maintain and protect the library's print resources. The materials' lifespan must be extended at all

costs. It's better to think of "conservation" as a dynamic intervention in the repair of goods that have deteriorate or degraded. As a service to their patrons, libraries collect and preserve various types of information-bearing materials, such as magazines, maps, and more. To ensure that these materials are always available for consultation and use, they must be in excellent physical shape.

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The phrase "preservation" refers to the practice of preserving objects in as close to their original state as possible, or until their use has expired. This job of the librarian, according to Rufus Choate, is to ensure that rare books and archive materials are protected against the effects of environmental, physical, chemical, and biological elements. One of the purposes of preservation is to gather and preserve documents from both the past and the present so that they can be used by both present and future generations. The term, preservation, conservation and restoration is used as a part of the guidelines which are the simple definitions used by Wesley L. Boomgard.

Preservation – Action taken to anticipate, prevent, stop or retard deterioration

Conservation – The maintenance taken to anticipate, prevent, stop or retard deterioration. Restoration – The act of returning the deteriorated item to its original or near original condition. Objectives of the Study

The specific objectives are

1. To explore the preservation and conservation techniques in use in selected college libraries in Yadagir district.

2. To investigate if there is a preservation and conservation policy used in these libraries.

3. To find out the types of deterioration experienced in these selected college libraries.

4. To examine the level of degradation of resource experienced in these selected college libraries.

5. To find out the constraints against effective preservation and conservation of library materials in the selected colleges.

METHODOLOGY The research was conducted using a survey method. College libraries in the Yadagir district of Karnataka State were the subject of widespread public interest. Pre-study visits to the Yadagir colleges led to the discovery that preservation and conservation procedures were not as prominent in all of the college libraries surveyed. A total of 15 colleges and universities with some preservation and conservation methods were selected as a result of this. List of the colleges' libraries is shown in Table 1. The librarians were chosen as the study's focus group because they were in the best position to provide all of the pertinent information on the topics under consideration.

Table 1: List of Selected Colleges

Sl.No.	Name of the Colleges
1	Matoshree Mallamma College
2	Yashodha Degree College
3	Panchasheela Degree College
4	Huligeppa Degree College
5	Nalanda Degree College
6	Shreeraksha Degree College
7	Aadarsha Degree College
8	Maharaj Degree College
9	Surabhi Degree College
10	Yeshashwini Degree College

11	BasavaDegreeCollege
12	ArundhatiDegreeCollege
13	PriyadarshiniDegreeCollege
14	MNBaliDegreeCollege
15	BabugoudaDegreeCollege

DataCollectionandAnalysis

Data was gathered using a structured questionnaire and separated into six segments (See Figure 1). To ensure a high rate of return, copies of the questionnaire were personally administered.

Structure of the Questionnaire

Section A: elicited demographic data about the colleges and libraries

Section B: collected data on the general use of preservation and conservation of library materials

Section C: asked questions about the patterns and strategies in preserving and conserving print library materials

Section D: asked questions on the nature and extent of degradation of library materials
Section E: found out the existence of preservation and conservation policy, and

Section F: asked questions on barriers affecting preservation and conservation practices.

All the fifteen (15) copies of the questionnaire directed were returned giving a 100 % response rate. Descriptive statistics, namely frequency and percentage distributions, were used to present patterns in the data.

NATURE AND EXTENT OF DEGRADATION OF PRINT AND LIBRARY MATERIALS

Table 2 below respectively presented the results of the analysis of the nature of degradation of Print and Library Materials in the surveyed college libraries.

Table 2: Nature and Extent of Degradation of Print and Library Materials.

Nature of Degradation of Print Library Materials	No Extent	Little Extent	Very Great Extent
Mutilation of library material	1(6.7)	5(33.3)	9(60.7)
Vandalization of library material	3(20.0)	6(40.0)	6(40.0)
Broken spine of library material	0(0.00)	8(53.3)	7(46.7)
Books becoming torn	1(6.7)	3(20.0)	11(73.4)

The results show that „ books becoming torn“ is the most noteworthy nature of degradation of print library materials in the surveyed college libraries. This is followed by „ mutilation of library materials“ while „ broken spine of library material“ is next. Minimal nature of degradation of print library materials is „ vandalization of library materials.

CAUSES OF DETERIORATION OF PRINT MATERIALS

Table 3 presents the result of the analysis of the various causes of deterioration of print materials in the surveyed colleges.

Table 3: Causes of Deterioration of Print Materials

Print Library Materials	No Extent	Little Extent	Very Great Extent
High acidity levels	4(26.7)	5(33.3)	6(40.0)
Wear and tear due to excessive photocopying	0(0.00)	4(26.7)	11(73.4)
Air pollution	4(26.7)	7(46.7)	4(26.7)
High temperature level	5(33.3)	5(33.3)	5(33.3)
Relative humidity	4(26.7)	7(46.7)	4(26.7)
Excessive light	6(40.0)	6(40.0)	3(20.0)
Dusts and particulate matters	6(40.0)	3(20.0)	6(40.0)
Biological agents (termite, spiders, cockroaches, etc.)	4(26.7)	7(46.7)	4(26.7)
Bad shelving	4(26.7)	9(60.7)	2(13.3)

The results showed in table 3 demonstrate that „ wear and tear“ is the significant reason for deterioration of print materials in the Belgau district college libraries. This is followed by „high acidity level“ and „dusts and particulate matters“. While „ high temperature level“ is

next. Nonetheless, minimal reasons for deterioration of print materials in the Belgau district college libraries are „bad shelving“ and „excessive light“.

PRESERVATION AND CONSERVATION TECHNIQUES OF PRINT MATERIALS

The result of the analysis of the Preservation and Conservation Techniques of Print Materials are presented in table 4.

Preservation and Conservation Techniques	No Response	Never	Occasionally	Very Often
Binding	0(0.00)	0(0.00)	3(20.0)	12(80.0)
Fire Fighting equipment	0(0.00)	0(0.00)	4(26.7)	11(73.4)
Air conditioning	0(0.00)	1(6.7)	3(20.0)	11(73.4)
Photocopying	0(0.00)	0(0.00)	2(13.3)	13(86.7)
Deacidification	11(73.4)	2(13.3)	1(6.7)	1(6.7)
Use of insecticide	0(0.00)	1(6.7)	10(66.7)	4(26.7)
Cleaning and dusting	0(0.00)	0(0.00)	0(0.00)	15(100.0)
Adequate security	0(0.00)	1(6.7)	1(6.7)	13(86.7)

Table 4 shows that the most used preservation and conservation technique of print materials in the college libraries is by „cleaning and dusting“ these materials. This is „adequate security“ is taken after. Be that as it may, minimal methods of preservation and conservation of print materials are „Deacidification“ and „use of insecticide“. This circumstance uncovers that the most useful technique used as a part of preservation and conservation print and materials in the college libraries is cleaning and dusting.

PRESERVATION AND CONSERVATION POLICY IN THE COLLEGE LIBRARIES

Table 5: Preservation and Conservation Policy in the College Libraries

Policy	Yes	No
Does the library have preservation and conservation policy?	13(86.7)	2(13.3)
Is the policy written?	12(80.0)	3(20.0)
Is the policy obeyed?	11(73.4)	4(26.7)
Does it guide staff?	12(80.0)	3(20.0)
Is the policy helping the security of the library?	14(93.3)	1(6.7)
Does the policy address disaster?	10(66.7)	5(33.3)

Table 5 shows that the college libraries are having a standing preservation and conservation policy, which is written, obeyed and it serves as a guiding instrument to the security of print materials. Yet, the policy fails to address the issue of disaster management.

CONSTRAINTS AGAINST EFFECTIVE PRESERVATION AND CONSERVATION OF LIBRARY MATERIALS

The constraints against effective preservation and conservation of library materials in the college libraries are displayed in table 6.

Table 6: Constraints against effective preservation of Library Materials

Possible Constraints	No Extent	Little Extent	Very Great Extent
Inadequate funding of the library	1(6.7)	5(33.3)	9(60.7)
Lack of competent manpower	8(53.3)	3(20.0)	4(26.7)
Lack of preservation and conservation policy	0(0.00)	0(0.00)	0(0.00)
Inadequate infrastructure	2(13.3)	4(26.7)	9(60.7)
Administrative bottlenecks	3(20.0)	4(26.7)	8(53.3)
Harsh environmental conditions accelerating library materials depreciation	2(13.3)	5(33.3)	89(53.3)

Deficiency of funds is the biggest problem facing libraries, according to Table 6. Insufficient infrastructure, administrative bottlenecks, and harsh weather conditions increasing library materials depreciation follow. Despite this, "lack of qualified labor" and "lack of preservation and conservation policy" are not viewed as barriers to advancement. To put it another way, college libraries face infrastructure and administrative issues rather than policy or human resource challenges in completing their preservation and conservation efforts. This has revealed that the preservation and conservation strategies in these libraries are incredibly convincing and that they have a qualified team handling library operations.

DISCUSSION

The study's findings revealed that cleaning and dusting of information items is the most commonly used practice and approach for conserving print library materials in college libraries, whereas pesticide is the least commonly used. Library contents are deteriorating at an alarming rate due in large part to excessive photocopying and mistreatment by users, as well as overuse of the items. This finding supports Olabodoe (2005), who indicated that library items degrade due to use, excessive light, and dust. The study uncovered that library

materials in the college libraries also suffer from high acidity and high temperature levels, although bad shelving and excessive light are the slightest issues that the libraries confront.

The chemical degradation of materials is accelerated when high temperatures and high humidity are present at the same time. They also have a significant impact on some biological agents' ability to proliferate. Insect activity is heightened when the relative humidity is high because it supplies the moisture necessary to initiate damaging chemical reactions in materials. Depending on the substance, low relative humidity might cause it to harden and become brittle.

As a result of frequent and irresponsible usage of the materials, the results show that books being shredded and then broken spines are the most remarkable deterioration types found in print library materials. The best constraint against viable preservation and conservation of library materials is inadequate funding. Other constraints that affected the libraries were administrative bottlenecks and harsh environmental conditions that accelerate library materials depreciation.

CONCLUSION

The results of this study demonstrate that conservation and preservation methods are understood in the libraries of the Yadagir College, but they have not yet been perfected due to a few notable obstacles that have not been identified. Policy choices and initiatives are recommended as a result of these findings.

Conservation and preservation procedures necessitate specialized information experts who are familiar with the physical and chemical properties of the library's collections. Although majority of the surveyed libraries have preservation policies setting out rules for conservation and preservation of library materials, such policies should be implemented and reviewed into every once in a while to cater to new challenges and emerging technologies.

We believe that this study will help college libraries get started on conservation efforts for their valuables. As a result, libraries will have a better understanding of the physical requirements of records and will be able to satisfy or expand national and international standards for the preservation of these documents. The study's findings are critical to the decision-making process. In light of the preservation and protection of library materials in Belgaum, it is clear that there is virtually no research into the construction of the city. In this approach, the recommendations made in the evaluation are likely to shed light on the allocation of finances and the decision-making process. Libraries in Belgaum, India, may be affected by the study's findings if the essential activities are put into place to implement the study's suggestions.

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