

DIGITAL PRESERVATION METHODS & THEIR ADOPTION IN THE MAJOR LIBRARIES OF KERALA

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DIGITAL PRESERVATION

- **Digital Preservation refers to preservation of materials that are created originally in digital form and never exists in print or analogue form and the use of imaging and recording technologies to create digital materials for access and preservation purposes.**

RELEVANCE OF DIGITAL PRESERVATION

- **Ensures protection of information for future access**
- **Digitized materials can be easily searched and retrieved**
- **Requires less space for storage**

STEPS IN DIGITAL PRESERVATION

- **Step up a team for preservation task**
- **Provide a suitable environment for storage and handling for physical format.**
- **Identify electronic materials in the collection that require preservation.**
- **Formulate a policy on priorities for preservation.**
- **Create metadata for long term access.**
- **Examine technological changes in hardware and software.**
- **Identify a suitable strategy for preservation in library environment.**

CHALLENGES IN DIGITAL PRESERVATION

- **Fragile storage media**
- **Technology obsolescence**
- **Legal questions surrounding copying and access.**

CRITERIA FOR DIGITAL PRESERVATION

- **Longevity**
- **Access**
- **Choice**
- **Quality**
- **Integrity**

DIGITAL PRESERVATION GUIDELINES

- **Identifying the responsibilities of the archive**
- **Adopt appropriate selection guidelines**
- **Securing archived items from intentional or unintentional alteration.**
- **Providing contextual documentation including a history of creation, transmission and audit trails.**
- **Describing digital object completely**

PROBLEMS IN DIGITAL PRESERVATION

- **Increasing complexity of digital objects and their increasing software dependence.**
- **Lack of planning to incorporate preservation needs in systems and lack of availability of off-the-shelf products supporting preservation needs.**
- **Lack of consideration of long-term access requirements when creating digital products.**
- **The absence of widely-accepted standards which will assure access over time.**
- **Copyright/intellectual property rights that may interfere with the availability to preserve digital objects through systematic copying.**
- **Unstable storage media.**
- **Lack of technical expertise and preservation experts.**
- **High cost**

CURRENT PRESERVATION STRATEGY

- **Refreshing:** Copying of digital file from one storage medium to another. Ex. Data stored in several CD's will be fit in one DVD.
- **Migration and formatting:** Process of transfer files periodically from one format to another format or one generation of computer to latest generation of computer.
- **Emulation:** Creating new software that mimics the operations of older hardware and software in order to reproduce its performance.
- **Encapsulation:** Technique of grouping together a digital object and metadata necessary to provide access to that object. This overcome the problems of the technological obsolescence of file formats.
- **Out to paper or microfilm:** Outputting a hard copy of a digital file.
- Maintaining appropriate **metadata**.

DIGITAL PRESERVATION OF STATE CENTRAL LIBRARY, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

- **Digitized 707 books in the I phase, 400 books in the II phase and in the III phase they are digitizing Gazette.**
- **Using Nitya Archives software for digitization.**
- **Scanned data is converted in PDF format.**
- **Documents are indexed and final images are exported into server.**
- **All the materials are stored in backup server.**
- **Continuous backup in DVD is maintained in addition to an external hard disk server.**

DIGITAL PRESERVATION OF KERALA UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

- **Digitized 951 old books and 1074 old periodicals.**
- **Using LIDAS software for digitization.**
- **Scanned pages are edited in adobe Photoshop Professional and then converted in PDF format.**
- **Books are indexed manually. Final images along with key terms are loaded in the software.**
- **All the materials are stored in backup server.**

DIGITAL PRESERVATION OF KERALA LEGISLATURE LIBRARY

- **Digitized Assembly proceedings in two phases. In the I phase digitized 1 lakh and 32,000 pages and in the II phase 4 lakh pages**
- **Using Bookeye software**
- **Documents are scanned, edited and stored in CD.**
- **All the materials are stored in backup server.**

DIGITAL PRESERVATION OF KERALA SAHITYA ACADEMY, THRISSUR

- **Digitized 1500 documents . Periodicals include Mangalodayam, Rasika Ranjini and Unninamboothiri.**
- **Using Grantha software.**
- **Scanned pages are converted in PDF Format.**
- **Key terms are indexed manually and loaded in the software.**
- **All the materials are stored in 2 servers and in 2 CDs.**

FINDINGS

- **All the libraries under study use proprietary digital library softwares though there are number of open softwares available in the internet.**
- **All the four libraries are depending mainly on their server, backup CD and hard disk for future storage.**
- **All the four libraries are following the same methods for preserving their digital materials.**
- **Libraries under study are not depending latest preservation strategies and techniques.**

SUGGESTIONS

- **Libraries should use modern technology for preserving its digital materials.**
- **Open source softwares should also be used for digitising process .**
- **Proper coordination among these libraries should be maintained. This facilitates effective resource sharing.**
- **Necessary steps should be taken to give more training programmes to library staff**
- **Libraries should allocate more finance for digitising materials and for its preservation.**
- **Considerable research is needed in this field to bring effective solutions to the problems of long-term preservation.**

CONCLUSION

- **Libraries in Kerala are not effectively using the modern technologies for preserving their digital resources. All the libraries under study use traditional digital preservation methods like storing in server, back up CDs and external hard disk drive. Libraries in Kerala should use latest technologies for preserving digital resources in a resource sharing environment. Careful consideration of the technical issues will help to ensure long-term accessibility of digital materials.**



THANK YOU

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