

NEED AND PURPOSE OF MANUSCRIPT CATALOGUES FOR INDOLOGISTS – A STUDY

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Abstract:

Indologists, generally called Sanskritist, needs of these scholars research begins from Manuscript Catalogues of various oriental libraries/ Universities/Special Research Institutions at national and international level. This study reviewing the importance, difficulties' facing for compiling manuscript catalogues.

Keywords: User needs, Manuscript catalogue, Indology

1. Introduction:

Manuscripts in India have a long tradition. They were produced in all parts of country with the availability of writing material; they are in many languages and scripts with a wide range of religious, philosophical, literature, traditional medicine systems and various parts of subjects. These treasures of Indian culture such as the literary outputs of centuries old sages, poets, epic writers were preserved in the medium of manuscripts and stone structures in numerous temples, monasteries and museums. Of these, the literary productions were written and preserved for the posterity from ancient times in various materials such as the palm-leaf, birch bark, cloth, etc. The introduction of printing press and the eventual printing of books in paper in the modern period and latest digital environment almost completely put an end to the ancient tradition of writing in palm-leaf and the techniques of their preservation. At the beginning of the 20th century some very important institutions were founded at different parts of the country which housed the manuscripts collected from various parts from the individuals and other ancient religious institutions. The present study makes an attempt how importance of Manuscripts and their catalogues Indologists. Critical editions of many texts were undertaken on the basis of these manuscripts catalogue. It will be interesting to note that at the beginning of the 19th century many editions of Puranas, Vedas, Agamas, Sanskrit Vyakaranas (Panini), Jyotisa, Indian philosophies, Traditional medicine system in Sanskrit and in the regional languages of Bharat were able to produce with this type catalogue or hand list of the manuscripts housed in different parts of India.

2. Objectives

- To create awareness and stress the importance of this primary source for Indologists researchers.
- To exhibit difficulties facing compilers of manuscript catalogues.
- To find is there any standards adopting
- Possibilities of Union Catalogues

3. Need and purpose of Manuscripts catalogues

The publication of a book is announced in various ways by trade catalogue, through papers, book reviews of a leading research journal, forums, digital medias, e sales, and so on. However manuscripts are unique, available only in Manuscript Oriental Libraries/Institutions, Indological Institutions, Old University Libraries and few important religious places for a particular texts. For indology scholars, Catalogue of manuscripts is an indispensable tool for research in Sanskrit texts in critical manner, comparing the text and studying its style of presentation, version and variation are important parts of research. This need of Indologists is fulfilled only through Descriptive Catalogue of Manuscripts published from manuscript libraries in India and abroad.

Cataloguing of manuscripts in a very detailed and comprehensive way which is called Descriptive Catalogue is one of the highly important for Indologists. This catalogues should have detailed information of :-

- Alphabetical inventory of Works name,
- Author name,
- Collaborator name,
- Commentary name
- Language and script
- The number of the leaves, the average number of lines on each page, and the number of Slokas to be calculated in the native fashion.
- Age of the Manuscripts
- Measurement of the actual leaves, number of columns and lines to a page.
- Complete or incomplete
- Substance on which written, and character
- Remarks- condition of the manuscripts
- Provenance, or source of collection
- Name of the scribe
- Beginning and ending slokas/passages or words

- Colophon
- Contents

4. Ethics of Compiler of Manuscript Catalogues:

The task of compiling and editing a descriptive catalogue of MSS is not only laborious, but also beset with many difficulties. For the compiler is not only to be well-versed with the details of the contents of the varied subjects dealt with in them, for which he has to go through the entire text of each MSS, but he is also required to arrange the folios of each the MSS bundle in order from the mass of the mixed up and disarrangement leaves, let alone, the decipherment of the old script knowledge, some of the MSS might have wrongly labeled, during the process of preservation time there is a chance of assigning two / three or more entry numbers. The primary work involved in cataloguing arrangement of folios of a particular manuscript bundle. The source of manuscripts, its history owner and the places where the manuscript has been preserved – Provenance. Required sound knowledge of cataloguing tables according to the structure and general pattern approved by concern Institutions. Cataloguer is not expected to undertake critical studies. He will only record facts objectively. His record should be intended as basis for textual criticism, rather than criticism itself.

5. NMM Role

National Mission for Manuscripts was established in 2003 with a vision and mission to save five million Indian traditional treasures of manuscripts. NMM has created 57 resource centres across the country with prime motive of identifying and taking survey of all the existing manuscripts. At present NMM has brought out three important publications of Manuscript catalogues. NMM has an ambitious program of publishing descriptive catalogues of all the collections of resource centres.

Important landmark of NMM is “Kritisampada: National Database of Manuscripts “this database contains author name, title, commentator and so on. It is only a draft version in future there is going to be big change. For more information please visit following link: <http://www.namami.org/pdatabase.aspx>

6. Conclusion

Manuscript catalogues published from various institutions in and out of India is to create awareness of the availability of manuscripts in various formats. But still it is first primary source for indology scholars from PG students to Research scholars for comparing different editions, styles of writing and commentaries and so on. As it is the main source for the users of indology field, compilers of Manuscript catalogue should develop a standard tool for the purpose of resource sharing and to save the time of users.

7. Bibliography.

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Manuscripts submitted for review may contain graphs in embedded form (i.e., between the text) so to facilitate the review process. However, when submitting a manuscript for production, text and graphics with appropriate resolution need to be uploaded separately. Reviews. Prospective authors of reviews are requested to send an e-mail to Prof. Alberto Escarpa at alberto.escarpa@uah.es containing the contents of the planned review and a justification for publication of the article in MCA. Types of Papers. Original Papers. First indologists of the department, E.Ya. Lyusternik and Yu.V. Petchenko were engaged in research of national liberation movements in India, the development of Russian-Indian relations, as well as the country's economy. Currently, two indologists I.Yu. Kotin and E.V. Smirnova, are working at the Department, providing courses on Indian history, geography, ethnography, as well as a number of special courses on topical issues of Indology. Institute of Oriental Manuscripts, RAS. The Institute was founded on the basis of Saint-Petersburg department of the Institute of Oriental Studies RAS in 2007. It is one of the oldest centers of oriental studies in Russia, first established as "Asiatic Museum" in 1818. Need and Purpose of Manuscript Catalogues for Indologist. August 2015. Narenthiran R. Abstract: The study provides an outlook on the various digitization tools and techniques for library materials - manuscripts, printed documents and archiving materials. The term "digitization" was coined in the late 1990s. Many libraries still do not make use of this useful technique at the root levels for the benefit of research user community. To overcome this hurdle, here the researchers have [Show full abstract] presented the digital initiation in India at national level in addition to the relevant tools, software, techniques, file formats, storage and other techniques.