

## Preservation And Conservation Practices Of Print Materials In Selected College Libraries In Bagalkota District Of Karnataka : A Study

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### Abstract

This study examined the different techniques utilized as a part of the preservation and conservation of library materials in selected college libraries in the district of Bagalkota of Karnataka especially, it investigate the causes and nature of deterioration, patterns and techniques utilized as a part of their control, presence of preservation and conservation strategies and constraints restricting successful preservation and conservation. The survey technique was used to gather information. Findings uncovered that preservation and conservation strategies, however adopted in the college libraries were not viably being used in spite of the fact that the libraries all have preservation policies. The review also uncovered that cleaning and dusting of library materials is the most commonly used technique. The study built up that there are indeed incidences of deterioration of the most prominent outcome being books becoming torn and c racking and scratching. Other findings uncovered that inadequate funding was the most serious inhibitor to compelling preservation and conservation activities in the college libraries. In view of the discoveries, recommendations were made towards enhancing preservation and conservation practices in the libraries.

**Keywords :** Conservation, Library materials, Preservation, Preservation arrangement, College Libraries

### INTRODUCTION

Libraries work as memory organizations, whose mission is to gather, sort out, preserve and encourage the use of cultural and scientific heritage. The library works as knowledge house which is entrusted with the obligation of acquiring, processing and disseminating its information to users and because of steady utilization these materials wear and get torn. To preserve and conserve print materials in the library.

It is extremely essential to prolong the life of the materials. The term, “ conservation, is best comprehended to mean a dynamic intervention in the repairs of items, which has deteriorated or degraded. Libraries acquire and preserve information bearing assets, for example, periodicals, maps and so on, to meet the information prerequisites of its customer base. For the life of these materials in great physical condition, with the goal that it can be made accessible and counseled at all times.

The term ‘ preservation’ is the maintenance of items near to their original condition, similarly as

far as possible, or until they are not required anymore. According to Rufus Choate, “ The book is the only immortally”, subsequently, it is duty of the librarian to see that rare books and archive materials get saved from the ecological, physical, chemical and biological factors. One of the functions of preservation is to gather the documents of the past and the present and to keep and maintain them so that they are accessible to both present and future users.

The term, preservation, conservation and restoration is used as a part of the **guidelines which are the simple definitions used by Wesley L. Boomgaarden.**

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

**Conservation** – The maintenance taken to anticipate, present, 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 Bagalkota 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 the selected college libraries.
4. To example the level of degradation of resources experienced in the selected college libraries.
5. To find out the constraints against affective preservation and conservation of library materials in the selected colleges.

## METHODOLOGY

The study adopted the survey approach. The populace involved college libraries in Bagalkota

district of Karnataka State. Purposive sampling was adopted in selecting the college libraries surveyed inferable to pre-study visits that drove to the disclosure that preservation and conservation practices were not that pronounced in all the Bagalkota colleges.

Hence, a sum of fifteen college libraries with some level of preservation and conservation practices was purposively chosen. Table 1 displays a list of the selected college libraries. The target participants were the librarians, since they were in the best position to give all the vital information concerning the issues being considered in the study.

**Table 1 : List of Selected Colleges**

Sl. No.	Name of the Colleges
1	Shri S R Kanthi College of Arts, Commerce & Science College Mudhola
2	Vijayamahanteshwar College of Arts, Science & Commerce Ilakalla
3	Sri Rajasekhar Gurushantappa College of Arts & Commerce Banahatti
4	Danigond Commerce College Teradal
5	Siddhartha Shiksha Mahavidyalaya Jamkhandi
6	Samuel Memorial College of Commerce Mudhol
7	Sri Sadashiva Shiksha Mahavidyalaya Moodhola
8	Shri Kalidas College of Arts and Commerce Gudoora
9	Grameen Kala Mahavidyalaya Kamtagi
10	Devendrappa Naik Graduate College Koodalasangama
11	Siddalingeshwar Gramin Kala Mahavidyalaya Sirur
12	Shri Parappa Sangappa Sajjan Kala Mahavidyalaya Bevoor
13	Shri Galava Maharshikala and Vanizyam Mahavidyalaya Galagali
14	Swami Vivekananda First Grade College Belagi
15	K M Pattanshetty Graduate College Badami

## Data Collection and Analysis

Data was gathered using a structured questionnaire separated into six segments. 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 college 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 Belgaum 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 Belgaum 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)
Photo coping	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 in 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 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 the 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)

Table 6 indicates that the greatest constraint confronting the libraries is 'inadequate funding'. This is followed by 'inadequate infrastructure' while 'administrative bottlenecks' and 'harsh environmental conditions accelerating library materials depreciation' was following other constraints. However, 'lack of competent manpower' and 'lack of preservation and conservation policy' are not seen as constraints. In different words, the college libraries are not confronted with policy or human resource problems, but instead, infrastructure and administrative problems in completing their preservation and conservation activities. This has uncovered that the preservation and conservation policies in these libraries are extremely compelling and they have skilled staff handling of library activities

### DISCUSSION

The result of the study uncovered that the most utilized practice and techniques in the conservation and preservation of print library materials in the college libraries is cleaning and dusting of information materials, while the slightest utilized techniques is the use of insecticide. The results also show that the significant reason for deterioration of library materials is wear and tear due to a great extent to over the excessive photocopying of the information materials by users and excessive use and mishandling of the materials. This finding corroborates Olabodoe (2005) who stated that wear and tear, excessive light and dust are responsible for the deterioration of library materials.

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 combination of high temperature and high humidity rushes the chemical deterioration of materials. These factors also play a major role in the multiplication of some biological agents. High relative humidity provides the moisture to promote harmful chemical reactions in materials and in blend with high temperature, enhances insect activity. To a great degree, low relative humidity may lead to parching and brittleness of specific materials.

On the nature and degree of degradation of print library materials, the outcomes demonstrate that the most astounding nature of degradation is books being torn, followed by broken spines, being a consequence of frequent and careless use of the materials.

The best constraint against viable preservation and conservation of library materials in inadequate funding. Other constraints that affected the libraries were administrative bottlenecks and harsh environmental conditions that accelerate library materials depreciation.

### CONCLUSION

This study has shown that conservation and preservation techniques are perceived in the selected Bagalkota college libraries, however the techniques are not completely honed because of a few hindrances outstandingly lacking finding. Based on these findings, the accompanying policy options and strategies are suggested.

There should be adequate and trained manpower in the libraries for conservation and preservation programmes and activities to succeed on the grounds that conservation and preservation activities are particular and require information experts who understand the physical and chemical nature of the materials in their library holdings. 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.

It is trusted that this review may give college libraries the key bearing they require to start any conservation measures for the assurance of their possessions. Doubtlessly, it will likewise help the libraries to comprehend the physical needs of records and to meet, or expand, nationally and internationally agreed standard for their preservation. Knowledge generated from the study forms a vital part in the decision-making process. It is obvious that there is almost no looked into construct information in Bagalkota in light of conservation and preservation of library materials. In this way, recommendations given in the review are probably going to illuminate the decision-making process and allotment of funds for better preservation activities and programmes. Training and education of library personnel and conservation and preservation practices in Bagalkota libraries could be affected by the after-effects of the study provided the recommendations are sought after with the necessary activities they require.

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