Heritage Documents Collection in Connemara Public Library and Government Museum, Chennai: An Overview

Dr. S. Lakshmi* & R. Jawahar Babu**

*Librarian & Head, Department of Library & Information Science, Srimad Andavan Arts & Science College (Autonomous), Tiruchirapalli-620005
**Assistant Professor, Department of Library & Information Science, Srimad Andavan Arts & Science College (Autonomous), Tiruchirapalli-620005

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ABSTRACT
This paper focuses on heritages documents collection available in Connemara Public Library and Government Museum, Chennai. This paper examines about the availability of religious books, rare books, and rare government documents in Connemara public library Chennai. This paper also discusses the availability of various sculptures of different periods which are preserved as heritage resources in Government museum Chennai. This paper suggest for a proper preservation method for the heritage documents in Connemara Public Library Chennai.

Keywords: Documentation, Heritage Documentation, Religious Books, Gazettes, Sculptures, Government Museum, Connemara Public Library, Rare Books, Advantages of Documentation.

Introduction:
Heritage and cultural documents are the priceless and irreplaceable assets for each nation. The loss through deterioration or disappearance of these cultural and heritage documents leads to preservation. The heritage and cultural documents tells us about the traditions, the beliefs and achievements of any country and its people. The heritage documents can be preserved by many methods including 3D Scanning, Photogrammetry, Natural and Artificial preservatives...etc. The heritage documents are much preferred to collect the historical information. Effective heritage documentation practice relies on the availability of public data sources and assessment tools to convey information to investigators, conservators, and the general public. Emerging communication technologies on the Internet can provide, with higher level of quality, new analysis and visualization tools for Cultural Heritage Preservation. Open-source software provides the opportunity to build low-cost information systems allowing conservation and documentation departments with modest resources access to modern data analysis and visualization tools.

About Connemara Public Library Chennai:
The Connemara Public Library was established in the year 1890 and has become public library in the year 1896. The Connemara Public Library became state central library in 1948 and it is one of the four national depository libraries in India which receives a copy of all books, newspapers, periodicals published in India. Connemara Public Library is a repository of centuries-old publications, wherein lie some of the most respected works and collections in the country and it also serves as a depository Library for the United Nation.

The Connemara Library was as part of a cultural complex and having a vast collection of books, a periodicals hall, a reference room, a video room, an entire floor for books from the Indian languages, a Braille Library and an IAS study centre.

About Government Museum Chennai:
The Government museum in Chennai is started in 1851 and it is the second oldest museum in India after Indian Museum in Kolkata. The museum is built in Indo-Saracen style and the National Art Gallery is also located in the museum premises. The museum has eleven sections covering both art and science subjects. The Government museum Chennai is reputed for its prestigious Bronze collections, Pre historic and Proto historic antiquities, Adhichanallur megalithic collections, Amaravati Sculptures, Excellent collection of Indian coinage, Ravivarma paitings and for its natural history collections.

Objectives of this study
- To find the heritage documents available in Connemara Public Library
- To identify the rare collections documented in Connemara Public Library
- To know the rare government documents preserved in Connemara Public Library
To find out how the old collection of resources are preserved in Connemara Public Library

To find the various collections placed in Government Museum Chennai.

Documentation

S.C. Bradford defines documentation as the art of collecting, classifying and making readily accessible the records of all kinds of intellectual activity.

In 1957, Ralph R. Shaw said that the word documentation is used to mean any process connected with the "Identification, recording, organization, storage, recall, conversion into more useful forms, synthesis and dissemination of intellectual content of the print or any other recorded materials.

In essence documentation is the act of identifying, collecting, processing and making available the records of intellectual activity for maximum use.

Heritage Documentation

Documentation is a set of documents provided on paper or online or on analog or digital media such as tapes or CDs. Documentation is distributed via websites, software products and other online publications.

UNESCO has defined cultural heritage in its draft medium-term plan (1990-1995) (UNESCO, 25 C/4, 1989, p.57), as the entire corpus of material signs – either artistic or symbolic – handed on by the past to each culture and therefore to the whole of humankind. As a constituent part of the affirmation and enrichment of cultural identities, as a legacy belonging to all humankind, the cultural heritage gives each particular place its recognizable features and is the storehouse of human experience. The preservation and the presentation of the cultural heritage is therefore a cornerstone of any cultural policy.

UNESCO defines cultural heritage resources are monuments, architectural works, works of monumental sculpture and painting including cave dwellers and inscriptions, and elements, group of features of particular value from the point of view of archaeology, history, art or science.

Review of Literature

Crane, G. (2002, September). Cultural heritage digital libraries: Needs and components. This paper describes preliminary conclusions from a long-term study of cultural heritage digital collections. First, those features most important to cultural heritage digital libraries are described. Second, the components that have proven most useful in bootstrapping new collections are listed.

Graham, T. (2003). Electronic access to and the preservation of heritage materials. This paper gives a brief introduction to the Heritage Collection at Auckland City Libraries in New Zealand and notes the significant public support and commitment given to the preservation of heritage material. Auckland City Libraries are doing to ensure the ongoing preservation of and improved access to original heritage resources which are of national significance are outlined and some current and future projects are described.


Smith, L., & Rowley, J. (2012). Digitisation of local heritage: Local studies collections and digitisation in public libraries. This study explores the application of digitisation in the context of public library local studies services. Findings indicate that the local studies services have established a limited online presence, and have used digitisation to some extent to promote and improve accessibility to their collections.

Advantage of Documentation

- Documentation helps to access inaccessible subjects
- Through documentation we can access confessional style of documents
- We can get spontaneous data by documentation
- Documentation is the great source of historical evidence
- Documentation ensures the effective transfer of knowledge and learning
- Documentation facilitates communication of information

Religious Heritage resources in Connemara Public Library

The Connemara Public Library has vast collection of religious heritage books. Some of the remarkable religious books are,

1. Renaissance of Hinduism by D.S. Sarma (1944)
3. Theism in Medieval India by Estin Carpenter; William, S & Narsen Publishers, London (1928)
5. X-Mas message: World is opposing truth Let truth win. By Shantappa C Chakayanar (published in 1958 and priced just 0.80 Paise)

Rare Books collection in Connemara Public Library
The Connemara Library is stocked with large number of rare books. Some of the remarkable rare books are,
1. Fax Artium Libertium HOCEST Thesaurus Criticus By Tomus Tertius. Prodet Francobrytre Publishers, Frankfurt (Published in 1604),
2. Geneva Bible first published in 1560 and first English edition printed in London in 1608 by Robert,
4. Thambiran Vanakkam:Thamizh mozhily mudhal achuputhagam, Published on 20th October 1578 by Peter Theological College, Kollam.
5. Thembavani: Irandam Gaandam authored by Veerama Munivar, Jenmarakkini Madha Kovil Press (published in 1852),
6. Gnanamuraiyin Vilakkam published in 1781 at Tharangambadi Tamil Press,
7. Refutatio Alcorani: This book was first published in 1698 by Typographe seminari in Arabic & Latin translation. Ludocico Marracio Lucensi made commentary,
8. A Grammar of the High Dialect of the Tamil Language called centamil (Grammar of Classic Tamil) by Beschi Canstantino Giuseppe (Veerama Munivar). Translated from Latin by Benjamin Babingo (Published in 1822),
10. Opera Quae Extant Omnia by Plato. Main text is in double columns of Greek and Latin. Commentary is in Latin only published in 1578.

Rare Government Documents in Connemara Public Library
The rare Government document collections preserved in Connemara Library are,
1. Government of India Census report of the year 1961 for each state and each District in the country.
2. Census report of Tamilnadu state in the year 1961
3. Tamilnadu state government gazette from the year 1952 onwards.
4. Tamilnadu Government budget report for the year 1950
5. Tamilnadu Public Service Commission (TNPSC) bulletin from the year 1974 onwards.

Rare Heritage Collections in Government Museum Chennai
The rare heritage collections placed in Government Museum Chennai includes the sculptures of various periods. Some of the remarkable sculptures include
1. Pallava Period (600-850 AD)
2. Early Eastern Chalukya Period (625-900 AD)
3. Early Chola Period (850-1100 AD)
4. Nolamba Sculpture (900-1000 AD)
5. Later Chola Period (1100-1350 AD)
6. Vijayanagara period sculptures
7. Medieval Sculptures / Palar-Senar (750-1300 AD)
8. Nagari Sculpture
9. Early Indigenous Sculpture (0-300 AD)
10. Greek-Buddhist Sculpture (50BC – 300 AD)
11. Gupta Sculpture (300-600 AD)
12. Medieval Kalinga Sculptures (600-1400 AD)
13. Hindu, Amaravathi, Buddhist, Jain Sculptures – God only
14. Snake Stones
15. Memorial Stones
16. Kanarese, Telugu inscriptions
17. Brahmi-Libri – 2nd and 3rd centuries, and
18. Copper plate gallery – Thunduchirpam (Fragment).
All the sculptures are accessioned with register. The sculpture details are written in a board with name and period in Tamil and English languages.

The Very Oldest Book Thambiran Vanakkam in Connemara Public Library, Chennai

The rare book Gnanamurayin Vilakkam preserved in Connemara Library, Chennai

Conclusion
To heritage collections in Connemara Public library includes religious books, rare books of many centuries and rare State and Central Government documents. These heritage collections in Connemara Public Library Chennai plays an important role in research and reference purpose and acts as a source of transforming knowledge to the present generation. The book entitled on Thambiran Vanakkam is the very oldest rare book available in Connemara Public Library which is published in 1578. The rare Government documents available in Connemara Public Library includes Government of India Census report, Tamilnadu Government Budget Reports, TNPSC Bulletin...etc. The rare books in Connemara Public Library are preserved in display table which is covered with glass door and he rare books needs a proper preservation to avoid damage and loss. The sculptures which are available in the Government Museum Chennai, belongs to several centuries of various dynasties acts a source of historical evidence.
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