



Impact of Digitalization in Preserving Historical Monument

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Abstract:

The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) is the apex organization engaged in the work of preservation of monuments and protected sites. For the maintenance of ancient monuments and archaeological sites and remains are of national importance. The entire country is divided into 24 Circles and one mini Circle. The Circles represent the structural conservation Divisions. In addition, there are 10 Directorates for specialized activities.

As the world is changing faster than ever, the Internet of Things, mobility, cloud, big data, augmented reality, block chain, and social media are driving things to the next level of digital engagement. Digital technologies are bringing about unprecedented transformation and changing our work and lives in ways we have never anticipated.

Keywords: Digitalization, preservation and historical monuments.

Introduction

Digitization is growing and active in the regions. Digitization is an innovative technology that continues to resonate with attractive benefits and for the preservation and access to selected archival materials.

Historical records have traditionally been protected through microfilming. The Conservation Unit has also successfully restored some historical records that have been damaged from accidental and general usage over time.

Microfilming has been hindered as a result of the occasional breakdown of the microfilm reader equipment and the expensive cost of replacing microfilming components which are unavailable locally. Historical records on microfilm have therefore not been readily available for use to researchers. Efforts to preserve historical records at the archival facility face a problem in the future. The exposure of historical records to threats of mould, dust and discoloring which may render them unfit for public use. This is the greatest threat.



yet to historical records, which may still suffer destructing, defacing, alteration, mutilation or damage when also made available to researchers.

Digitization:

Digitization is a process of converting, creating, and maintaining books, art works, historical documents, photos, journals, etc., in electronic representation. So they can be viewed via computer and other devices. It is a means or creating digital surrogates of analogue materials such as books, newspapers, microfilm, and videotapes. Digitization can provide a means or preserving the content of the materials.

Digitization appears to offer the solution to preservation problems of historical records. But there are challenges faced in light of the attractive opportunities given by digitization.

Preserving Historical Monuments:

Digitization software and hardware is being used to -digitize selected records.

- Open source software available on Windows XP operating system to carry out digitization.
- The purpose of digitization is dependent on the computer hardware. Optical Character Recognition (OCR) software can be used.
- Records managers and archivists involved with digitization services should be qualified personnel with at least two years' experience.

Preservation Strategies:

- Historical records within the public 'archives can be vested with the copyright of the material.
- Users of digitized historical records are warned against violating the provisions of the Copyright law where inform users that no reproductions or copies can be made in paper, electronic or other format without the express permission of the copyright holder.



- Electronic data security management systems (such as firewalls encryption programs or related logical security mechanisms) that may be used to control digital copying.
- Digitization still remains the most feasible strategy for enabling access to historical records for the greater research community which now constitutes the global village.
- The development of a digitization policy for historical records is important and must be addressed as a matter of urgency to cater for the possible preservation of deteriorating historical records that can be saved from the declining conditions in archival storage.

Challenges of Digitization in Preserving Historical Monuments:

- Absence of a digitization policy programme hinders any concerted efforts to see long-term digitization programmes being implemented.
- The staff requires training and exposure to modern digitization technologies.
- The misconception that digitization will replace paper records technology by most members can result in resentment of the new technology rather than an open arms attitude towards digitization of historical records and archives.
- Digital information is not eye-legible, but depends on a machine to decode.
- It is difficult to ascertain authenticity and integrity if an image, database or text is in digital form.

Conclusion:

Efforts should be to use the digitization as an avenue for those historical records which by reason of national interest and/or their enduring or historical value deserve to be preserved. However, despite the directive and legislative instruction on which heavily depends on, digitization as a programme for the improvement of access and preservation of historical records lags behind and Calls in the shadow of progress being made by regional neighbours. It would appear challenges that hinder the efforts to uptake digitization and benefit from the opportunities it raises for historical records and archives.



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