Digitization of Indian Cultural Heritage
(based on information available with the IGNCA)

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Cultural Diversity of India

5000 years old cultural history
Over 100 crore population
28 states with separate cultural and linguistic diversity
Over 1000 tribal and ethnic groups with their individual cultural identity

Diverse climatic conditions
Leh- Kanyakumari
Thar – Cherapunji

Different Cultural zones
Himalayan Range
Ganga – Bramhputra plain
Western desert
Southern Platue
Central and East India
Components of Cultural Heritage

- Creative and Critical Literature – Textual
- Visual Arts – Architecture / Sculpture / Painting / Graphics / Photography
- Performing Arts – Music / Dance / Drama / Fairs / Festivals / Life Styles
Manuscripts have always remained a major resource of knowledge for any civilization. Indian literature can date its origins to the oral tradition of the Vedas, which are still an integral part of daily life. With 22 Official languages and over 1600 dialects, India's linguistic diversity is extreme. Poetry, drama, fiction, non-fiction and all other literary styles have a substantial corpus in each of India's major languages and in many dialects, while the oral tradition also continues through folk songs, dance and theatre.

Survey, identification and documentation of the manuscripts in India have been done many times in the past. Based on the partial Survey of manuscripts done recently, we have around 6 million manuscripts in India. Manuscripts documented and digitized by the IGNCA can be search and view using the below interface.
Major Textual Digitization Projects in India

- Million Book Project
- NIC
- C-DAC
- Manuscripts digitization projects of IGNCA
- Jain Manuscripts by Jain Visva Bharati Institute
- Khuda Baksh Oriental Research Institute
- Mahabharata Samsodhan Pratisthan
- Central Secretariat Library
- Delhi University
- BHU
- Rare documents of Supreme Court of India
- Documents of High Court of Delhi
- LIC of India
- French Institute, Pondichery
- National Archives of India
- Nehru Memorial Library
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IGNCA’s Manuscripts Digitization Projects

• Oriental Research Library, Srinagar (10,400 manuscripts)
• Allahabad Museum, Allahabad (5,990 manuscripts)
• National Museum, New Delhi (2,765 manuscripts)
• Visva-Bharati (2000 manuscripts)
• IGNCA’s collection of microforms (2.5 lakh manuscripts)
• Assam Manuscripts – at SSK, Guwahati
• Ganjuur and Danjuur manuscripts at the National Library of Mongolia, Ulanbaatar (about 400 volumes)
• INTACH
• Vrindavan Research Institute
• Anandashram Sansthan, pune
• Orissa State Museum
• Gaur University, Sagar
• Kundkund, Indore
The IGNCA initiated the documentation of Vedic chanting

The documentation of elderly people of each of the communities in the North-East India recently started by the IGNCA to document their knowledge in resource management, dispute resolution, creation myth etc. to work on the community history of India.
The ASI, State archaeology departments, INTACH already initiated the documentation of built heritage.

The IGNCA is working on the digitization of the rare old photographs of the ASI and digital documentation of unprotected archaeological and heritage sites in India in collaboration with the ASI and other government institutions.

Till date about 1500 sites of North-East India and 560 sited of Orissa have been documented.
• Over 3 lakh antiquities registered by the ASI since 1972.
• These registration forms are being digitized with the photographs by the IGNCA for the National Mission for Monuments and Antiquities.
Digitization of Visual Arts and Crafts

- ASI
- Crafts Museum
- NGMA
- IGNCA
- Selected Govt. and Private museums
- Lalit Kala Academy
- American Institute of Indian Studies
- State Govt. Archives
Digitization of Performing Art

• All India Radio
• Doordarshan
• IGNCA
• Sangeet Nataka Academy
• Various Cultural Zones
• Film Archives of India
• Private repositories
• Manuscripts – Over 3 crore pages (over 3 lakh manuscripts)
• Books – Over 15 lakh pages
• Visuals – About 150000
• Audio / Video – 1000 hours
What we achieved so far

Very small component of work done so far.

Resources with these institutions are very limited.

Public participation is still minimal.

Institutions can work together to coordinate and mobilize the public at large for long term sustenance of our heritage.

Model can be prepared by the institutions for the mass education.
**What we trying to achieve?**

In-situ revitalization of knowledge and conservation of the materials by the user community.

Intangible knowledge associated with the tangible objects must be conserved / preserved, which is eroding vary fast compared to the objects itself.

The IGNCA’s works always demonstrated intra and inter disciplinary research.