



Research Article

Use of Ayurveda in Preservation and Conservation of Library Materials: A study

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Abstract

Since ancient times, libraries have prioritized the safety of their reading materials, a principle directly reflected in Dr. S.R.Ranganathan's Five Laws of Library Science. Because a library's foundation lies in its reading materials, it is the library's responsibility to ensure their protection.

In today's world, adulteration is found in almost everything even in food which directly impacts our health. Various efforts and laws have been established to mitigate this issue. Similarly, in libraries, many types of chemicals are used to protect books and furniture. However, my study clarifies that all library materials can be preserved with the help of Ayurveda. By using natural methods, libraries can also contribute to improving today's polluted environment."

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1. INTRODUCTION

Library is the pillar of modern society because it is not just a collection of books, but centers of intellectual development and democratic education. They are a place where everyone, regardless of economic status, has equal access to knowledge, thereby fostering intellectual equality in society. Just as libraries are useful to society, the preservation and conservation of books is essential for libraries. If we consider the Vedas,

Upanishads, or manuscripts of ancient times, we know that someone preserved them, which is why they are safe with us today; otherwise, we would not know about them in this modern age. Therefore, the need for conservation is difficult to express in words. In today's times, whenever any commodity is discussed, chemicals are invariably mentioned, because adulteration is everywhere. Even in our food. It wouldn't be wrong to say that we're consuming less food and more

chemicals, which is quite harmful to us. We feel this effect even in the air and water. Similarly, in libraries, we use chemicals to keep books, reading materials, and library equipment safe and usable for a long time. To maintain this utility of the library, if we use Ayurvedic and natural materials instead of chemicals, as has been practiced in India since ancient times, we can easily save all the text materials. This will not only be safe but also harmless. This will provide library readers and staff with a natural and herbal environment instead of chemicals, which will be extremely beneficial for humanity and the entire world.

The natural methods used to preserve knowledge in ancient India were not only effective but also completely safe for health. Neem leaves, turmeric, camphor, sandalwood paste, red cloth, dried chilies and black pepper, cloves, cinnamon, coriander seeds, and celery sun light etc. By adopting these methods, we can keep our libraries chemical-free even today. In today's world, the use of Ayurveda is extremely important and useful not only for health but also for library preservation. Chemical pesticides can harm the respiratory system and skin of library staff and readers. In contrast, the ingredients used in Ayurveda, such as neem, camphor, and cloves, are completely safe and natural. Ancient manuscripts that survive today prove that natural ointments and herbal remedies extend the life of paper and palm leaves more than chemicals. In Ayurveda, Vacha, Neem, and Turmeric are considered effective in repelling insects, fungi, and termites. Their odor is not as pungent as that of chemicals, which helps keep the library environment clean. Herbs and natural oils are much cheaper and more readily available than expensive chemicals and lamination, which also keeps the library's budget balanced.

2. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Trinkauss-Randall (1990) conducted a survey to determine the preservation needs of public, academic and special libraries, manuscript repositories, historical societies and town clerks' offices. His findings indicated that 70% of the institutions could not maintain a constant climate throughout the whole year and most respondents knew very little about the effect of the environment on their collections and also lack preservation knowledge. These have a great deteriorating effect on library materials there by causing the library a great resource loss. Deteriorating information materials in libraries has become a global phenomenon to which libraries must aggressively respond if the mission of meeting the information needs of their users will be achieved.

Ranjan, Rajeev (2022) "Preservation and Conservation of Library Materials in COVID-19 Conditions: A Study": The main objective of this study is to justify the safe handling and handling of library resources for library users and staff under COVID-19 conditions. This research is based on the adequate guidelines provided by the World Health Organization (WHO) which are Preservation and Conservation of Library Materials in COVID-19 Conditions: A Study": The main objective of this study is to justify the safe handling and handling of library resources for library users and staff under COVID-19

conditions. This research is based on the adequate guidelines provided by the World Health Organization (WHO) which are designed to help libraries in the preservation and conservation of materials. This study explains how to safely handle library resources during COVID-19, which is extremely useful and important for both library staff and readers. According to the authors, preserving library materials during COVID-19 is extremely difficult because libraries experience constant movement of readers and staff, which increases the risk of spreading infection. From a safety perspective, physical preservation and conservation of library materials is considered inappropriate in the dire COVID-19 situation, as it increases the likelihood of the library being affected.

Impact of Chemical on Library materials:

The possessions of chemicals on library materials can be both destructive and protective. Chemical deterioration is often caused by the intrinsic acidity of paper, known as 'slow fire,' which breaks down cellulose fibers, yellowing and making the paper brittle. Furthermore, gases such as sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxides in the atmosphere combine with moisture to form damaging acids that destroy inks and binding. On the other hand, processes like de-acidification use chemicals to neutralize the acidity of paper and increase its shelf life. Chemicals like insecticides and 70% alcohol are also used for sterilization, although excessive use can pose a health risk to library staff.

Ayurved: Natural solution for Library materials

- **Neem:** Neem leaf is a traditional and effective natural insecticide for Preservation and conservation of library materials. Dried neem leaves have been used for centuries to protect books and manuscripts from insects, termites, and silverfish. It is a safe and environmentally friendly alternative to that neither harms paper nor the health of library staff. Its use has been particularly beneficial in preserving palm leaf manuscripts.



- **Chili:** Rats cannot tolerate the strong smell and spice of chili peppers. Cayenne pepper is an effective, natural, and inexpensive home remedy for repelling rats without killing them. The strong smell and burning sensation of chili peppers cause rats to flee from areas where it is sprayed. This is a chemical-free method that can help drive rats out of your home without harming them.



- **Turmeric:** Turmeric is a natural insecticide that is very effective in repelling insects from homes and plants due to its antimicrobial and antifungal properties. Spraying it directly or mixing it with water can help repel ants, cockroaches, and insects. This is a safe, chemical-free home remedy for pest control.



- **Basil:** The strong scent of basil is often used to repel household pests. This pungent-smelling herb repels flies, and basil has been used for pest control since ancient times.



- **Camphor:** Camphor is an excellent natural insecticide. Placing 2-3 tablets in a container of water in a room or burning camphor to inhale the smoke instantly repels flies and mosquitoes. Spraying camphor powder mixed with water also helps keep insects away.



- **Bay leaves:** The strong scent of bay leaves is very effective in repelling silverfish, as they dislike the smell. Crush dried bay leaves and place them in closets, drawers, corners, and damp areas. You can also keep them away by wrapping them in a muslin cloth or by tossing them directly onto the insect infestation.



- **Cinnamon:** cinnamon as an air freshener, as flies hate its smell! Lavender, eucalyptus, peppermint, and lemongrass essential oils – Spraying these oils around the house will not only create a pleasant scent, but will also repel pesky flies.



- **Fumigation:** Library fumigation is the process of using toxic gas (such as methyl bromide or sulfuric fluoride) in a closed space to destroy insects, fungi, and pests that can damage books, manuscripts, and archives. It is a conservation technique that typically involves using sealed materials and applying chemicals to kill insects and prevent further damage.

- **Red Cloth:** The reason behind keeping books wrapped in red cloth in ancient times was that red cloth does not attract dirt.



- **Cloves:** There are many ways to repel pesky flies from Library areas, but cloves are one of the most popular. To repel flies, simply pierce an apple with 20 to 30 whole cloves, place the apple in the center of the hole, and the flies will disappear in no time. This remedy works both indoors and outdoors.



Thus, we can say that by using all the appropriate materials, the library materials can be preserved along with the library furniture. These are natural plant-derived materials that are available at very low prices and are harmless. They do not have any adverse effect on human health.

CONCLUSION

Therefore, based on the above explanation, we can say that keeping in mind the need for conservation and preservation, if we can use natural ingredients and Ayurvedic ingredients instead of chemicals, as has been done since ancient times to preserve human diet, then this will directly benefit our health and purify our environment.

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- **Lavender:** Plant a lavender plant in Library area. You can also mix a few drops of lavender essential oil with water and spray it on your sofas, curtains, or near your doors.



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