



### *National Mission for Manuscripts*

- The National Mission for Manuscripts, under the Ministry of Culture (Government of India) works to conserve, survey, digitize, protect, and make manuscripts accessible. There are currently ~10 million manuscripts, making it the largest manuscript collection in the world
- First & only High School Intern at the National Mission for Manuscripts
- Gained fluency in two Indigenous scripts: Brāhmī and Nastaliq (Indo-Iranian Script); currently learning Śāradā and Pali (Buddhist) Script
- Training in palaeography (examining handwriting/scripts to date manuscripts), codicology (studying physical aspects to deduce provenance), transliteration, and digitisation
- Preserved 15 bamboo and palm leaf manuscripts from Odisha, Delhi, Karnataka, and Cambodia. The folios were about topics ranging from interpretive accounts of mythology and sacred texts, astronomy, and lexicographical work on medicinal plants
- Contributed to drafting recommendation reports on implemented IIIF (International Image Interoperability Framework) as national archive standard; Article on IIIF technology published in The Times of India

- Analysed and documented 25 Colophones (closing note at manuscript's end)
- Fluent in conducting diagnostic assessments of manuscript stability, preparing 70 Condition Reports, and Curative Treatment Records; Filled 105 metadata catalogs for 'Advance Search' tool on the national digital repository
- Contributed to disaster risk management initiative for Archives, helped reorganise 4 rural community archives and cataloged records for them; advocated for low-cost Indigenous conservation methods including (such as using small packets of dried and powdered leaves of the Indian Winter Cherry to repel insects and termites)
- Worked with Dr. Anirban Dash (Director, NMM & Associate Professor of Sanskrit) to co-develop the *Adopt a Manuscript* campaign, an experiential pedagogy guide for National Manuscript Literacy Workshop in High Schools
- Currently working as an Intern for the Gyan Bhartam Portal (Launched September 2025, to facilitate public access), to provide back-end assistance

*Rare Book School 1 (online) | January, 2024 | L-140v: Building a BookLab*

- Only High School student; Competed (and fangirled over) with Professors, Conservators, Libraries, and PhD candidates [applicable to both RBS courses]
- Taught by Professors Matthew G. Kirschenbaum and Kari Kraus (University of Maryland)
- Learned about practical strategies for launching and sustaining a student centered humanities makerspaces
- Received professional guidance on curriculum development and pedagogical training, with an emphasis on accessibility and community engagement.
- Interacted with experts in the field to learn from their experiences; following the course, implemented learnings from the course to develop the Neerja Modi School Humanities Makerspace which currently surveys Indigo and natural pigments and has bi-monthly zine-making activities.

*Rare Book School 2 (in-person) | July, 2025 | L-145 Medieval Manuscript Fragments: Cataloging and Discoverability*

- Taught by Professor Lisa Fagin Davis (Executive Director of the Medieval Academy of America)
- Delivered a 15 minute independent presentation on the Meghadūta Manuscript (5th century lyrical poem in Sanskrit) applying Sanskrit Paleographical skills; Introduced Global South Asian lens to manuscript and fragmentology discourse
- Developed foundational understanding of how to interpret the layers of evidence in medieval manuscript fragments (identifying the original text, understanding its reuse, and tracing its modern history) – including Paris Bible Fragments, Books of Hours, Liturgical Codices, and St. Augustine's City of God

- Studied Western/Latin Paleographic and Codicological conventions - gaining initial fluency in recognising and dating Carolingian and Gothic scripts, with hands-on analysis
- Mastered IIF/MARC/TEI/Fragmentarium software with intent to apply this to Indian manuscriptology and bridge current technical gap; learned fragment-centric cataloging models
- Engaged in debates on the ethics of fragmentology and biblioclasm with a special focus on Otto Ege
- Got a photograph with a fragment from a Gutenberg Bible

#### *The City Palace Museum, Jaipur & Harvard Mapping Colour in History Project*

- Worked under Conservator and Curator Anjali Jain at The City Palace Museum to contribute to Harvard's MCH Project. I helped conduct non-invasive analysis of pigments in manuscripts using microscopy, multispectral imaging, reflectance spectroscopy, X-ray fluorescence.
- Used crystallographic techniques to analyze and identify pigment composition and usage from Devi Mahatmya manuscripts (40 folios).
- We also document history and technical provenances of how/when/where South Asian pigments appear. Analysis found dominance of Indian Yellow Pigment (made out of cow-urine); Prussian Blue (discovered in 1704) found in an early 18th century collection indicates greater level of trade relations between Europe and India than previously believed.

#### *Archnet - Mission for Indian History and Archaeology: Digital Archival Collection (Paid)*

- Collaborative effort between: The Aga Khan Documentation Center, MIT Libraries and The Research and Information Center for Asian Studies (RICAS) at the Institute for Advanced Studies on Asia (University of Tokyo) and Five Cross Architects
- Catalogued (rubblings, film negatives, and photographs) 130 Islamic artifacts on open-access platform (Archnet), wrote briefs on photogrammetry methodology by Japanese scholars in post-colonial India
- Comparative analysis from 1956 initial survey and 2016 re-survey demonstrated that Islamic monuments in India had been destroyed, carelessly repaired, or lost due to rapid urbanisation.

#### *Family Archiving/Responsibility: Sir Sita Ram's Ledger | 2022-23*

- Conducted archival research analysing Sir Sita Ram Papers (364 letters) at the National Archives of India, examining over two hundred letters exchanged between Sir Sita Ram (my great-grandfather) India's High Commissioner to Pakistan (1949-51), and senior Indian officials during the early post-Partition years
- Drew on personal correspondence, financial ledgers, and diplomatic reports to reexamine and reconstruct the nature of the in its formative phase, emphasizing bilateral engagement and attempts at peacekeeping and cooperation

- Developed a thematic analysis of minority settlement (through the Liaquat-Nehru Pact), evacuee property, and the rights of abducted women to highlight how Sir Sitaram's approach to inter-dominion cooperation complicates dominant nationalist narratives that cast Partition as an episode of enmity.

### *Diaries of Medieval India*

- Independently run blog on Instagram aimed at unpacking Indian manuscriptology conventions, applied cultural theory to analyse scripts, folios, paintings, materiality, and knowledge transmission for global readers.
- 1.9k Followers, 4.5M+ people reached
- Followed by 11 Professors and 3 field experts including Padma Shri Awardee (fourth-highest civilian award of the Republic of India) and Historian, Ira Mukhoty
- Contacted by six private collectors from the U.S., Netherlands, Canada, and UAE seeking guidance on manuscript care and preservation; Coordinated with India's National Mission for Manuscripts to design and deliver a 5-hour introductory crash course on manuscript conservation and handling.