



ISSN(Online) : 2320-9801  
ISSN (Print) : 2320-9798

**International Journal of Innovative Research in Computer and Communication Engineering**

*An ISO 3297: 2007 Certified Organization*

*Vol.5, Special Issue 2, April 2017*

**An International Conference on Recent Trends in IT Innovations - Tec'afe 2017**

**Organized by**

**Dept. of Computer Science, Garden City University, Bangalore-560049, India**

# **Establishment of Folk Archives: Possibilities and Challenges with Advanced Technology**

Dr. Basappa Y. Bangari

Department of Languages, Garden City University, Bengaluru, Karnataka, India

**ABSTRACT:** This paper tries to explore possibilities and challenges to establish exclusive Folk Archives in India using latest computer technology. Apart from teaching learning, preserving rare manuscripts, folk materials, folk arts-artisans, traditional indigenous knowledge, folk art forms, folk theatre, folk foods etc. can be preserved and possible to transfer the precious knowledge to the next generation. It is an urgent need to preserve fast dying folklore of our country and rest of the world. Urbanisation and materialistic life has been clearly washing indigenous knowledge from our society.

## **I. INTRODUCTION**

Computers are playing a vital role in our life and without which it is almost impossible to lead our life. We have been using gadgets of computers in one or the other way and using computer aided devices and technology directly or indirectly. Life in modern society is quite easy only due to the computer technology. Computer aided technology, from palm to aeroplane using by the current world and India is proving its latest version and technology.

Apart from modern world rural folk are also using computer technology in order to retain their native, genuine things and indigenous knowledge. Some photographs of the heritage building, folk artist, folk arts, fairs and festivals which depict folk culture of the land.

Folk archives have been established in European countries and tried to store their indigenous knowledge and transfer of the same to the next generation.

Folklore archives are established and preserved valuable knowledge in the form of books, documentaries, photographs, folk materials, folk arts, folk paintings, folk songs and music, folk foods, folk rituals, folk fairs and festivals, folk tales, folk epics, manuscripts, digital library etc. A wide and strong database helps us to locate the things easily. The first Archive of Folk culture established at the US Library congress(1928) in America and USA is one of the countries started to study folklore as a subject and stored their knowledge especially American folk songs alter they named as Archive of folk culture and became a part of American Folk life Centre in 1978. Its multi-format, ethnographic collections are diverse and international, including over one million photographs, manuscripts, audio recordings, and moving images. It is America's first national archive of traditional life, and one of the oldest and largest of such repositories in the world.

In India there are only few archive centres working seriously on a particular subject viz. Music .The archive of Indian music is a private not-for-profit Trust, was created in collaboration with Manipal University's Manipal Centre for Philosophy and Humanities. The Archive seeks to digitize and preserve recordings of India's cultural history and musical heritage. The Archive holds recordings of a variety of genres, including Hindustani classical, Carnatic classical, Theatre, Early cinema, Folk and more.

In today's modern age, with latest technology making its presence felt in every walk of life, especially in the field of music and audio recording, it is baffling to know that listening to the earliest recordings of our music right from the wax cylinders, gramophone shellacs (78 RPMs) and vinyl LPs unless one has the required player, is a near impossibility. A lot of these rare recordings, which capture the voices of our ancestors, are depleting at an alarmingly rapid rate. Digitization of these records, preservation of this music for posterity and making them easily and electronically available to musicians, researchers, students of music and interested public is the need of the hour. Computer technology make all these easy to store rare collections in the form of archives.

**Folklore Books Archive:** Rare books published on folklore subject are possible to digitalise them and make available to the researchers and general public who visit the Folklore book archives.



**Folklore Documentaries Archive:** Documentaries on folk life, folk culture, folk arts, folk handicrafts could be preserved in this archive centre.

**Folk Photographs Archive:** Folklore related photographs from a nation, state to be collected and displayed here. These can be preserved them in the form of digital folk library.

**Folklore Materials Archive:** The materials used by folk of a nation or a community can be collected and stored in a place and the database could be kept ready for study.

**Folk Arts Archive:** Folk arts like Kinnala puppets, puppets of Channapattana, madubani paintings, tribal paintings can be preserved and the live demo of preparation of the same is possible with computer technology.

**Folk Foods Archive:** Here traditional foods of a community or a tribal group can be demonstrated in digital form and demo of preparation of such food items.

**Folk Songs Archive:** Here folk songs of a folk group or a society is possible to preserve both in audio and video mode. The tone and pitch variation of folk songs can be shown to the learners and researchers.

**Folk Theatre Archive:** Folk theatres like Yakshagana, Theyyam, Moodalapaya yakshagana, String puppet, Leather puppets, Sannata, Dodddata, Shreekrishna Parijata, Radhanata, Na utanki etc. can be preserved with costumes and other props of the respective folk art forms and the database of the same can be made available on the spot for the general public and researchers.

The primary purpose a archive has always been to make the manuscript materials as easily available to researchers as possible. An appropriate system of registers and card files to be developed to enable researchers to find and gain access to every single folklore piece in the handwritten volumes. In order to preserve the volumes for the sake of better analysis, copies of folklore texts to be typed and organized in folders, and other shorter texts to be copied and organized into thematic card files. Folklore materials to be collected from different sources viz. Homes, school, colleges, institutions etc. These data are very much essential while analysing them for study. During establishment of a Folklore Archives a special emphasis must be on materials and human resources who handles all these items. They should have an idea that they are doing this work not only for the sake of livelihood but also have a social and moral responsibility along with institutional responsibility.

To conduct a Folk song study researcher has to follow the following aspects and keep in his mind while conducting survey and experiment: Identification,, Features for Classification, Computational Approaches to Folk Song Melodies, Folk Songs in Computational Musicology and Search Engines are essential to the researcher.

## II. PROBLEMS AND CHALLENGES

If we consider Folk songs of a community,

\*There is no generally accepted theory of oral transmission of melodies

\*Most models and concepts are not directly implementable

\*The diversity of classification systems indicates that no universally applicable system of ordering folk song melodies exists yet.

\*Formal testing of classification systems has not been done to a great extent.

\*The goal of developing useful software for folk song research and retrieval cannot be achieved without a profound collaboration between Folk Song Research, Computational Musicology and Music Information Retrieval.

\*The study folk song melodies do not indicate the actuality of such collaboration.

\*We have to focus on strategies to achieve better collaboration and significance of such a collaboration model goes beyond the study of folk song melodies.

In India awareness of preserving is not up to the level comparing to the western countries. British have taught us and established Archive centres and Museums in India.

During British period preservation of indigenous and rare materials started in India and we have been following the same but not achieved more.

## III. NATIONAL LEVEL ARCHIVES

\*Indiara Gandhi Rashtreeya Manav Sangrahalay, Bhopal (1970)

\*National Archives of India Pudducherry established in 1979.

\*Record centre Bhubaneshwar (Eastern Zone)(1996)



\*The **National Archives of India (NAI)** is a repository of the non-current records of the Government of India and holds them in trust for the use of administrators and scholars. Originally established as the **Imperial Record Department** in 1891, in Calcutta, then capital of British India, the NAI is situated at the intersection of Janpath and Rajpath, in Delhi. It functions as an Attached Office of the Department of Culture under the Ministry of Culture, Government of India.

\*The **National Film Archive of India** was established as a media unit of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting in February 1964. Its three principal objectives are. . . .

To trace, acquire and preserve for posterity the heritage of Indian cinema;

To classify, document data and undertake research relating to films;

To act as a centre for the dissemination of film culture.

With headquarters at Pune, Maharashtra

NFAI has three regional offices at Bangalore, Calcutta and Thiruvananthapuram. Developed from scratch by P. K. Nair, NFAI's activities relating to dissemination of film culture are manifold. Its Distribution Library has about 25 active members throughout the country and it also organises joint screening programmes on weekly, fortnightly and monthly basis in six important centres. It has over 10,000 films, over 10,000 books, over 10,000 film scripts, and over 50,000 photographs.

Another important programme is the film teaching scheme comprising long and short term Film Appreciation courses conducted in collaboration with the Film and Television Institute of India (FTII) and other educational and cultural institutions. At the International level, NFAI supplied several Indian classics for major screening programmes.

#### **State Archives:**

Bihar State Archives-Patna-1912, Delhi Archives-1972, Goa State Archives-Panaji-1585, Haryana State Archives, Himachal Pradesh State Archives-1979, Karnataka State Archives- Bengaluru-1972, Kerala State Archives- Tiruvananthapuram-1962, Maharashtra State Archives, Pune- Etc. . . .

#### **IV. CONCLUSION**

After having glance over some National and State Archives none of them is dedicating to the Folklore of India and indigenous knowledge of our land. It is really challenging task that one has to ready to dedicate for a long period and must be interested in the subject with latest computer technology.

Field expertise and financial support is very much essential along with likeminded generous doners. Regional Resource centre(RRC) at Udupi in Karnataka preserved folk art forms. Ford Foundation helped to the centre. Janapada Loka at Ramanagar established by H.L.Nagegowda is trying to preserve many art forms in its limitation. Manjusha Museum at Dharmasthala collected rare articles and exhibiting to the general public.

Computer technology is must to establish Fork Archives computer technology is must in many ways like Documentation, Preservation, Preparing a database, hosting a website, Popuparising it with the help of other gadgets like mobile phones, Social networks, Watsapps etc. The academicians and likeminded people involved with NGOs have to join their hands to preserve native knowledge and folklore.

#### **REFERENCES**

- [1] **Aarden, B., and D. Huron.** 2001. Mapping European Folksong: Geographical Localization of Musical Features. *Computing in Musicology* 12: 169-183.
- [2] **Ahlbäck, S.** 2004. Melody beyond Notes: A Study of Melody Cognition. PhD diss. Göteborgs  
a. Universitet.
- [3] **Bayard, S.P.** 1950. Prolegomena to a Study of the Principal Melodic Families of British-  
a. American Folk Song. *Journal of American Folklore* 63(247): 1-44.
- [4] **Bod, R.** 2002. Memory-Based Models of Melodic Analysis: Challenging the Gestalt Principles.  
a. *Journal of New Music Research* 31(1): 27-37.
- [5] **Monumenta Estoniae antiquae.** (Estonian Folklore Archives, Estonian Literary Museum)  
a. Estonian Folklore Archives 1995 The Estonian Folklore Archives. Anu Korb, Janika Oras, and Ülo Tedre, compilers. Tartu:  
b. Eesti Rahvaluule Arhiiv.
- [6] **Nettl, B.** 2005. The Study of Ethnomusicology. 2nd edition. Urbana: University of Illinois Press.  
a. <http://www.indiantelevision.com/regulators/people/prakash-magdum-takes-over-as-director-of-nfai-pune-150128>
- [7] **P. van Kranenburg, J. Garbers, A. Volk, F. Wiering, L.P. Grijp, and R.C. Veltkamp.** Collaboration perspectives for folk Song research and music information retrieval: The indispensable role of computational musicology, *Journal of Interdisciplinary Music Studies.* (2009), doi: 10.4407/jims.2009.12.030
- [8] 10.4407/jims.2009.12.030