

Programme for Digitisation of Manuscripts

- The digitization of about 1200 manuscripts of the Library was started in September 2005. The functional objectives were mainly:
 - a) improving access.
 - b) preventing damage caused by frequent handling.
 - c) examining possibilities of preparing e-books.
 - d) resource-sharing with other institutions.
 - e) ensuring conservation by facilitating a back-up copy
 - f) preservation for future by having backup copies also available in safe storage mode.

The technical objectives were:

- To catalogue the manuscripts, initially – and other rare material, subsequently – as per Dublin Core Standards, e.g. Manusgranthavali / e-granthalaya.
- To develop an e-reading room, subsequently, using the digitized images, for in-house readers.
- To prepare web-based catalogue of digitized manuscripts, hosting a few sample specimens for viewing only.
- To develop, ultimately, an e-library with, storage, archival and retrieval facility.
- Finally, to make available the manuscripts to readers and researchers and scholars online.

- A pilot project covering 10,00,000 pages was initially taken up. This is about 10% of the total collection of manuscripts at the Library.
- The pilot project covers only paper manuscripts. Other items shall be taken up later.
- The manuscripts cover a wide range from plain calligraphy to ornamentation and illustration. The purpose is to assess the output involving digital reproduction of different types of manuscripts, such as illustrated, ornamental, calligraphic specimens, etc.

- The work was entrusted to NIC in 2005. 10,00,000 pages covering 3000 manuscripts, have been digitized. The checking of images is in progress.
- At present, 1,214 manuscripts, covering a little over 3,57,915 folios have been completed for use by readers. These can be read on computer screen within an e-reading room as in-house facility. The work of hosting these on the Library's website shall take some time.
- However, a sample copy of important manuscripts of the Collection, the [Wajud al-Asheqin](#) , [Jahangir Namah](#) and [Sirat-i Firuz Shahi](#) are being hosted, to provide some idea of the work done so far.
- [To view scanned pages, go back to main link.](#)