

## 11. Digital Library @ IGNCA

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The Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA), is visualised as a centre encompassing the study and experience of all the arts — each form with its own integrity, yet within a dimension of mutual interdependence, interrelated with nature, social structure and cosmology. The arts are here understood to comprise the fields of creative and critical literature, written and oral; the visual arts, ranging from architecture, sculpture, painting and graphics to general material culture, photography and film; the performing arts of music, dance and theatre in their broadest connotation; and all else in fairs, festivals and lifestyle that has an artistic dimension. Through diverse programmes of research, publication, training, creative activities and performance, the IGNCA seeks to place the arts within the context of the natural and human environment. The fundamental approach of the Centre is all its work will be both multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary.

Recognizing the need to encompass and preserve the distributed fragments of Indian art and culture, a pioneering attempt has been made by IGNCA to serve as a major resource centre for the arts, especially written, oral and visual materials. Cultural Informatics Laboratory (CIL) was established in 1994 with UNDP assisted multimedia documentation project. Under proper guidance from the subject experts, the team became trained in Interactive-multimedia-documentation and in-depth analysis of cultural information. This expertise is being used to demonstrate how cultural heritage can be recreated virtually, in holistic and integrated perception of culture.

Amongst the areas where the projects have broken new grounds are the creation of synergies between the disciplines of art and information technology leading to usage, development and demonstration of new technology and cultural documentation. New design-models, development-processes and reusable software tools, specially targeted at high-quality multimedia content-creation, have been conceived, evolved and applied in projects. Main activities of the CIL include dissemination of cultural information using state of the art technology through the completion of sponsored projects, distribution of in-house CD-ROM projects and web site.

One of the programmes of this centre, in collaboration with Ministry of communications and Information Technology known as KALASAMPDA, is to utilize multimedia computer technology to develop a software package that integrates variety of cultural information accessible at one place. Multimedia technology allow the users to interact and explore the subject available in image, audio, text, graphics, animation and video on a computer in a non-linear mode, by a click of mouse.

IGNCA having huge collection of such materials including manuscripts, slides, rare books, photographs, audio and video along with highly researched publications of books, journals, CD-ROMs and newsletters. These rare manuscripts, collected from different institutions of India and abroad mainly from the Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute (BORI), PUNE, Scindia Oriental Research Institute (SORI), UJJAIN, Government Oriental Manuscripts Library (GOML) Chennai, Saraswati Bhawan Library (SBL), Varanasi and many more. Slides are collected from ACSAA, British Library, Rajah Deendayal's , etc.

Kalasampda, a unique project of its kind, will facilitate the scholars / users to access and view the materials including over couple of lakhs of manuscripts, over a lakhs of slides, thousands of rare books, photographs, audio and video along with highly researched publications IGNCA, from a single window. This will provide a new dimension in the study of the Indian art and Culture, in an integrated way, while giving due importance to each medium. This exercise is perhaps a unique venture that would definitely call for world attention.

The system aims at being a digital repository of content and information with a user-friendly interface. The knowledge base such created will help the scholars to explore and visualize the information stored in multiple layers.

The major activities include the digitization of materials, post digitization editing, high capacity storage & backup system, designing and development of effective retrieval system etc. Technology used for this development is based on Open standards using

