# Report

#### Seminar

on

Archiving and Rewriting Lived History: Challenges and Possibilities 17 March 2023 Seminar hall, Gour Mahavidyalaya Organized by Abid Ali Khan Centre for Digital Archive and Translation of Cultures & IQAC, Gour Mahavidyalaya, Malda

### **Concept Note**

The importance of building an archive in order to preserve the cultural texts and narratives is immense. However, of late there is a shift towards creating digital archive which can better preserve the endangered and rare materials. The researchers also can access the materials archived digitally from any corner of the world. This seminar proposes to discuss the knowhows of building a digital archive at Abid Ali Khan Centre for Digital Archive and Translation of Cultures in order to identify and preserve the micro-narratives and cultural texts from the region of Malda.

### **Objective of the Seminar**

As already stated the objective of the seminar is to-

- 1. Discuss the nitty-gritty of building a digital archive in contemporary times. The experts are invited to give suggestions on this so that Abid Ali Khan Centre for Digital Archive and Translation of Cultures can proceed with the plan of building the digital archive.
- 2. Discuss the ways a digital archive can promote research on local history and culture
- 3. Discuss the possibilities of applying for funds for digitally archiving local cultural texts and manuscripts.

#### **Invited Speakers**

Dr. Anjan Chakrabarti, Professor and Director, HRDC, NBU- Interdisciplinarity of Research and Quest for Research Funding

Dr. Shantanu Majee, Assistant Professor, Techno India University, Kolkata – Building an Archive in a Digital Age

Dr. Rahi Soren, Assistant Professor, Jadavpur University, Kolkata- Digital Humanities in Praxis: Archiving at Jadavpur University

### **Outcome of the Seminar**

The seminar was a huge success as it achieved its stated objectives. The invited speakers made us acquainted with the know-hows of building a digital archive- the description necessary camera with specific feature, trained assistants etc. Apart from the practicalities we got to know the following information necessary for building a digital archive-

- The preparation of metadata about a document before taking snaps of it. This would help locate the document by the researchers betters and would help generate discussion about it.
- 2. The invited speakers informed us about the British Library Endangered Archive Program (EAP) which offers grants for digitally archiving rare but endangered cultural materials.
- 3. During the discussion a particular emphasis on preserving local culture was given. As a result the need of digitally archiving the rare manuscripts at Malda District Library was highlighted. Abid Ali Khan Centre would start digitization of the said materials very soon.

#### **Brochure of the Seminar**



#### **Attendance Sheet**

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Atte	endance Sheet		
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## Snippets of the Seminar

