



Conservator as a heritage bearer -the roles, responsibilities & challenges of a Manuscript conservator

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Abstract

Conservation of manuscripts or documents can be a profession with increasing amplification of knowledge storing through digital media there have been several opening s of careers in MSC Types of training available types of courses available can be very helpful. Conservator is responsible for long term preservation of artistic & cultural artifacts. They analyze & assess the condition of cultural property understanding the process & evidence of deterioration planning collections care or site management strategies that prevent damage carrying out conservation treatments conducting research in all of the areas previously indicated. It is an interdisciplinary area involving practices sciences & humanities. a conservator often faces the challenges of collecting, safeguarding & conserving the document. But conservation demands several dimensional approaches as it demands inter disciplinary support. An integrated strategy towards making conservation simpler, hassle free & complication free is needed to understand & identify the problems of conservation & a conservator has to play the roles of a specialist, technician & an expert besides being a heritage lover.

keywords: conservation, challenges for a conservator, inter disciplinary relevance , continuation of heritage

Introduction: A conservator is a professional, whose primary occupation is the practice of conservation and who, through specialized education, knowledge, training, and experience, formulates and implements all the activities of conservation in accordance with regulatory guidelines for practice. There are several options for a conservator. He can become an administrator, educator, scientist, technician, researcher, or a specialist. He has several roles to play. At the same time he has several responsibilities. (The proceedings of the national library of India 2014). A

Conservator needs an intensive fast paced learning experience along with lots of patience It is an ever changing & ever evolving discipline which needs peoples who love this profession This also needs persons to be in touch with technology as well as their advancement in technical inputs. (National mission for manuscripts -Government of India - official website 2014). Support in restoration to bring a deteriorated or damaged objector structure of materials closer to a previous or assumed appearance or function needs great determined action.(The



proceedings of the national library of India 2014).

Roles of a conservator-

8. A conservator can Acquire, store, and exhibit collections
9. A conservator can Select the theme and design of exhibits
10. A conservator can Design, organize, and conduct tours and workshops for the public
11. A conservator can Attend civic events to promote their institution
12. A conservator can Clean objects such as ancient tools, coins, and statues
13. A conservator can Direct and supervise curatorial, technical, and student staff
14. A conservator can Plan and conduct special research projects

Responsibilities of a conservator – A conservator has the great job of preserving & continuing a heritage. His responsibilities include

1. A conservator has to examine the procedures to determine the materials & methods of manufacture properties of objects or structures & the causes & extent of deterioration & alteration. (The proceedings of the national library of India 2014).

2. A conservator has to take up Scientific analysis & research to identify historic & artistic methods & materials of fabrication.
3. A conservator has to evaluate the efficacy of materials to be conserved
4. A conservator has to help documentation process to record the condition of an object or site at a specific time of treatment or after & before treatment
5. A conservator has to choose methods to stop deterioration of the materials further
6. A conservator has to support in restoration to bring a deteriorated or damaged object structure of materials closer to a previous or assumed appearance or function
7. A conservator has to find ways for safe exhibition of saved materials
8. A Conservator needs an intensive fast paced learning experience along with lots of patience. It is an ever changing & ever evolving discipline which needs peoples who love this profession This also needs persons to be in touch with technology as well as their advancement in technical inputs

Professional support -A conservator's profession needs specialization in several disciplines (The report of the



National Manuscript library 2012). Specialization in paintings , art on paper, textiles, archives, books, photographs ,electronic, media ,sculpture, decorative arts ,architecture ,built environments, archaeology, natural science , ethnographic materials , working in

1. Archives
2. Government agencies
3. Heritage institutions
4. Laboratories
5. Libraries
6. Museums
7. NGOs etc.
8. Private conservations centers
9. Universities

The procedural phases of conservation - The process of examining the procedures to determine the materials & methods of manufacture, properties of objects or structures & the causes & extent of deterioration & alteration is a very delicate work which needs meticulous screening. (The proceedings of the national library of India 2014).

Career in conservation - There are several related jobs related to this such as

7. Conservation administrator,
8. Conservation educator,
9. Conservation scientist,
10. Conservation technician,
11. Conservation of collections head
12. Conservation care/preservation specialist.

The challenges – a conservator has the following challenges

- Authenticating and appraising historical documents and archival materials
- Preserving and maintaining documents and objects
- Creating and maintaining computer archives and databases
- Organizing and classifying archival records to make them easy to search through
- Safeguarding records by creating film and digital copies
- Directing workers who help arrange, exhibit, and maintain collections
- Setting and administer policy guidelines concerning public access to materials
- Providing help to manuscript library users
- Finding and acquiring new materials for their archives

Evolving an integrated strategy- An integrated strategy towards making conservation simpler, hassle free & complication free is needed to understand & identify the problems of conservation & a conservator has to play the roles of a specialist, technician & an expert besides being a heritage lover. Conservator needs an intensive fast paced learning experience along with lots of patience It is an ever changing ever evolving discipline which needs peoples who love this profession This also needs



persons to be in touch with technology as well as their advancement in technical inputs. (The proceedings of the national library 2014)

Various types of education & trainings – there are various types of training available in this conservation related jobs.

1. Apprenticeship as the primary method of training. Internships include good source of training in conservation. As an alternate to graduate system students can opt for apprenticeships with practical training course work & research methodologies
2. students internships in conservation can help the conservation process. Introductory levels of workshops & orientation refer to internships in these professions. (The proceedings of the national library 2014).

role of government - A great policy towards providing specialized education in conservation, provide capacity building programs in **conservation** knowledge, training, orientation sessions in providing complete knowledge about formulation of conservation policy & procedural implementation of integrated strategy.

Conclusion- Thus a conservator often faces the challenges of collecting, safeguarding & conserving the document. But conservation demands several dimensional approaches as it demands inter disciplinary support. An integrated strategy towards making conservation simpler, hassle free & complication free is needed to understand & identify the problems of conservation & a conservator has to play the roles of a specialist, technician & an expert besides being a heritage lover. Conservator needs an intensive fast paced learning experience along with lots of patience. It is an ever changing ever evolving discipline which needs peoples who love this profession. This also needs persons to be in touch with technology as well as their advancement in technical inputs.

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