

# Indonesian Librarian's Enthusiasm and its Role in the Collection of Manuscript Development

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## ABSTRACT

*The study has revealed that nowadays librarians are actively utilizing their potential and resources to be useful in society, especially in their own institutions. One of them is the Librarian's Enthusiasm in maintaining the National Cultural Heritage, one of which contains historic relics in the form of manuscripts. The study was motivated by the rich historic manuscripts besides the belief, literature, and genealogy. It can also explain the development of civilization which has occurred in Indonesia for years. The National Library of Indonesia through the Preservation Department has been running the manuscript preservation since 2007 until now. The method used in this study was qualitative. The finding of the study reveals that the existence of these manuscripts is still being sought-after. Hence it can help us map out where we can get the manuscripts, and how many of them have been preserved and media-transferred so that they will be easily accessed by the wider community. The study gives an insight to reserve and campaign the requirement of preserving the national cultural heritage.*

**Keywords:** Librarian Enthusiasm; Knowledge Preservation; Cultural Heritage; Manuscript; Ancient Manuscript.

## INTRODUCTION

Indonesia is an archipelago country consisting of 2,590 identified islands which have been acknowledged to the United Nations in their 11th conference on Standardization of Geographical Names in New York. Based on the data from the Language Training Development Agency of Ministry of Education and Culture, it is clearly stated that Indonesia has 652 regional languages. Besides being rich in national scripts, currently Indonesian also owns 12 local scripts which consist of the Javanese, Balinese, ancient Sundanese, Bugis / Lontara, Rejang, Lampung, Karo, Pakpak, Simalungun, Toba, Mandailing, and Kerinci / Rencong. However, local scripts are not found in Papua even though the area has the highest number of languages in Indonesia. There are 376 languages in Papua, out of 646 regional languages, which have been validated by the government. In addition, a total of 73 regional languages are widespread in Bali and Nusa Tenggara. In Maluku, there are 65 local languages. Sulawesi has 53 local languages.

Kalimantan has 53 local languages. There are 21 local languages in Sumatra, while Java has 5 local languages. All of these show how diverse and rich Indonesia has become.

The culture has given us archeological remains which are very valuable and preservable. These relics can be seen from the facts of the writing which are spread in each area in the country in the form of manuscripts. The manuscripts contain not only predictions but also national cultures, advice, literature, beliefs, and so on. The physical condition of these manuscripts is not always good. Most of them are fragile and damaged. However, there is still information which can be read and taken. Since the storage where the manuscripts are located may not always be appropriate, the possibility for damage is greater. The originality of these manuscripts is sometimes difficult to maintain because there are still many manuscript owners who do not want to submit them even though it is only for duplication to other forms so that the information in it can be preserved. It takes seriousness to be able to coordinate and collect the manuscripts which are spread from the owners who are direct heirs. Raising awareness in the community is needed to facilitate the preservation of these manuscripts.

Indonesia's tropical climate is very fascinating but not for the manuscripts. It takes a temperature balance to be able to maintain their condition. In addition, natural disasters must also be considered. The factors causing damage to the manuscripts are biological, physical, chemical, human, and other factors. Biological factors can be among others fungi, insects or rodents. Physical factors can be in the form of dust, light, temperature, and humidity. While, human and other factors are explained as influences from people, water, fire, and natural disasters. The National Disaster Management Agency (BNPB) identified that there had been 513 disasters in the country in the span of January to March 2018. Those 513 disasters consist of 182 tornadoes, 157 floods, 137 landslides, 15 forest, and land fires, 10 combinations of floods and landslides, 7 tidal waves and abrasion, 3 earthquake damages, and 2 volcanic eruptions. Thus, the undamaged manuscript collection must be maintained by doing preventative activities so that it is not contaminated by those people who want to destroy the manuscripts.

Preventive actions must also be done in terms of the transfer of the manuscripts to other parties, such as the foreign party and irresponsible party. The ancient manuscripts' ownership to foreign parties either by buying and selling or by theft must also be taken into consideration. According to Indonesian Law number 11 of 2010 Article 55, it states that: "Everyone is prohibited to deliberately prevent, obstruct, or thwart the efforts of Cultural Heritage Conservation", and Article 66 verse (1): "Everyone is prohibited to destroy Cultural Heritage, whether all or the parts, from the unit, group, and/or place of origin ". however, there are still people who both consciously and unconsciously sell the manuscripts for commercial purposes. On one hand, the economic benefits of this transaction can be very satisfying. But on the other hand, it can be not as much as it is expected. Above all, the country losing its cultural treasures is far greater than any other reasons.

Under the Law No. 43 of 2007, the library is defined as an institution which manages collections of written works, printed works, and/or professional record works with standardized systems which meet the needs of education, research, preservation, information, and recreation of the library users. The National Library of the Republic of Indonesia, (which subsequently in the Decree of the Head of National Library No.

03/2001 is abbreviated as PERPUSNAS) is a Non-Departmental Government Institution which is under and responsible to the President. In carrying out its operational duties, the national library is somehow coordinated by the Minister of National Education. It has the task of carrying out the government tasks in the library field in accordance with the provisions of the applicable legislation. The existence of the Library Material Preservation Center at the National Library has the duty to carry out the preservation of information and physical library materials. It has several functions. Firstly, it carries out physical preservation through maintenance, treatment, restoration, and binding of library materials. Secondly, it carries out the preservation of library material information contents through the transfer of micrographic and photography media. Lastly, it carries out the preservation of library material information contents through the transfer of digital media to new media.

Library Material Preservation is a part of the National Library which supports the realization of its mission to accomplish a complete and up-to-date national collection. In this case, the implementation of library materials preservation, both the physical preservation of library materials and the preservation of information content support the completeness of national collections.

The Preservation Department has carried out preservation since 2007. Initially, the preservation of ancient manuscripts at the Samparaja Museum, Bima, West Nusa Tenggara, is around 2817 pages. The preservation efforts are carried out based on good consideration of the physical condition of the manuscript media which is in a state of concern, and the efforts to save the copy format of the information from the manuscript itself which will be stored in the National Library of Indonesia as a preservation master. The National Library of Indonesia through the Preservation Department actively moves in the search collection process, negotiate, until the preservation process is carried out. This manuscript is treated well to be media-transferred in digital and microforms. Besides, the manuscript will also be preserved physically if necessary, without changing the text and the content in it. This conservation activity depends on the budget and how many manuscripts are scattered and have been licensed for preservation. Every year, around 1 to 6 teams are sent to the regions, one team usually consists of 10 people who are from the fields of Digital Transformation, Conservation, and Reprography. Each field has its own responsibilities such as the digital transformation field. This field is to preserve by changing the form from printed to softcopy with the final results of the CD form (Compact Disk) and uploading it on the website of the National Library of Indonesia. The process of uploading a digital collection to the INLIS (Integrated Library Information System) database has only begun since 2011, so the results of the media transfer in digital format can be published and accessed by all users. Reprography field carries out the preservation of the library materials information content through the micrography and photography media transfer. In this field, there are 2 (two) subfields which are the Reproductive Subfield and the Micrographic Subfield. The conservation field examines the damage to the document to be preserved, provides the best possible improvement by minimizing changes from the original form, and also saves the contents of the manuscript so that it can still be read.

Librarians at the Preservation Department are involved in this preservation process. The role of librarians as part of the library development is very pronounced especially since

the existence of work points for the preservation of media transfer which can support librarians' credit numbers. According to the Indonesian Librarian Association (IPI), librarians are those who carry out library activities by providing services to the community in accordance with the duties of their parent institutions based on the knowledge, documentation, and information they have through education. A person cannot be called as a librarian if he/she does not have education in the library field even though he has worked for decades in the library. Librarians, in this case, can do technical and non-technical work, according to their respective expertise. The conservation librarian prescribes technically by selecting library materials to be transferred, implementing preservation procedures in the field of work, making bibliographic lists, editing, and quality controlling of the products produced.

Regarding in preserving the nation's cultural heritage, ancient manuscripts are evidence of the existence of a nation and civilization that have occurred in it. UNESCO through the Memory of the World program has given awards to the heritage of the Indonesian people having a high historical value. There are 2 (two) manuscript collections of the National Library, the Diponegoro and Kertagama Chronicle Manuscripts, which received certificates from UNESCO as the Memory of the World in 2013, and the Panji Manuscript in 2017. The Indonesian National Committee for UNESCO (KNIU), MOW Indonesia, and UNESCO representatives in Indonesia, on December 11, 2017, at the Ministry of Education and Culture held a press conference related to the establishment of 3 Indonesian documentary inheritances into the Memory of the World. In addition to the Panji manuscript, 2 (two) documentary heritage archives from Indonesia, the Archives of the Borobudur Temple proposed by the Borobudur Conservation Center (Ministry of Education and Culture), and the Indian Ocean Tsunami archives proposed by the National Archives, also received an award certificate as Memory of The World. The Nagara Kertagama manuscript written by Mpu Prapanca on the e-sheet containing the testimony of the Majapahit government during the 14th century, King Hayam Wuruk, modern ideas about social justice, religious freedom, personal security, and people's welfare were upheld. The manuscript also gave testimony about democratic attitudes and openness of authority in front of the people at a time when the empire validity was still adopted. In 2018, the National Library proposed two documentary heritage collections of the National Library, the Sang Hyang Siksa Kandang Karesian Manuscript, and the Hikayat Aceh Manuscript, to be carried out and compete in the Memory of The World award. For these two manuscripts, they are still in the process of being assessed.

## **LITERATURE REVIEW**

**Librarians** according to the law of the Republic of Indonesia number 43 of 2007 concerning librarians are those who have competencies obtained through librarianship education or training and have the duties and responsibilities to carry out library management and services. The librarian's role in safeguarding the nation's cultural heritage is by preserving all forms of information, looking for manuscripts which are spread throughout Indonesia, socializing the benefits of preservation and the information therein, and maintaining the existence of manuscripts or useful information by transferring them to other media so that their use becomes more leverage.

**Manuscript** according to Sudardi (2001: 6) derives from Arabic. In philology, this word is the equivalent of the English word manuscript 'human writing' or the Dutch word *handschrift* 'handwritten'. So, the manuscript is where the texts were written. This manuscript is concrete, tangible, can be held and touched. In the manuscript, there are writings which are language symbols to convey and express certain things. Therefore, understanding of classical texts can only be done through the manuscripts which are the storage devices. So, philology has work goals and concrete objects in the form of manuscripts.

**Ancient manuscripts** are one type of collection which not everyone has because a collection like this is a rare collection. However, there is still our chance to see this rare collection. A manuscript is a form of cultural heritage that its existence can still be felt until now. Ancient manuscripts are documents of various types which are handwritten but are more specialized in the original form before printing. Ancient Manuscripts are documents of any kind written by hand or typed, have not been printed or made into printed books, which are over 50 years old (Law on Cultural Heritage No. 5 of 1992, Chapter I Article 2).

**Preservation** according to the International Federation of Library Association (IFLA), is to cover all aspects of the effort of preserving library materials and archives. These include management policies, finance, resources, methods and techniques, and their storage. In general, preservation is defined as the action of preserving. Since it still covers a wide range of meanings, so it focuses only on all managerial and financial aspects including accommodation and storage requirement, staff, policies, methods, and techniques of preserving library material with all information in it. Preservation derives from the word "preserve" which means in the real or original state, not changing, eternal. (Kamus Besar Bahasa Indonesia, 2017)

**Knowledge Management** process starts from Knowledge, "which is a fluid mix of framed experience, values, contextual information, and expert insight that provides a framework for evaluating and incorporating new experiences and information. It originates and is applied in the minds of knowers. In organizations, it often becomes embedded not only in documents or repositories but also in organizational routines, processes, practices, and norms". Knowledge management is a field of study in managing knowledge within organizations which in reality ownership of actual knowledge resides in the individuals. According to Land (2008), there are two aspects considered in KM. First, knowledge is managed with the intention of being used as a tool to achieve several objectives, sometimes it is explicitly, but often hidden or secretly stated. Second, knowledge had been managed since humans produced speeches and that some target activities do not cover several elements of knowledge management.

The exchanging process of Indigenous Knowledge (IK) within and among developing countries and between developing and industrial countries involves essential six steps:

- a) Recognition and identification: some IK may be embedded in a combination of technologies or in cultural values, rendering them unrecognizable at first glance to the external observer (technical and social analyses may, therefore, be required to identify IK);

- b) Validation: This involves an assessment of IK's significance and relevance (to solving problems), reliability (i.e., not being an accidental occurrence), functionality (how well it works), effectiveness and transferability;
- c) Recording and documentation is a major challenge because of the tacit nature of IK (it is typically exchanged through personal communication from master to apprentice, from parent to child, etc.). In some cases, modern tools could be used, while in other circumstances it may be appropriate to rely on more traditional methods (e.g., taped narration, drawings);
- d) Storage in retrievable repositories: Storage is not limited to a text document or electronic format; it can include tapes, films, storytelling, gene banks, etc
- e) Transfer: This step goes beyond merely conveying the knowledge to the recipient; it also includes the testing of the knowledge in the new environment. Piloting is the most appropriate approach in this step; and
- f) Dissemination to a wider community adds the developmental dimension to the exchange of knowledge and could promote a wider and deeper ripple impact of the knowledge transfer. (Development Report World Bank, 1998)

**Enthusiasm** is a great eagerness to be involved in a particular activity which you like and enjoy or you think it is important. (Collins dictionary, 2018) Enthusiasm involves passion, the ability to listen to people and care about the job through the passion generated through what [they] want to accomplish. (Chow, 2018)

## **RESEARCH DESIGN**

This research was conducted in a descriptive way with a qualitative approach in accordance with those in the field. This study uses a qualitative approach. Data collection is obtained through interviews and literature study. A semi-structured interview conducted, where open-ended questions were posted and recorded using a voice recorder.

This research uses literature study as a procedure conducted to the research, regardless it is good or not good. The technique of respondent selection used in this study is snowball sampling technique starting with a small number (one person) as a key informant, followed by the person's recommendation, the informant becomes larger to a certain number. The respondents are those working in the Preservation Department, with a total number of 7 participants. Initial information was obtained from the field coordinator who is familiar with and continued with several staffs involved.

Furthermore, in the process of data analysis, the author uses three lines of activities conducted simultaneously, namely data reduction, data presentation, and conclusion or verification. Efforts to maintain the validity of the data in the study, several steps are

made by the authors, namely increasing perseverance, triangulation, using reference materials.

## **RESULTS**

The librarian's enthusiasm in safeguarding the nation's cultural heritage is very important considering that many cultural heritages in various forms passed on by our ancestors need to be preserved and contain values related to the development of civilization in Indonesia.

Librarians in Preservation Department usually called conservator librarian is a profession that needs special skills in which not all librarians are skillful. This job needs diligence, accuracy, seriousness and the important one is competence. In practice, an activity of preserving collection is not only the librarian's responsibility. But the librarians in the Preservation Department have the awareness to preserve and maintain the manuscript in good condition and in a professional way.

Based on six steps of preservation knowledge strategy, the National Library already has a written policy on the activities of manuscript preservation which are listed in the book of Principles of Library Material Conservation Policy (BP) and Ancient Manuscripts 2015-2019. The policies include damage prevention and repairing (curative) actions which are carried out based on prioritized manuscripts. The National Library has recognized and identified library damaged materials and ancient manuscripts in the top priority. Librarians of the National Library of Indonesia has validated the condition of the manuscript and carried out duplicating activities through the transfer of digital media and microfilms in order to make the information contained in the text more durable and easier to use.

Recording and documentation are one of the important things, the vulnerability of the storage media is a problem that needs to be observed, even though this technology is always updated. Recent research on the durability of magnetic media shows that its use can be 10-30 years if handled and stored properly. Related to the storage there is indeed optical disc technology which guarantees the products last up to 100 years, but it is still on a laboratory scale and its toughness has not been tested when sprinkled in the tropical nature with temperature and humidity as the threats. The manuscript will be transferred and disseminated to the user of the National Library by Library Services. The paragraph below will explain the condition of the manuscript scope.

Librarians must protect the collections from damaging factor. In addition, they are the first ones having the responsibility of taking good care of the collections in the library. Librarians in the National Library of the Republic of Indonesia have designed working procedures of preservation. Every librarian has specific skills related to his scope of work, such competence among others include preserving library materials, deciding on the storing methods in a very effective way also monitoring and taking the collection result to preserve.

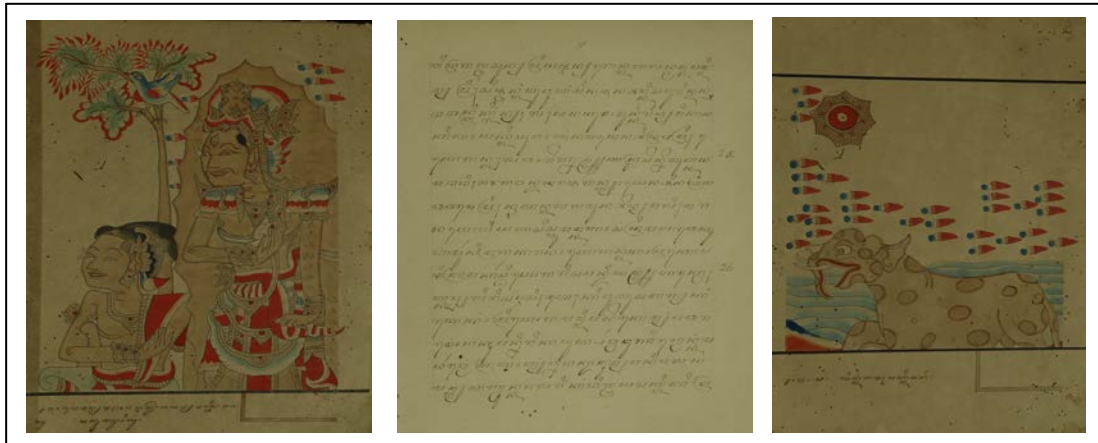


Figure 1: National Library of Indonesia Manuscript Collection

The long-term value and volume of information will vary among disciplines, and various categories of materials will be the choice for long-term curation, and preservation may be a significant problem. As a consequence, the long-term selection, curation, and preservation of digital resources can become increasingly important for various activities (Digital Preservation Coalition, 2006; Lord & Macdonald, 2003).

The constraints of difficulties in opening bureaucracy for data collection of manuscripts can be made by means of socialization. Lack of trust in the government in the effort to the archipelago manuscript preservation resulted in rejections from the owner of the manuscript to save the contents. The owner or the heir of the manuscript who has the right to the manuscript existence can be given an understanding of the importance of the data contained in the manuscript relating to the preservation of the nation's cultural heritage and also the importance of historical values that cannot be measured economically. So, this is where the Librarian can also act as a mediator to regain public trust and explain the benefits of this manuscript to form awareness in the community to participate in its preservation. The National Library of Indonesia also coordinates with the stakeholders in the area, such as regional libraries, public museums, tourism offices, and manuscript lover communities. It is done so that they can embrace the community by means of a cultural approach.

The Librarian for Preservation Departement takes part in maintaining the nation's cultural heritage by carrying out the preservation process of manuscripts in Indonesia. The journey processes of Archipelago Manuscripts Preservation carried out by the Preservation Departement are as follows:



Table 1: Manuscripts Preservation

<b>Years</b>	<b>Region</b>	<b>Titles</b>	<b>Pages</b>
2007	Samparaja Museum, Bima, West Nusa Tenggara	74	2817
	Penyengat Island Sultanate	21	2000
	the Regional Public Library, Banda Aceh	4	1007
	the Bung Karno's Manuscript Collection, Bengkulu	5	1700
2008	Lombok	7	1747
	The official Tourism and Culture Department's	3	1177
	The Museum of Mpu Tantular, Sidoarjo	5	2905
	The Mantes Foundation (MULO) Bone Regional Library	13	2604
2009	Adityawarman Museum, Padang	30	7448
	The Keprabon Palace, Kasepuhan Palace, Kedaung, Mertasinga Cirebon	56	7123
2010	The Radya Museum Library Collection	14	1948
2012	The Maluku Regional Manuscripts in the Land of Siri Sori Islam Saparua	56	
2013	The Buton Sultanate Manuscript, the city government of Bau-bau	16	1188
	The Ancient manuscripts of the Bali Museum Collection	210	21500
	The Cirebon Kasepuhan Palace Manuscript	55	9074
	Medan Regional Manuscripts of the Serdang Sultanate	30	
2014	The Cirebon Kasepuhan Palace	41	6760
2015	The Cirebon Kasepuhan Palace	47	10830
	Jambi Provincial Museum	13	1256
	the Surakarta Mosque Collection	99	30200
2017	Garut	300	
2018	Pamekasan	200	

One of the enthusiasm factors of the Librarians of the National Library of Indonesia is the ethics of collection preservation. The main philosophy is preventing the collections from is better than reconstruct them. We shall not let the library materials be damaged and get worse before we regret it.

The preservation processes of the archipelago manuscript are divided into 3 (three): the pre-digitization stage (initial procedure) which is the preparation stage before the digital object retrieval process, the initial procedures include the process of inventorying and selecting manuscripts to be digitized, surveying the physical condition of the manuscript media, checking it if the condition of the paper is strong, brittle, or very fragile, identifying manuscript descriptive metadata, determining digital file formats, and

selecting capture methods. The second stage is the stage of digitalization which is an act of transferring the format of a media to digital format, which begins with the process of retrieving digital objects, the next stage is posted (after) digitalization, this stage focuses more on how digital objects are presented and accessible by the users.



Figure 2: Sri Baduga Manuscripts

The constraints that occur in the field are often to find ancient manuscript collections which do not have complete descriptive data, no title, and manuscript number, while the media transfer officers do not understand the meaning of the script written, and even the owner of the manuscript does not know the title and contents of the manuscript. Determination of digital file formats produced, in accordance with the preservation master quality standards, are file formats which have high resolution, large dimensions, and file types that do not experience compression.

In between this process, it is also carried out conservation where the manuscripts in a state of concern, fragile, torn, in the form of sheets and so on, are carefully repaired so that their existence can be maintained longer and the information in them can still be saved.

Therefore, the Preservation Department Librarian of the National Library of Indonesia conducts the preservation by identifying and mapping the existence of ancient manuscripts, so that they can be followed up for further action, either physical conservation measures or the preservation of their information. Librarian enthusiasm is very important not only for the perfectness and independency on work ethics but also to preserve and campaign the requirement of preserving the national cultural heritage.

The research finding by having the ancient manuscripts in digital forms which are then uploaded into websites, therefore the making use of the collection has greater functions. The availability of the collection has made the national library richer in the number of collections to serve and to meet the demand of the society by visiting the website or coming to the library. The librarians get satisfaction from the enthusiasm experienced and the credit point obtained. In addition, they are challenged to upgrade the knowledge possessed and technology advancement.

## CONCLUSION

Every manuscript has its own value by the information inside, the finding of the preserving manuscript using IK reveals to give several meanings.

The strength, In between the process, it also carries out conservation where the manuscripts, a state of concern, fragile, torn, in the form of sheets and so on, are carefully repaired so that their existence can be maintained longer and the information in them can still be saved.

The weakness, lack of trust in the government in the effort to the archipelago manuscript preservation resulted in rejections from the owner of the manuscript to save the contents. The constraints that occur in the field are often to find ancient manuscript collections which do not have complete descriptive data, no title, and manuscript number, while the media transfer officers do not understand the meaning of the script written.

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