

Basics of Archives and Museum

Course Objectives:

- To introduce students to the institutions of Archives and Museums as a site of knowledge.
- To aid students to understand the making of the primary sources for the study of history.
- To help students understand and appreciate the different kinds of archives and museum and then new structuring in the digital era.

Course Outcomes:

- Students would learn about the many uses of archives and museums as a site of historical and social knowledge.
- They would be trained to use archives and understand the process of classification and cataloguing of the records.

Unit I: Definition of Archives and Museum: types - digital, virtual, crafts, media; difference between archives, museum, and library

This unit defines Archives and Museum. It also elaborates on the types of archives and museums which includes digital, virtual, crafts, media. It also tells the difference between archives, museum, and library.

Unit II: History of development of archives and museums in India with one case study each

This unit examines the history of development of archives and museums in India with one case study each.

Unit III: Collection, documentation, preservation

This unit elaborates upon distinct characteristics of collection. It also examines the concerns which govern its documentation and preservation.

Unit IV: Museum presentation and exhibition

This unit familiarizes students with the way in which museums are organised and managed. It also examines the considerations which govern the way exhibitions in museums are managed.

Unit I: Students will learn about archives and museums; their types, and their advances.

Unit II: Students will grasp the historical development of archives and museums by collectively studying one case study each. They will understand and be able to discuss their significance.

Unit III: Students will understand and closely witness the processes of archiving and preservation in museums. How records and artifacts are collected, classified, and preserved.

Unit IV: In the last unit students will be acquainted to the process of presentation and exhibition of artifacts.

Suggested Readings

- ✓ *Singh, Kavita. (2003). "Museum is National: The Nation as Narrated by the National Museum New Delhi". in Geeti Sen (Ed.). India: A National Culture. New Delhi: Sage.*
- ✓ *Bhattacharya, Sabyasachi. (2018). Archiving the Raj: History of Archival Policy of the Govt. of India with Selected Documents 1858- 1947. Delhi: Oxford University Press*
- ✓ *Agrawal, O. P. (2007). Essentials of Conservation and Museology. Delhi: Sundeeep.*
- ✓ *Kathpalia, Y. P. (1973). Conservation and Restoration of Archive Material. Paris: UNESCO.*
- ✓ *Mathur, Saloni. (2000). "Living Ethnological Exhibits: The Case of 1886". Cultural Anthropology vol. 15 no.4, pp. 492-524.*
- ✓ *Breckenridge, Carol. (1989). "Aesthetics and Politics of Colonial Collecting: India at World Fairs." Comparative Studies in Society and History vol. 31 no.2, pp. 195-216*

Reference Readings

- ✓ *Ambrose, Timothy & Crispin Paine. (1993). Museum Basics. London: Routledge.*
- ✓ *Choudhary, R. D. (1988). Museums of India and their Maladies. Calcutta: Agam Prakashan.*
- ✓ *Mathur, Saloni. India by Design: Colonial History and Cultural Display. Berkeley: University of California.*
- ✓ *Nair, S. N. (2011). Bio-Deterioration of Museum Materials. Calcutta: Agam Prakashan.*
- ✓ *Sengupta, S. (2004). Experiencing History through Archives. Delhi: MunshiramManoharlal.*

Internet Resources

1. Internet Archives <https://archive.org/>
2. Partition Archives <https://in.1947partitionarchive.org/>
3. National Museum <https://nationalmuseumindia.gov.in/en>

Activities to Do

1. Students are expected to collect and catalogue some primary sources by downloading them from internet or getting them photocopied from a local archive or a library.
2. Students are expected to collect and record the details of various museums in their state and others.