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**The 1st ICHS 2015 International
Conference on Humanities and Social Sciences
“Learning in the 21st Century : Perspectives
in the Humanities and Social Sciences”**

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The Conservation and Preservation of Information Resources in Rajabhat University Libraries : A Preliminary Study

Aphaporn Wanna ¹ and Namtip Wipawin ²

ABSTRACT

The strong local information collections in Rajabhat University libraries support the learning process of Thai culture in teachers' education for many decades. Because the provision of cultural information resources in printed and non-printed forms is still on demand, there is the need to consider the deterioration issues of information resources in the libraries. The conservation and preservation of information resources is also one of the main functions in Thai Rajabhat University libraries. Therefore, these issues can support both policies and practices. This research aims to investigate 1) the current state of preservation and conservation of information resources, and 2) the problems of this practice in Rajabhat University libraries, Thailand. It is a qualitative study by interviewing the administrators and staff in the preservation and conservation units in Rajabhat University libraries, Thailand. This paper is a preliminary study to understand the current state and problems of the conservation and preservation of information resources in Rajabhat University Libraries. The suggestions for the conservation and preservation policy and digital preservation plan of information resources are needed.

Keywords : Conservation and Preservation, Information Resources, Rajabhat university Library

Introduction

The conservation and preservation of information resources is one of the main functions of the university Library. The preservation of university library collections in all formats, including books, archival materials, audio, film, and digital collections. Preservation is the core value of librarianship and has been practiced in

every library which concern with the collection as a whole, including environmental conditions, disaster and emergency planning and overall administration. Preservation includes the protection, maintenance and restoration of library and archive information resources. The managerial and financial considerations such as storage, accommodation provision, staff, policies, techniques and

¹Assistant Professor, Department of Information Science, Phetchabun Rajabhat University. Ph.D. Candidate in Information Science, Department of Information Science, School of Liberal Arts, Sukhothai Thammathirat Open University, Thailand. aphaprn@gmail.com

²Associate Professor, Department of Information Science, School of Liberal Arts, Sukhothai Thammathirat Open University, Thailand. namtip.wip@stou.ac.th, nwipawin@gmail.com

methods involved in preserving library and archives information resources. The objective of preservation is to ensure that information resources of any form survive in an accessible form. The types of preservation are preventive preservation, physical preservation, and intellectual content preservation

Conservation focuses on the individual volumes within the collection. A conservator will repair, or treat, a single book and involve in its treatment. The deterioration are the actions of moisture, heat, light, photocopying, pollution, relative humidity, temperature, poor handling of information resources and biological agents such as insects, rodents, moulds, bacteria, fungi, natural disaster such as water, fire, earthquake, man such as theft, poor handling and storage. Dust, light, rain, flood and poor handling of information resources are issues in the conservation and preservation of information resources in libraries and archives.

Rajabhat university libraries have a long history in conservation and preservation local information. The strong local information collections in Rajabhat University Libraries support the learning process of Thai culture in teachers' education for many decades. Because the provision of cultural information resources in printed and non-printed forms is still on demand, there is the need to consider the deterioration issues of information resources in the libraries.

Research objectives :

This paper aims to study the current state of preservation and conservation of information resources and the problems of this practice in Rajabhat University Libraries.

Data and methods :

Data for this study were gathered from librarians who work in the preservation and conservation units in 5 Rajabhat University Libraries in June-July 2015. The tool used in data collection was an interview. The interview questions are 2 parts, part 1 is the current state of preservation and conservation of information resources, part 2 is the problems of preservation and conservation of information resources. All interviews were taking notes. The data were analysed by content analysis.

Results

1. The current state of conservation and preservation of information resources.

The study found that the conservation of information resources are special collections such as rarebooks, university archives, thesis, local information while the preservation of information resources are old newspapers, map, AV, books, journals, manuscripts and primary documents. Most libraries have the book binding and repair policies and the collection care guidelines with regular training. The budget provision has been arranged only information resources in acquisition. Five libraries have the conservation policy in local collection and thesis but the preservation policy in book binding and repair as shown in table 1:

2. Problems of conservation and preservation of information resources.

The study found that the Problems of conservation and preservation of information resources are unclear policy, inadequate budget and staff, inadequate equipments, climate condition and lack of professional knowledge as shown in table 2 :

The current status	Conservation	Preservation
<i>Information resources</i>	Rarebooks, University archives, Thesis, Local information	Old newspapers, Map, AV, Books, Journals, manuscripts, primary documents
<i>Responsible units</i>	Special collection, Lanna collection, Middle east study unit	Binding and collection care unit, individual volume
<i>Policy</i>	Policy in local collection and thesis	The policy in book binding and repair
<i>Training of Library Staff</i>	Program of book binding and repair training	Non- formal training-
<i>Budget</i>	Include in the acquisition units	No specific budget
<i>Storage</i>	Archives(3) and rarebooks(1)	Primary document and manuscript(1), AV(1)
<i>Disaster and emergency</i>	No plan	No Plan

Table 1 : The current status of preservation and conservation of information resources

Problems	Conservation	Preservation
Information resources	Rarebooks, University archives, Thesis, Local information	Old newspapers, Map, AV, Books, Journals, manuscripts, primary documents
<i>Unclear policy</i>	In the mission but unclear policy.	Unclear policy
<i>Inadequate budget</i>	In acquisition unit but not for special collections.	No budget
<i>Lack of commitment of librarians</i>	No professional staff	2 libraries have staff but no subject specialist.
<i>Inadequate Equipments</i>	Lack of modern equipments	Inadequate modern technology.
<i>Climate Condition</i>	Dust, moisture, heat, light, pollution, humidity, temperature	Dust, moisture, heat, light, pollution, humidity, temperature
<i>Lack of preservation and conservation knowledge</i>	No classification standard in special collection.	-

Table 2 : The problems of conservation and preservation of information resources

Conclusion

This paper is a preliminary study of the conservation and preservation of information resources in Rajabhat University Libraries before conducting in-depth interview and focus group of Rajabhat university libraries and other university libraries in the issues of conservation and preservation management. The current state of conservation of information resources are special collections such as rarebooks, university archives, thesis, local information while the preservation of information resources are old newspapers, map, AV, books, journals, manuscripts and primary documents. Most libraries have the book binding and repair policies and the collection care guidelines with regular training. The budget provision has been arranged only information resources in acquisition. Five libraries have the conservation policy in local collection and thesis and also the preservation policy in book binding and repair. The problems of conservation and preservation of information resources are lack of professional staff and insufficient spaces in order to produce information resources. Rajabhat University Libraries should pay more attention to the deterioration issues of information resources in the libraries. Therefore, there are the suggestions for the conservation and preservation of information resources policy and the digital preservation in the libraries for long term use and easy access.

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