



## Conservation needs demands & opportunities – prospective growth in global era

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**Abstract :** *A conservator is a professional, whose primary activity 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. But the conservation of any document should involve safeguarding National Interests & National heritage. A conservator has the great responsibility of examining the procedures to determine the materials & methods of documents to be conserved. He has to maintain a good balance of knowing & determining the manufacture properties of objects or structures, the causes, the extent of deterioration, alteration of rare & valuable things before entering the profession. This paper examines the professional opportunities of the Conservator challenge faced & the need for a comprehensive capacity building.*

**Keywords:** *Conservator, roles of a conservator, opportunities for the conservator, threats of the professional development, Challenges.*

**Introduction :** A conservator is a professional, whose primary activity 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. Conservation through museums heritage archives is an ever changing & ever evolving discipline which needs peoples who love this profession. (Indira Gandhi National

Center Of Arts Official Website 2014). 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 object or 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).

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

1. **Examine the procedures** -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. **Scientific analysis & research** -A conservator has to take up Scientific analysis & research to identify historic & artistic methods & materials of fabrication. He will evaluate the efficacy of materials to be conserved & prepares a document project.
3. **Help documentation process** -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 which is very necessary because a conservator needs to know the state of the document before conservation.
4. **Conservation supportive analysis** -A conservator has to choose methods to stop deterioration of the materials further. Hence he has to undertake quick conservation supportive analysis. Besides he has to support in restoration to bring a deteriorated or damaged object or structure of materials closer to a previous or assumed appearance or function
5. **Exhibition of documents** -A conservator has to find ways for safe exhibition of saved materials. Exhibiting the documents is very important as each manuscript / documents is a knowledge treasure house . It is

of utmost importance to National interests.

6. **Needs to learn continuously**.- 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 . ( The report of the National Manuscript library 2012). A conservator needs specialization in

1. Archaeology,
2. Architecture ,
3. Archives,
4. Art on paper,
5. Books,
6. Built environments,
7. Decorative arts ,
8. Electronic,
9. Ethnographic materials ,
10. Media ,
11. Natural science ,
12. Paintings ,
13. Photographs ,
14. Sculpture,
15. Textiles etc

Thus a conservator has several specialization while working towards conservation.

**Professional opportunities**- A conservator has the opportunities of working in



1. Archives
2. Government agencies
3. Heritage institutions
4. Laboratories
5. Academic Libraries
6. Museums Government & private
7. NGOs run libraries
8. Private conservations centers
9. University run archival Libraries

**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).

1. Authenticate and appraise historical documents and archival materials
2. Preserve and maintain documents and objects
3. Create and maintain computer archives and databases
4. Organize and classify archival records to make them easy to search through
5. Safeguard records by creating film and digital copies
6. Direct workers who help arrange, exhibit, and maintain collections
7. Set and administer policy guidelines concerning public access to materials

8. Provide help to archives/ library users
9. Find and acquire new materials for their archives

**Career opportunities in conservation**

- There are several related jobs associated to this such as

1. Conservation manager ,
2. Conservation archivist ,
3. Conservation executive,
4. Conservation administrator,
5. Conservation educator,
6. Conservation scientist,
7. Conservation technician,
8. Conservation of collections head
9. Conservation care / preservation specialist.

**Challenges –** There are several challenges in conservation profession. An integrated strategy towards making conservation simpler, hassle free & complication free conservation 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). Digitization has been hailed as a way to preserve historical items for future use. Digitization deals with acquiring, scanning, converting, storing and retrieving in standardization & organized manner with the help of



modern technical gadgets. In libraries the most obvious benefit of digitization is to preserve and provide the aggregation of various resources, in digital form, using digital technology, and resources are preserved for future generation and simultaneously made accessible for current use. (Thiyam Satyabati, Devi. Impact Of Information Technology On The Societal Archive: A Case Study Of Manipuri Manuscripts The International Information & Library Review. V. 40(3);Sept 2008).

**Professional needs & opportunities** – 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).
3. **Digital conservation** - Digitization deals with acquiring, scanning, converting, storing and retrieving in standardization & organized manner with the help of modern technical gadgets. Hence training in digital conservation can be considered
4. **Capacity building**- Youth can be stimulated towards conservation techniques through capacity building. An inclusion of chapters about conservation in curriculum, will

create awareness about conservation of National heritage. Hence youth can be trained in conservation techniques. This helps the survival of a country's pride heritage & inheritance besides in this globalizing environment it offers opportunities for redefining the past & preserving it to the future. Besides it provides avenues for employment & parallel marketing opportunities

5. **government interventions** - A grand 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 people 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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