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AMIR-UD-DAULA PUBLIC LIBRARY GOES DIGITAL

Abhishek Shukla2

Allowing readers online access to them at all times, the library's 1,70,000 books, along with manuscripts and maps, will all be digitized

There's good news for bibliophiles as the famous Amir-ud Daula Public Library , in Qaiserbagh, is all set to go digital. Notably, all the district libraries are in the process of being digitized with AmirUd-Daula being the only exception, which is under the patronage of the city administration. Now, the iconic library will be part of e-Granthalaya: a digital platform for library automation and networking. This is an integrated library management software developed by the National Informatics Centre, (NIC), Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology , Government of India, in which, the books and manuscripts in all major libraries are converted into a digital format and made available to readers on a single website. A similar process is being followed at Amir-Ud-Daula Library . A section has been created especially for the library on the eGranthalaya website.

Shashi Kala, the librarian at AmirUd-Daula informs, "The process started a few months back and is and is going on in full swing. A few officials of NIC are here to carry out the task. The decision to make it digital, was long overdue and was finally taken at the administrative level."

Under this process, all of the 1,70,000 books in the library, which include books of Hindi, English, Urdu, Arabic, Persian, Bengali and Sanskrit literature along with a rich collection of several rare manuscripts and old maps of Awadh and the provinces of Agra and Awadh will be digitized and readers can access them online at any time. Presently the library is frequented by students, research scholars, senior citizens and other book loving denizens. The library boasts of a life membership of 6298 people along with 500 borrower memberships. With this digitization, it will be able to add on more members from across the world.

Under the process, around 8000 books have already been digitized, of which 4000 books are ready to be uploaded "We are ready to go online at any given time now as we have prepared the digital format and will soon be finishing the barcoding of the remaining books," says Ashutosh Mishra, coordinator of NIC, who is handling the digitization work at the library along with two other team members. He further adds, "A separate space is being created altogether for this library as it was included later on in the list of the state libraries being digitized."



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where a large part of the collection of books was donated by my father. It (digitization) was long overdue

was long overdue because the library has some very rare manuscripts and books. But what should also be ensured is the preservation and conservation of the literary treasure that the library has

Muzaffar Ali, filmmaker



Pics: Vishnu Jaiswal



NIC official converting the library books in digital format



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AS it is we don't have too many libraries in Lucknow. I am in fact more happy for my kids who can now access all those rare books online
— Priyanka Sarkar, entrepreneur

It's a step in the right direction. The library has some very rare and precious books and manuscripts. This will ensure that they are preserved forever apart from now being available to all. This is indeed



a very good thing to happen
— Nitin Prakash, businessman



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