

Procedures and policies for maintaining and utilizing physical, academic and support facilities - laboratory, library, sports complex, computers, classrooms etc.

Sambalpur University has a University Scientific Instrumentation Centre (USIC), headed by a Professor –in- Charge and run by technical staff. It provides effective and economical services in the repair and maintenance of scientific/ electronic instruments of various laboratories and electrical appliances of academic as well as administrative units.

The objectives of this facility are to provide maintenance service to all the sophisticated instruments housed in various departments, and to fabricate instruments and accessories for research purpose. The facilities as shown in following table are available to the faculty members and research scholars. In addition to this USIC takes care of all the electrical maintenance work of the University which includes office, Department, Hostel and residential quarter. The University has a Development and Maintenance Section and University Scientific Instrumentation Center (USIC) to look after the maintenance of buildings, classrooms and laboratories. The infrastructure facilities and services are maintained by the technical personnel such as Asst. Engineer and Junior Engineer, who work under the supervision of the Development Officer. Networking, computers and accessories are managed and maintained by the E-Governance Nodal Centre under AMC. The AMC vendor is stationed on the campus having two dedicated engineers to resolve technical issues. Internet 1 GB link under NMEICT/NKN and its services are completely maintained and managed by the expertise of computer centre in-house.

BEST PRACTICE

BEST PRACTICE- 1: Award of the “Gangadhar National Award for Poetry” to the poets of all-India stature

Objectives of the Practice: Sambalpur University believes that promotion of art and culture is as important as the production of theoretical and applied knowledge in the pursuit of its humanist mission. Holistic and comprehensive development of human society is the ultimate goal of higher education, to achieve which the University has made continuous endeavour by encouraging and felicitating poets not merely of the region but also of the nation as a whole.

Sambalpur University has been honouring distinguished poets of national stature with the Gangadhar National Award for their works in English and other Indian languages.

The Context: In pursuance of its vision and mission, which have been to integrate the local cultural resources with the national and global systems, Sambalpur University has been celebrating the cultural ethos of western Odisha by projecting at the national level one of the greatest poets of Odisha, *Swabhaba Kabi* Gangadhar Meher, the cultural icon of the region. The University pays tributes to the poet annually by way of honouring the Indian poets of national eminence with the “Gangadhar National Award for Poetry”.

In the year 1991, while celebrating the Silver Jubilee of its Foundation, Sambalpur University instituted the award. The first recipient of this coveted prize was Ali Sardar Jafri. Since then until 2013, twenty-two poets writing in various Indian languages have been honoured with this prize. While receiving the awards they have the opportunity to be familiar with the poetry of Meher in English translation.

Uniqueness: Sambalpur University claims the uniqueness of being the only institution of higher education in the entire country that has instituted a national award for poetry like the Gangadhar Meher National Award.

Details of Nomination and the Prize: The process of selecting a poet of all Indian stature is elaborate and time-taking, and it involves short-listing of names of potential awardees at various stages. The Council of Jurors comprising the Vice Chancellor, recipients of the Central Sahitya Akademi Awards for Poetry in major Indian languages (Other than Oriya), previous awardees of Gangadhar National Award for Poetry, twenty other members (including three reputed teachers of literature and literary critics of Odisha are nominated by the Vice-Chancellor) nominate names of the poets for the award. The names are processed and scrutinized through a preliminary and a final round of selection by a duly constituted Processing Committee, resulting in the finalization of the name of the poet carrying highest number of nominations for the “Gangadhar National Award”.

The award carries a cash prize of Rs 50,000, *angavastra*, citation, a memento and a copy of *Gangadhar Meher: Selected Works* (An anthology of Gangadhar Meher’s Poetry in English translation).

The Gangadhar National Award ceremony is held as part of the celebration of the Foundation Day of Sambalpur University in the first week of January every year. A huge audience of faculties, students, distinguished invitees, prominent literati, citizens of western Odisha, and the media witnesses the award-giving ceremony, and listens to the citation being read out as the award is given to the recipient. The recipient then delivers the award-acceptance speech.

Evidence of Success: As evident from the profile of the awardees, who hail from different regions of India, the Gangadhar National Award has helped Sambalpur University make a name for itself in the circles of poets, literary critics, readers of poetry and intellectuals at the national level. Similarly, Gangadhar Meher is a now a well-known name on the literary scene of India. In various brochures and encyclopedias featuring Indian poetry at the national and international level Gangadhar Meher finds a prominent place. His poetry in English translation has

appeared in various journals and poetry anthologies in English. Gangadhar Meher's poetry is also taught in the comparative Indian literature courses of various universities, including Visva-bharati, Shantiniketan and the University of Delhi.

List of awardees of Gangadhar National Award

Year of award announced	Name of the Awardee	Language
1991	Ali Sardar Jafri	Urdu
1992	Nabakanta Barua	Assamese
1993	Shakti Chattopadhyay	Bengali
1994	Jayanta Mahapatra	English/Odia
1995	Kedarnath Singh	Hindi
1996	Ayyappa Paniker	Malayalam
1997	Sitakant Mahapatra	Odia
1998	Nirupama Kaur	Punjabi
1999	Vinda Karandikar	Marathi
2000	Ramakanta Rath	Odia
2001	K. Satchidanandan	Malayalam
2002	Shankha Ghosh	Bengali
2003	Sitanshu Yashaschandra	Gujrati
2004	Dilip Chitre	Marathi
2005	Gulzar	Urdu
2006	Nilmani Phookan Jr	Assamese
2007	Haraprasad Das	Odia
2008	Akhlaq Mohammed Khan	Urdu
2009	Surjit Patar	Punjabi
2010	Rajendra Kishore Panda	Odia
2011	Balraj Komal	Urdu
2012	Vasdev Mohi	Sindhi
2013	Soubhagya Kumar Misra	Odia
2014	Subodh Sarkar	Bengali
2015	Leeladhar Jagudi	Hindi
2016	K Siva Reddy	Telgu
2017	Chandrashekhara Kambara	Kannada
2018	Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari	Hindi
2019	Sheen Kaaf Nizam	Urdu

Best Practice- 2: “Manuscript Conservation Programme” (Under the National Mission for Manuscripts (NMM), Ministry of Culture and Tourism, Govt. of India).

Objectives of the Practices: Conservation of Manuscripts Programme is one of the most important archival activities under National Mission for Manuscript, with which the Department of History of Sambalpur University has been engaged. In view of the fact that manuscripts document different aspects of Odisha pre-modern socio-cultural life, folklore and indigenous systems of knowledge, the said programme has been run by the Manuscript Conservation Centre(MCC) of the Department of History, Sambalpur University, since 2004, with the funding of NMM of Ministry of Culture and Tourism, Govt. of India. It has received an amount of Rs.25 lakhs @ Rs. 5 lakhs per annum for the purpose. The MCC has been pursuing the objectives like

1. To conduct curative conservation of manuscripts in the Department of History.
2. To impart training to students and researchers in the conservation of manuscripts.
3. To arrange workshop on preventive conservation
4. To organize campaigns for spreading awareness amongst the public of the importance of manuscript conservation
5. To network with repositories and labs engaged in conservation work and to introduce emerging and appropriate techniques in the field of manuscript conservation.

The Context: Palm-leaf manuscripts have been a source of various cultural and knowledge systems of India since time immemorial. These have been instrumental in the continuance of the indigenous intellectual, cultural and aesthetic traditions through generations. At times these invaluable manuscripts have also served as transcriptions of a vibrant oral culture, pregnant with cultural and intellectual riches. The problem with the palm-leaf manuscripts is that these can survive the ravages of time up to a

maximum of 350 to 400 years in the tropical climate. Unless conserved, these are likely to be destroyed and become unusable. A vast amount of the manuscripts, due to lack of care, are now brittle and unusable, and therefore practically lost to the knowledge-seekers. In many cases the manuscripts are considered sacred objects to be only worshipped, not to be scientifically conserved and deciphered as intellectual resources. Against the above background that NMM has endeavored to retrieve and archive the palm-leaf manuscripts, and Sambalpur University has been running the MCC at the local level to save the heritage of the local resources of culture and knowledge from extinction

The Practice: India has the biggest manuscript reserve in the world. Unlike the western countries, manuscripts in India are scattered not only in institutional repositories but also in private collections, temples, monasteries, libraries and private households. National Mission for Manuscripts (NMM) was established by Dept. of Culture, Ministry of Tourism and Culture, Govt. of India, through a gazette notification in 2003, and it came into existence on the 7th of February 2003. Since then NMM has been engaged in the documentation, conservation, digitization, publication and dissemination of manuscripts. It pursues the goals of identifying, preserving, conserving and making accessible to researchers and antiquarians the scriptural heritage of the country, creating awareness about manuscripts among scholars and the public at large, publishing unpublished manuscripts and building a National Manuscript Library. It is a national level unified initiative which strives to conserve and disseminate the manuscripts available across the length and breadth of the country. Since its inception NMM has been working at multiple levels and has been involved in diverse activities. It has under its jurisdiction more than 50 centres (MRCs) and also 50 MCCs throughout the country that are engaged in the survey and post survey activities for the purpose. The MCC at the Department of History, Sambalpur University is one of them. Information about the manuscripts collected

through survey and post survey activities, conservation projects, awareness campaigns, preventive measures-related workshops and curative workshops are conducted by the MCC. The uniqueness of the MCC at Sambalpur University is that it is the only institution operating in a university in Odisha. Evidence of Success Since its inception the Manuscript Conservation Centre at the P.G. Department of History has been engaged in identifying, preserving, conserving and creating awareness about manuscript among scholars and public at large. ? It has already organized 09 awareness camps in different parts of western Odisha regarding the importance of manuscript preservation. It has four nos. of technically trained persons engaged for preventive and curative works, and they have completed 891830 preventive works and 25480 curative works of palm-leaf manuscripts. The MCC has also 07 nos. of MCPC (Manuscripts Conservation Partner Centres) in different areas for the extension works. It has also a conservation laboratory. The above measures have produced the combined effects of the spread of awareness of the importance of cultural antiquities, building up of conservation capacity through the creation of skilled personnel, and above all the promotion of historical consciousness among the populace at large.

Details of the performance of the institution in one area distinctive to its vision, priority and thrust

Sambalpur University has all along cherished the vision of harnessing the needs of the region it inhabits to the trends of knowledge globally produced in several fields. The western part of Odisha, in which this University is located, is rural, agro-based, tribal dominated and relatively underdeveloped. Hence the professed goals of the University have been to bring about development of the region within an equitable social framework. In the ultimate sense the goals are humanistic as these seek to improve the intellectual and moral standards of humankind and bring panacea to human suffering. The Vision and Mission statements of the University spell out harnessing of the local resources to the larger needs of the nation in the framework of global knowledge system, and nurturing the local resource base and knowledge capital. The University is making a sincere endeavour to pursue excellence in teaching and research to translate the vision into reality and accomplish the mission. From time to time the University takes stock of its activities, reviews its functioning and prepares vision documents, with prospective road-maps for undertaking various activities, prudent management of finances, building up infrastructures in key areas and strengthening the human resource base. Adopting a system of e-governance and developing mechanisms for the decentralization of power, ensuring accountability, and periodic reviewing of administrative functioning are also strategies of the University in pursuance of its vision. Sambalpur University has been striving for excellence by maximizing its research outputs as well as ensuring the quality of research. Side by side, it has created an atmosphere on the campus, which is least distracting to the students and very conducive to learning. As is well known, the three 'M's: Men/Women, Materials and Methods in all pedagogic programmes are needed for quality assurance. Recruitment of qualified teachers, well-thought syllabuses and

effective teaching have combined to help this institution move towards the goals of excellence. All-pronged efforts have been made to ensure the strides towards goal of excellence. University is actively participating in community service through N.S.S. programmes and also offering consultancy on local projects relating to biodiversity, waste management, organic manure development, carbon sequestration and EIA. Students of university have formed a voluntary service organization called '*Sanskara Kendra*' under the auspices of which they are in teaching children of the nearby villages. Extension lectures in the nearby schools by University teachers on popular and contemporary topics like Global Warming, Climate Change, and Gender Equity etc. The faculties of Sambalpur University have undertaken research in various laboratories of the universities outside India, and have made the University internationally known through their works. Many s faculties and scholars have been collaborating with their counterparts from foreign universities in various fields of research.