

# USE PATTERN OF ARCHIVES ON THE HISTORY OF MYSORE

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## ABSTRACT

*Records on the Administration of the Princely State of Mysore and Mysore History form rare collections for historians who venture to study the history of Mysore State under the rule of the Wadiyars, the rulers of Mysore State. These rare materials and archives have been carefully preserved at the Archival Section of the University of Mysore and also at other libraries in Mysore city. The present study furnishes the type of archival materials available at the University Library, Oriental Research Institute and the Karnataka State Archives, Mysore Division. Further, the study depicts the purposes of accessing archives and the use pattern of these rare archival sources on Mysore history by the research scholars, students and teachers in the discipline of Karnataka/Mysore History and allied fields. The present study also projects the extent of dependency of scholars from various professional fields, for information sources on Mysore History. The study also projects the rare collections of manuscripts and books of Tipu's Library.*

**KEY WORDS:** *Archives, Mysore History ; Administrative Records, Mysore History ; Wadiyars, Mysore State; Tipu's Library Collection.*

## Introduction

Mysore was under the rule of Wadiyars for many centuries. For a brief period of time it was ruled by Hyder Ali and his son Tipu Sultan. Historians in their writings cover the most prominent aspects of Mysore : Dynasty of Wadiyars, Rule under Hyder Ali and Tipu Sultan, account of four Mysore wars, culture and philosophy, education and literature and also the art, architecture and music. Under the royal patronage, there was encouragement for the development and of art, music and education. Even today many researchers tend to concentrate on these major issues of Mysore State. Several publications are also being brought out on Mysore.

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The present study aims to study the various archival collections available in the holdings of important libraries of Mysore city. The related objectives are to study the use pattern of archival collections on history of Mysore. The investigators have visited the libraries under the study and obtained data and information through the questionnaire. The available records pertaining to the holdings of archival materials and the annual reports of these libraries have also been consulted. The libraries which possess rich archives on history of Mysore are : Mysore University Library, Oriental Research Institute and State Archives, Mysore Region. Archives on history of Mysore including rare works cover the following types of documents: manuscripts, collection of letters, maps and charts, monographs, books, directories, handbooks, report literature and serials. The libraries which are consulted by the scholars include Department of Archaeology and Museums, Government of Karnataka, Mysore University Library, Oriental Research Institute, State Archives of Mysore Region. There are also few libraries which maintain archival materials and rare works under closed access. These are the libraries of Mysore Palace, Sarasvathi Bhandar, and Special collections of Tipu Sultan. The collection of Tipu Sultan's personal library was studied in detail by George Stewart during 1800 and 1805. He made a descriptive bibliography on the holdings of Tipu's Library and subsequently, the descriptive bibliography was published by Cambridge University Press in 1809. Most of the important collections of Tipu's library were religious texts and literature in Arabic and Persian. The manuscripts were also preserved with minor repairs and rebinding. However, of late, the collections are scattered and difficult to get access for reference and reading. The collections of Tipu Sultan has also gained importance on account of the fact that Tipu was a brave king and fought in the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Mysore wars against the British Rule. He was a heroic figure and was physically fighting against tigers.

### Important Library Holdings

SL. No.	Libraries in Mysore	Total Collection
01	Tipu's Library Collection (TLC)	2715
02	Mysore Palace Library (MPL)	16550
03	Sarasvathi Bhandar (SBM)	4120
04	Department of Archaeology and Museum (DAM)	5620

### HOLDINGS ON HISTORY OF MYSORE (In the Libraries Selected for the Study)

Sl. No.	Selected Libraries in Mysore	Archival Collection
01	Mysore University Library (MUL)	8095 (1.3%)
02	Oriental Research Institute (ORI)	3018 (2.7%)
03	State Archives, Mysore (SAM)	16506 (43.0%)
	<b>TOTAL COLLECTION</b>	<b>27619 (3.6%)</b>

The subject-wise number of rare works in the holdings of Tipu's Library have been depicted in the below table. Tipu was a lover of works on religion, philosophy, history and literature including works in science and technology. There were 1112 rare collections in his personal library. It is said that Tipu was keen in collecting rare manuscripts on religious texts, particularly works on the religious text, Koran.

### RARE COLLECTIONS IN TIPU'S LIBRARY : 1799 A.D.

(Languages : Persian, Arabic, Turkish, Hindi and Kannada)

Sl. No.	Subject Areas	Number
01	Philosophy and Religion	239
02	Koran and Commentaries	120
03	Linguistics	74

04	Literature	237
05	Culture and Tradition	46
06	Collection of Letters	53
07	Jurisprudence	95
08	Science and Technology	108
09	Astronomy	22
10	History	118
	<b>Total Rare Works</b>	<b>1112</b>
	<b>Total Library Collection</b>	<b>2715</b>

### **Purposes of the Use of Archives**

The below table projects the percentage of the use of archival documents available in the holdings of three prominent libraries in Mysore

Sl. No	Purposes of the Use of Archives	Percentage of Use		
		MUL	ORI	SAM
01	Teaching	14%	12%	22%
02	Research	21%	23%	34%
03	Students' projects	48%	41%	13%
04	Publish News Items	17%	24%	31%

It is clear from the table that a large majority of the users access archival collection for the purposes of research work as well as project works of master's degree programme. However, quite a number of users access materials at the State Archives for the purpose of writing articles and news items for newspapers and popular magazines. Among the purposes of use, teaching happens to be the low priority; comparatively, users seek archives for the purpose of teaching to a lesser extent.

### **Extent of Use of Archives**

The extent of use depends on the availability of needed sources or facts. Secondly, the extent relies upon the facilities extended by these libraries which include the working hours, the extent of open access and the time required to retrieve the sources by the staff who work in these libraries.

#### **Use of Archives at MUL**

Sl. No.	Category of Users	Year-wise Visitors		
		2009	2010	2011
01	Teachers	409	419	426
02	Research Scholars	601	586	616
03	Students	1410	1316	1418
04	Public and Journalists	399	447	489
	<b>Total</b>	<b>2819</b>	<b>2768</b>	<b>2949</b>

The table depicts the use of archival collections at Mysore University Library (MUL). All the category of members makes use of the archives to a considerable extent. However, the students who approach the library for the purpose of preparing project reports are more in number when compared to the other categories of users, i.e., teachers, researchers and public, including journalists. Therefore, it can be deduced that all the categories of users access archives and rare works at MUL and the number of students who seek archives on Mysore history is comparatively high.

#### **Use of Archives at ORI**

Sl. No.	Category of Users	Year-wise Visitors		
		2009	2010	2011
01	Teachers	101	112	118
02	Research Scholars	196	210	228
03	Students	356	359	413
04	Public and Journalists	211	247	243
	<b>Total</b>	<b>864</b>	<b>928</b>	<b>1002</b>

It is evident from the table that students and public avail the facility at Oriental Research Institute to a great extent when compared to the teachers and

research scholars. It is also true that there is considerable increase in the number of users every year. The students who visit ORI seeking archival collections, including manuscripts and rare books are master's degree students who compile and write dissertations or project reports as part fulfillment of master's degree programme. A large segment of the collection at ORI is in Sanskrit language, and the materials relating to history to some extent are in kannada and English.

#### **USE OF ARCHIVES AT SAM**

Sl. No.	Category of Users	Year-wise Visitors		
		2009	2010	2011
01	Teachers	816	793	803
02	Research Scholars	1212	1256	1229
03	Students	427	439	471
04	Public and Journalists	805	917	1107
	<b>Total</b>	<b>3260</b>	<b>3405</b>	<b>3610</b>

The above table depicts the use pattern of archival materials at State Archives, Mysore Regional Office, (SAM). Students who visit SAM are mainly for academic pursuits and the number is comparatively low. Whereas, teachers, research scholars and public who rely upon SAM are comparatively high in number. It is evident that a large segment of research scholars in the field of Mysore history rely upon State Archives for reference as the collection here is directly relevant and comprehensive. The statistics in the table also project that there is increase in the number of visitors every year.

#### **Findings and Recommendations.**

- Archives and rare materials, including manuscripts on the history of Mysore is being used for research endeavour and quite a large number of students rely upon local libraries for their project works of the master's degree programme.
- The study on the use pattern of archives on Mysore history reveals that there is gradual increasing trend in the use of archives.

- The archival collections of utmost importance are related to the subject areas of ;
  - Wadiyars of Mysore : life and contributions
  - Education and cultural heritage of Mysore
- The archival collections on thrust subject fields like “Mysore Wadiyars and Mysore Cultural Heritage available in the holdings of the State Archives are being frequently used by scholars and public at large.
- Rare manuscripts and report literature on Mysore history have to be protected using modern preservation techniques at Mysore University Library and Oriental Research Institute. Quite a number of records have become brittle and susceptible for damage in these two libraries.
- It is recommended that the digitization of materials of historical importance has to be taken up and completed on priority in these two libraries. A major portion of materials of historical importance has been digitized at the State Archives and the process has to be continued covering manuscripts as well.

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