



RABINDRA BHARATI UNIVERSITY

School of Vedic Studies is organizing a **Workshop on *Preservation of Books and Manuscripts*** from **27.01.2026 (Tuesday) to 31.01.2026 (Saturday)**

Concept note

Books and manuscripts constitute an invaluable part of humanity's cultural, historical, and intellectual heritage. However, these materials are highly vulnerable to deterioration due to environmental factors, improper handling, biological agents, aging materials, and lack of preservation awareness. Libraries, archives, museums, and private collections—especially in regions with limited resources—face increasing challenges in safeguarding both printed and handwritten materials.

Preservation is essential not only to extend the physical life of books and manuscripts but also to ensure continued access for research, education, and cultural continuity. Many custodians of collections lack formal training in preservation practices. This workshop is designed to address these concerns by equipping participants with practical knowledge and skills in preventive conservation and basic preservation techniques.

Objectives:

The workshop aims to -

- Create awareness about the importance of preserving books and manuscripts
- Introduce basic concepts of preventive conservation
- Identify common agents of deterioration and methods to control them
- Demonstrate proper handling, storage, and environmental control techniques
- Provide guidance on basic repair, conservation ethics, and digitization support

Key Themes:

- Nature and types of books and manuscripts
- Agents of deterioration (physical, chemical, biological)
- Preventive conservation strategies

- Handling and storage best practices
- Basic conservation and repair techniques
- Ethics and standards in conservation

Methodology:

The workshop will be conducted through:

- Expert lectures and presentations
- Interactive discussions
- Demonstrations and hands-on sessions
- Case studies and best-practice examples
- Question-and-answer sessions

Expected Outcomes

By the end of the workshop, participants will:

- Understand the fundamentals of book and manuscript preservation
- Be able to identify risks to collections and take preventive measures
- Apply basic preservation techniques in their institutions
- Develop greater awareness of long-term conservation planning

Venue:

Lecture Hall at School of Vedic Studies, Rabindra Bharati University, 56A, B.T. Road, Kolkata – 700050

Registration:

No Registration Fee.

Registration link: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeK4b9-DcrTyaymtNmS5cHjQblrwBWlxbEQXV4DpVwls-PiA/viewform?usp=dialog>

Convener of the workshop

Dr Juthika Biswas

Assistant Professor, School of Vedic Studies,
Rabindra Bharati University
Contact: +91 9474800861
Email: juthikabiswas@rbu.ac.in

Joint Convener

Dr Shilpi Sarkar

Assistant Professor, School of Vedic Studies,
Rabindra Bharati University
Contact: +91 8017113068
Email: shilpisarkar@rbu.ac.in