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## Pandulipi samshodhak: A manuscript editor

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Dr. Haroon Irshad**

### Abstract

Manuscriptology is the science dealing particularly with the study of manuscripts or old literary documents. Before the writing & printing speaking was the medium of transmitting ideas. Man evolved the technique of oral communication by the use of sounds. In India Vedas were transmitted from generation to generation only through speaking & hearing. Writing was done on walls of caves, clay cylinders, stone, wood, metal, pottery etc. Later on writing on leaves -Palm, bark of Bhurja, cloth, papyrus & parchment by incising or inscribing. India has the largest number of Manuscripts in the world. In India there are a large number of Manuscripts and other documents written during the last several centuries and now available in different Institutions. In fact the number is so large and wide spread even rough estimate is also difficult. Lots of difficulties can be faced while studying the manuscript. Searching, getting and reading the manuscript need lots of effort. To overcome that C-DAC developed a software called Pandu lipi samshodhak which helps the literary scholar to easily find the manuscript source, availability, condition and all the facilities to study and translation to the universal language English.

**Keywords:** Manuscriptology, grantha script, pandu lipi samshodhak

### Introduction

A manuscript is a handwritten composition on paper, bark, cloth, metal, palm leaf or any other easily movable material dating back at least seventy-five years that has significant scientific, historical or aesthetic value. Manuscripts of cultural, historical interest are exposed to various kinds of dangers from the very moment of their manufacture no matter whether they are still fulfilling their original function outdoor or are within the protective walls of proper storage. That's why it is said that 'Time spares no one'. Properly read any medical Manuscript discloses us culture, medical practices, new prescriptions, new drugs, sometimes new diseases etc.

### Grantha Script

The invention of the script is the most remarkable and revolutionizing invention of the mankind which marks the beginning of the civilization. There can be no history, no civilization without script. It is the script that preserves and conveys the natural creative gift of man beyond space and time. It is often considered to be of divine origin, probably because of its function in relation to human being their world and the supreme creator. The Grantha script is one of the earliest southern scripts, to emerge from the Brahmi script. Grantha is a script developed by the Pallavas to write Prakrit and Sanskrit in the Tamil country. It further evolved into the Tamil and Malayalam scripts.



Fig 1: Grantha Script

### Pandulipi Samshodhak

Pandulipi Samshodhaka is manuscript processing software, useful to scholars in preserving, processing and analysing the manuscripts. Image processing tool is augmented with the software for Manuscript image processing. This software can be

used to create catalogue of manuscripts, and also content creation for manuscript images. Pandulipi Samshodhaka supports both ISCII and Unicode based storage. Support to Vedic accents and Grantha script is provided with the software.

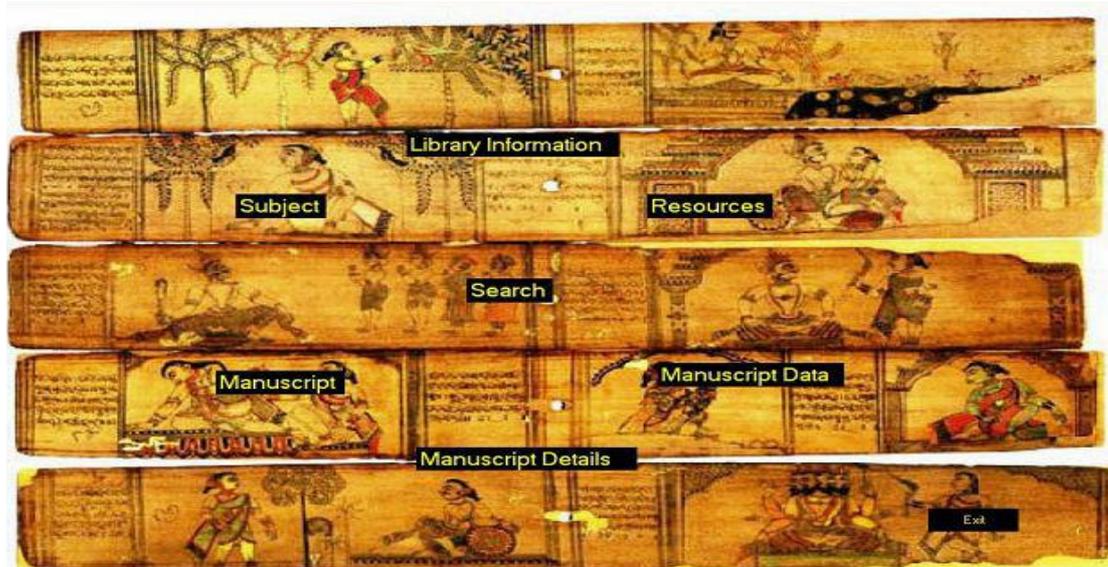


Fig 2: Overview of the software

### Salient Features

1. Text can be entered in all Indian languages including Grantha and Vedic.
2. Tool to compare multiple versions of the same text.
3. Export to .aci/.pci formats possible
4. Search word/Phrase in selected/all texts in database.
5. Tool to adjust image for readability.
6. Transliteration of text.

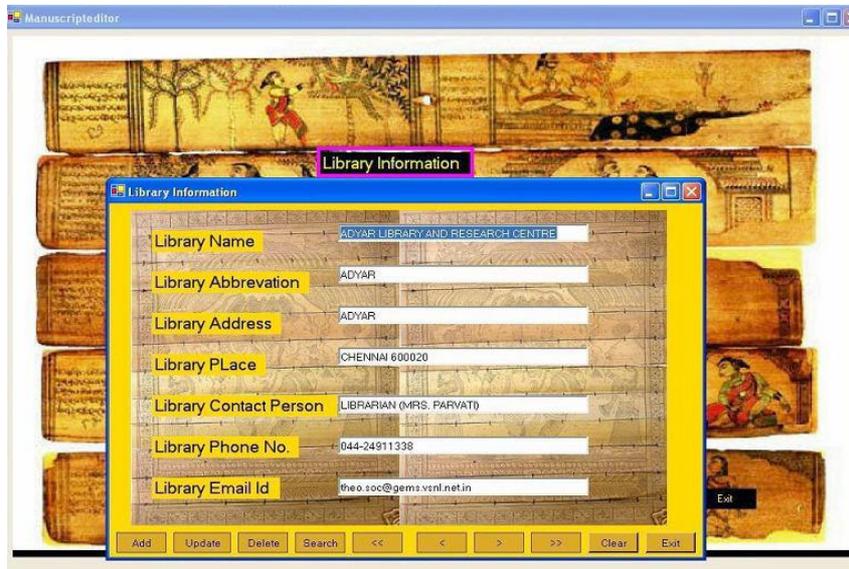
- Select Version of Manuscript in the Library
- Select Image number.
- Click on Browse button.
- Adjust image for readability.
- Select the script of manuscript.
- Enter manuscript text and save.
- Navigate to next image and repeat the steps.

### Methodology

Data Entry for Manuscript

- Select Manuscript
- Select Library

Pandulipi Samshodhaka helps in storing and retrieving library information, such as, library name, contact person, address, etc.



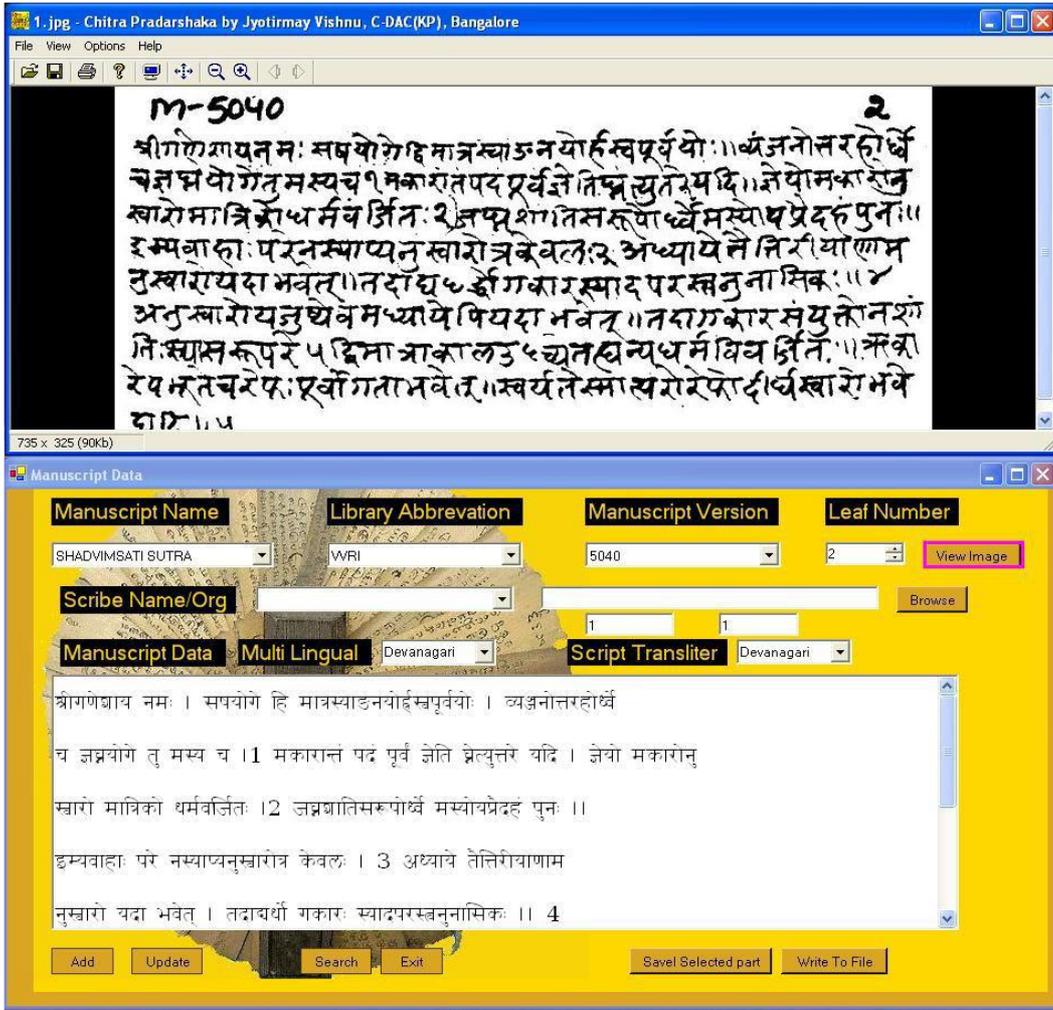
Manuscript meta-details are captured into this screen. Information such as name, source, language, script, author, date, number of leaves, condition of the manuscript, etc. are captured in this form.



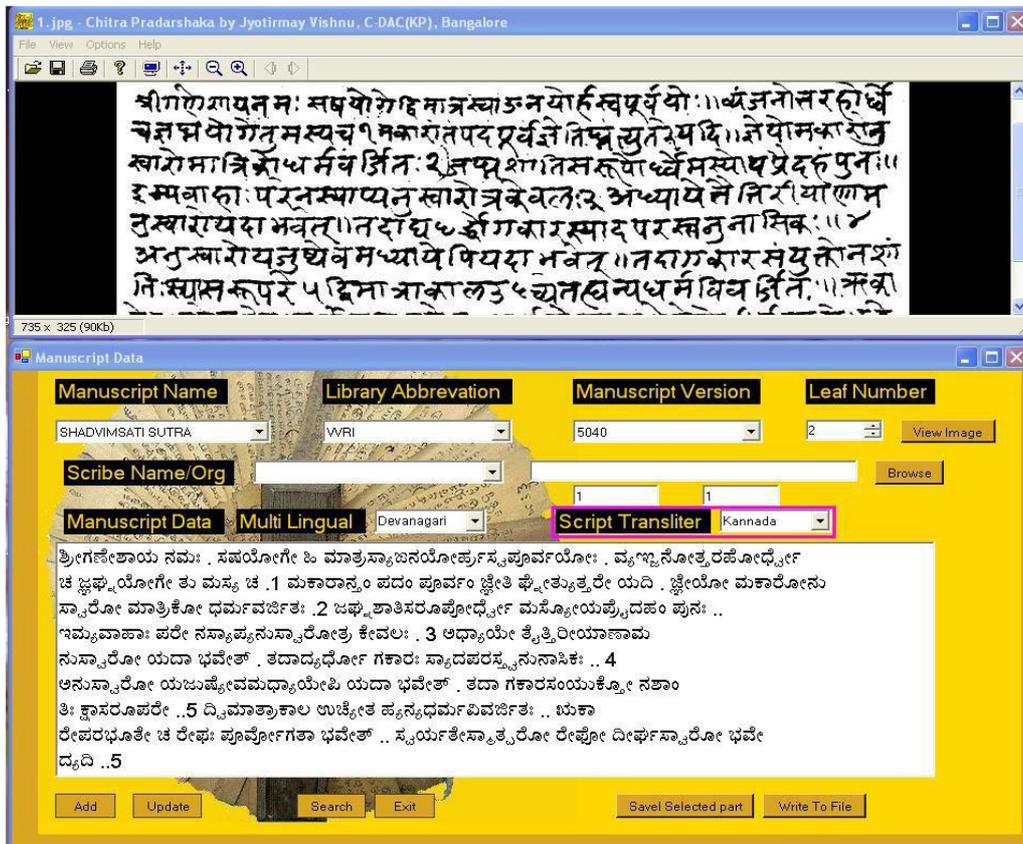
The software helps in storing Vidyasthanas (category) for the manuscript. For example – Vedanga



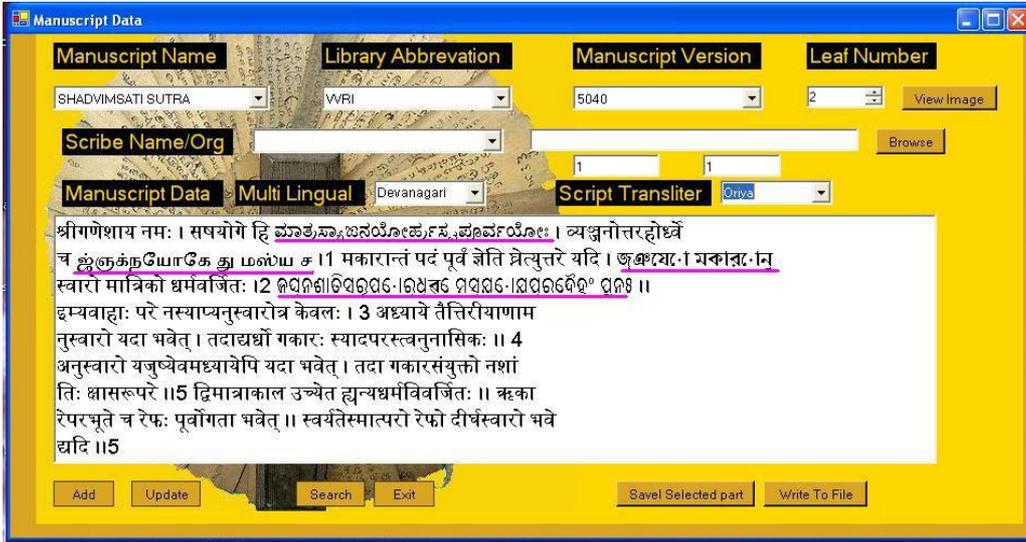
Content creation for the manuscript is done using the manuscript editor. Looking at image above, user types the manuscript data in the editor below.



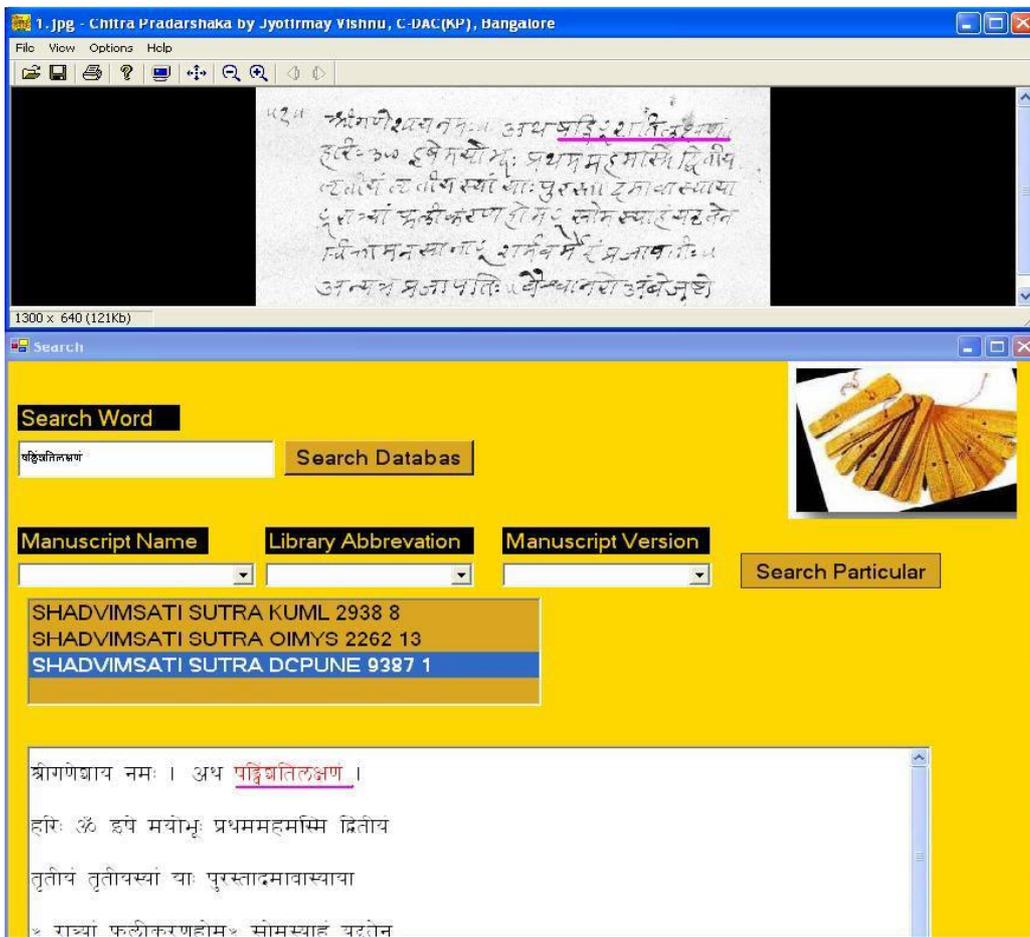
Transliteration of the manuscript content is provided with the software.



Multilingual content creation can be done in Pandulipi Samshodaka.



Search for word/phrase in manuscript is possible once content creation for the manuscript is done.



### Additional Features

Once manuscript data is entered for one version of a manuscript, the same version can be browsed, loaded or searched for entering data for different version of other manuscripts of the same text.

- Data can be exported to .aci file or .rtf format.
- Transliteration is provided for non-vedic texts.
- Word/Phrase search within already entered data is provided.
- Data can be inserted into database if marked for manuscript serial number.
- Data can be entered for all 19 scripts including Vedic and Grantha.

### Discussion

Pandulipi samshodhak software is one of the useful software to explore the knowledge inside the Manuscript. But the manuscripts available in the software are totally related to fields other than Ayurveda. Ayurveda manuscripts are spread everywhere, many are still unpublished. Sebastian Pole, one of the Ayurveda practitioners from Bath, UK (2004) mentions that better standards for Ayurveda education, higher levels of teaching, publication of a higher volume of practical reference literature in the field, more active herbal conservation, stronger defense of herbal pharmacopoeia and more clinical research are the urgent needs for the advancement of this field. All these are possible only if medical manuscripts, the

knowledge base of this field, are preserved. Scholars are struggling to get manuscript and to study the manuscript. If the same software collects the Ayurveda manuscripts for study many unpublished or unseen manuscripts will get publish. Many commentaries and many books are not yet available, which still have to find. Many published books needed critical edition for clarifying the doubts and for getting the clear knowledge. Because of the unawareness and lack of knowledge many of the manuscripts are getting damaged.

### **Conclusion**

It is a very sad fact that only 2% of the available material from medical manuscripts are in the printed form. Several treatment methods and medical formulations are yet to be discovered from the manuscripts, so exploring the knowledge from the manuscript is need of an hour. With the help of modern technology it will become easy to search the manuscript, to study and to exhibit to the world. The software is cost effective and easy to use. Each and every details of the manuscript will be available very easily. Still the software needs more exploration for the research scholar.

### **Acknowledgement**

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