

REPORT ON PAPER CONSERVATION WORKSHOP, 24/11/22

As a part of the World Heritage Week of 2022, held between the 18th-25th November, the School of Heritage Research and Management organized several events and workshops on heritage. On 24th November 2022, the department had the opportunity to conduct a Paper Conservation Workshop for the students, led by Dr. R.K. Trivedi.

The workshop was held at the Conservation Lab of SHRM, giving the students a holistic and professional experience in working with objects of historical value. Dr. R.K. Trivedi began the session with a detailed explanation of why one needs to know the material and nature of an object before handling the same. This was followed by an analysis of paper- its scientific composition, varieties, and uses. The students were introduced to different types of paper in terms of material and age: a collection of palm leaf manuscripts from the 18th century - all of which are collections of Dr. Trivedi and the Conservation Lab of SHRM.

This was followed by an extensive analysis of the deterioration factors of paper, its reasons, and the preventive measures taken to stabilize the object's condition. The students were also introduced to the lab's fumigation chamber as part of the curative measures, along with chemicals like 'thymol' and 'paradichlorobenzene.'

In the second session, each student was given a manuscript to work on. With the guidance of Dr. Trivedi, the first step of documentation was conducted, where the manuscripts were carefully measured and recorded under the 'Treatment Record of Paper Manuscripts' handed out to the students. The material of the paper was also analyzed, along with the nature of the ink and the thickness of the paper. This was followed by a study of deterioration and physical condition. The students were also encouraged to create pictographic representations of their manuscripts highlighting the physical factors of the same.

The session was concluded by conducting a 'solubility test' of the ink of the manuscripts, for which the students had the novel opportunity to handle scientific lab tools on their manuscripts. This holistic experience was greatly appreciated as it opened another window of opportunity and interest for the students of SHRM.









