

SPECIAL LECTURE  
“Museum and Archives”  
20/04/2022



**Dr. Saswati Pal Choudhuri**, Assistant Professor, Tagore institution in Art and Education and **Dr. Pradip Kumar Mondal** delivered a special lecture jointly on **Museum and Archives** on 20/04/2022 at Vidyasagar Metropolitan College. Dr. Saswati Pal Choudhuri spoke on Museum and Archives: Definition & Function, Documentation and Exhibition and Dr. Mondal delivered his lecture on Conservation and Security of Museum.

89 students participated in the seminar.

## Conservation of Cultural Property

**Dr. Pradip Kr Mandal**  
**Curator, Rabindra-Bhavana**  
**Visva-Bharati.**

According to ICOM-CC “**all measures and actions aimed at safeguarding tangible cultural heritage while ensuring its accessibility to present and future generations.**”

The main aim of Conservator is to increase the life span of cultural properties. This is very difficult task. First we should have to know the cultural property and its material composition. Cultural property may organic or inorganic. Organic materials may plant product (cellulosic fibers) or animal product (collagen fiber, calcium rich materials). On the other hand inorganic product may metallic (Iron or Non-Iron or Noble) or non metallic (siliceous or Non-Siliceous). According to material composition of cultural materials we have to choose the process of conservation.

Then we should know the aggressors of the cultural property to save them from their aggressors.

The main Aggressors are –

1. Physical (Temperature, Light, Humidity etc)
2. Natural (Flood, Earthquake, fire, storm etc.)
3. Biological (Insects, Fungus, Algae and others animals)
4. Chemical (Acid gasses, Air pollutant, dust and dirt etc)
5. Human Vandalism

We know prevention is better than cure. If we know cultural property properly and keep safely from their aggressors the purpose will be done. Otherwise curative method is very difficult, costly, laborious and time consuming.

## Introduction to Museums: An Overview

**Dr. Saswati Pal Choudhuri**  
**Asst. Professor**  
**Tagore Institute of art and Education**

According to ICOM annual General Meeting, 2007 a museum is “A museum is a non-profit, permanent institution in the service of society and its development, open to the public, which acquires, conserves, researches, communicates and exhibits the tangible and intangible heritage of humanity and its environment for the purposes of education, study and enjoyment.”

This definition says Archives, Zoo garden, Botanical garden, Planetarium, Aquarium all are museums. The activities of museum are collection, documentation, conservation, presentation and exhibition of cultural property / documents / manuscripts / wild animals etc through the educational activities, researches and enjoyment for the development of Society. Museums deal with heritage property. So we should know the heritage, types of heritage, their presentation and education to the society with enjoyment.

It is a very good example of living cultural heritage is Rabindra-Bhavana, Visva-Bharati, Santiniketan for discussion different types heritages.

Both tangible (historical buildings, murals, reliefs, sculptures, historical gardens, manuscripts, paintings, memorabilia etc.) and Intangible heritage (programmes and Festivals, Song, drama, Dance etc) can be observed here throughout the year.

Museum can be reached to all classes and types of people. Museum is for the people, by the people and of the people. Different types of social, racial, economical, political, mental can be reduced through museum. Museum can be acted as a trace relief organization for all kind of people.