

**Title: Multilingual Literature Research (MLR) Database Development: Decolonizing Knowledge Infrastructures**  
SPARC Project from MoE- 2023-2025

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**Overview of the project:**

The 8th schedule of the constitution, India has 22 official languages and more than 11 scripts with new ones being added. In all of these major languages, there is a robust production and consumption of literature. Indian literatures and research in different

languages rarely make a presence in international research databases. The Digital Humanities and Publishing Research Group at IIT Indore has initiated projects to try and close the gap between research in Indian language literatures and in English so we can facilitate a conversation between these very vibrant literary cultures. One such project is KSHIP (Knowledge Sharing in Publishing), a multilingual research-publishing portal, an Open Access Digital Publishing portal that is part of an international consortium of university presses and will solicit and publish original research in Hindi, English and other languages. The Multilingual Literary Research (MLR) database being proposed here will be a part of the larger publishing project. The MLR database will be a relational database modeled on similar relational database management systems. Since this is a database project, Meta tagging is done in as to make these works retrievable. Google translate, My SQL and excel will form the basis for understanding efficiency in scholarly Meta tagging.

**Research Methodology:**

As the international and national review shows, the identified gap area is the absence of a comprehensive research database for Indian language literature research. There is often also not a DOI for these works or a citation index that make them discoverable to researchers around the globe. Research Associates from Computer Science will provide the technical expertise in making such a database a reality for researchers. Since, the Indian languages are in different scripts such as Devnagri, the digital interface will factor that. Novelty and Scope of IP : By building a database for language literatures research, the project will achieve two things at once- 1) Make research accessible to researchers, faculty and students across the globe and 2) Digitize and thus create a repository for citations of research work in different language literatures.

**Deliverables:**

The digital sphere becomes a platform for academic research for discoverability of materials. Research scholars require a comprehensive database of works in different areas. Hence, the need of a database is to provide a comprehensive dissemination of existing literature. There are many debates and discussion about the complexity of digital space as accessing the digital knowledge is prevented by pay-walls. The open access of the digital knowledge emanates the issues of labor, infrastructure and the underlying economics. However, the aim of this project is to foreground the need of a database in literature and scholarship of Indian languages. We propose to build such a database that will be hosted through KSHIP (Knowledge Sharing in Publishing), which is a multilingual academic publishing project headed by the PI. There are multiple digital databases of literature and scholarship available for readers and researchers throughout the world but are mostly in English. A wide-ranging dissemination and access of literature and scholarly articles in Indian languages is rare in the digital space.

