

Title: Digitizing Madhubani: Archiving the Socio-cultural History of Bihar

Principal Investigator (PI)

Dr. Priyanka Tripathi
Associate Professor
Indian Institute of Technology Patna

Co-Principal Investigator (Co-PI)-

Prof. Nirmala Menon
Professor
Indian Institute of Technology Indore

Prof. Abhishek Srivastava
Professor
Indian Institute of Technology Indore



Overview of the project:

This archival study endeavours to digitize and preserve the narratives infused within the Madhubani or Mithila paintings of Bihar. Through the digitized preservation of this aesthetically suffused ancient art form, the project seeks to create an interactive archive combining Word, Image, and Text to serve as a valuable resource for art historians and humanities scholars. The archive will incorporate visual images with bilingual (Hindi and English) textual and audio descriptions, supplementing them with a machine-comprehensible format like XML and/or JSON for web-based accessibility.

Research Methodology:

- Methodologies and approaches to engage appropriate target audiences or participants: The target audience for this project includes Digital Data Repository (DDR) developers, Scholarly Communication, Archival Science, Communications technology, and Humanities and Cultural Heritage (HCH) researchers, especially in Hindi and English.
- Mobilization by Prototype: Once art work is digitized, an archival repository will be built and will help in annotation and image processing studies.
- Mobilization by Example: How do we create cultural datasets that require tools that are not developed for non-roman scripts? While the scanning and digitizing can be done, the question is how we use different tools on this corpus and the research avenues that will be open for students and scholars across the Humanities. To do it in combination with narrative, image and text will be unique to this project.

Deliverables:

- A digital open-access archive
- Organizing a short-term course/conference-2
- Publications in journals like Digital Scholarship in the Humanities, Digital Humanities
- Quarterly, Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences Studies
- Documentary on the life histories and other aspects of the contemporary existence off five Madhubani artists