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Panjab Digital Library Fact Sheet

Established:

By the grace of Guru Nanak Sahib, Panjab Digital Library (PDL) began operations in 2003 as a small organization tasked with a gigantic mission. Starting with one agenda, one desktop, and one employee, PDL has come a long way since.

The project emerged from the concerns shared by a group of individuals for the fast-disappearing or already-lost heritage of Panjab. In many such cases, valuable material, rare literature, architecture and signs of much celebrated memories were completely destroyed, whether by ageing, accident or human aggression. Despite these losses, it was clear there was still a lot left that is worth saving. This vision of preservation for future generations was the primary motivation for the project. After much deliberation and brainstorming, the project was established with a focus on archiving the endangered invaluable manuscripts and other literature to conserve and defend the heritage, culture and language of the Panjab state.

Mission:

To locate, digitize, preserve, collect and make accessible the accumulated wisdom of the Panjab region, without distinction as to script, language, religion, nationality, or other physical condition.

PDL is dedicated to:

- Addressing heritage loss due to environment, ignorance and destruction
- Saving invaluable treasures to enrich the present and enlighten the future
- Connecting people globally by providing continued free online access

Overview:

PDL represents an effort to digitally preserve and make accessible the rich heritage of Panjab. For ages, these historical treasures have been threatened with loss or damage. Now, it seeks to digitally preserving them in their original form, color, graphics and texture, while at the same time, changing the way we access and utilize these materials. It will redefine the role and scope of a library. Scholars and public alike will have easy access to online digital libraries with powerful searching and browsing capability. This

digitization of history holds great promises in research, education and awareness, while saving precious time and money. PDL starting from a small house has developed into the nation's reference library. We request authors and publishers to allow us to include their publications in the Digital Library.

Inspiration: The rich heritage of Panjab was rapidly dwindling and degenerating due to the destructive effects of time, age and human negligence. Many rare manuscripts or invaluable pieces of history are destroyed during wars, invasions, and natural disasters. The idea of digitizing texts is the best possible solution to this loss of information.

Achievements: PDL started digitization of historical texts in 2003. Millions of pages were launched online at www.panjabdigilib.org on the 20 August 2009 for public use. To date, PDL has digitized over 5 million pages from different manuscripts, books, newspapers, magazines, photographs, etc. Libraries digitized include Panjab Languages Department, Government Museum Chandigarh, Kurukshetra University, SGPC, DSGMC, etc.

*“They have done what the collective effort of Punjab Archives Dept.,
three Universities in Punjab and the SGPC failed to do.”
– Indian Express, 15 November 2005*
