

## **Perceptions of academic librarians of Bangladesh regarding preservation of indigenous Knowledge**

This study will investigate the perceptions of academic librarians in Bangladesh regarding the preservation of Indigenous Knowledge (IK). Indigenous Knowledge, which includes traditional practices related to medicine, agriculture, and environmental stewardship, is crucial for cultural diversity and sustainable development. However, IK faces the risk of being lost due to modernization and the lack of systematic preservation efforts. This research aims to evaluate the awareness, challenges, and roles of academic librarians in preserving IK. It also explores methods and strategies recommended by librarians for systematic IK preservation and provides recommendations for capacity building to align with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 4.7 on education for sustainable development and SDG 11 on inclusive and sustainable cities and communities. This study will employ a quantitative research design using a survey method targeting academic librarians in public and private universities in Bangladesh. The survey will collect both quantitative and qualitative data on librarians' understanding of IK, perceived challenges, roles and responsibilities, and recommended preservation methods. The collected data will be analyzed using descriptive statistics and content analysis to identify themes and patterns. The research hypothesis suggests that academic librarians in Bangladesh have limited awareness of IK, face significant challenges in its preservation, recognize their roles but lack the necessary skills and support, and recommend community-centered and digital approaches for IK preservation. The study may highlight the need for capacity building through training, resources, and institutional support to enhance librarians' contributions to IK preservation. This research underscores the critical role of libraries in preserving cultural heritage and promoting sustainable development. By documenting and disseminating IK, libraries can help maintain cultural diversity, support community identity and empower local communities. The findings will guide strategic planning for developing a competent workforce of librarians dedicated to preserving Indigenous Knowledge in Bangladesh.