



# Preservation of the Ancient Manuscripts of the Book “Waruga Jagat” and the Book “Babad Sumedang” at the Sumedang Pangeran Foundation Library

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## ABSTRACT

The Pangeran Sumedang Foundation Library is one of the libraries that stores several ancient manuscripts. Ancient manuscripts are a rare type of collection that not everyone, every region, or every library has. Therefore, the existence of a collection of ancient manuscripts needs to be maintained and maintained so that they can be used as a source of information for people who need it. This study aimed to determine preventive and curative ancient manuscript preservation policies and constraints in carrying out ancient manuscript preservation activities at the Pangeran Sumedang Foundation library. While this research tries to examine the preservation of ancient manuscripts, especially the ancient manuscripts of the Waruga Jagat book and the Sumedang chronicle book. The research approach used is a qualitative approach with a case study type. Based on the results of the research, it is known that the birth of an ancient manuscript preservation policy, especially the ancient manuscript of *Waruga Jagat* and the *Babad Sumedang* book, is because these two ancient manuscripts have very important informational and historical values regarding the founding of the Sumedang Larang Kingdom. Meanwhile, on the other hand, the manuscript is hundreds of years old and its condition has started to deteriorate, so it is necessary to carry out preservation activities. This preservation activity is carried out using prevention and repair or through a transfer of media forms. Regarding the obstacles in this preservation activity, namely budgetary constraints, limited human resources and limited facilities that support ancient manuscript preservation activities.

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

The Pangeran Sumedang Foundation Library is one of the libraries in West Java Province that stores several ancient manuscripts. According to the results of interviews with librarians, around 2,000 ancient manuscripts are stored in the Pangeran Sumedang Foundation Library (Interview, October, 2019). Some of these ancient manuscripts are made of palm leaves, bark, trees, *daluang*, wood and paper. Meanwhile, the language contained in the ancient manuscripts was written in ancient Sundanese script, *cacarakan*, Arabic-pegon, and Latin (Dureau

& Clements, 1990). One of the ancient manuscript collections of the Pangeran Sumedang Foundation library is the "Waruga Jagat" and "Babad Sumedang".

The two manuscripts mentioned above are ancient manuscripts that are very rare and have value because they are related to history. As for the Waruga Jagat book, it is an ancient manuscript in the form of *perimbon*, which contains various contents and is in the form of *wawacan* or stories sung in the form of *pupuh*s and philosophy written in Arabic pegon letters in Javanese and Sundanese. There are about 12 sheets in total. The age of this manuscript is estimated at around 300 years. The ancient manuscript of the Waruga Jagat book is an ancient manuscript that has high informational and historical value because this manuscript tells about the Sumedang Larang kingdom in the 16th century AD. However, because the age of this manuscript is quite old, its condition is vulnerable to damage due to age, temperature, humidity, etc (Rene, Bruin, Wassink, & Zanen, 2001).

Then regarding the ancient text of the Babad Sumedang, it is an ancient text that contains essential information about the history of Sumedang in the past which is currently rarely known by the people of Sumedang, especially among the younger generation (Razak, Anggarini, & Supriyanto, 1992). Even though the book "Babad Sumedang" presents many interesting stories, starting from the reign of Prince Geusan Ulun (PGU), the presence of officials in the Padjadjaran Kingdom (Kandaga Lante), namely four brothers, namely Jaya Perkosa (Sanghyang Hawu) as senapati, Wiradijaya (Nanggan), Pancar Buana (Terong Peot) and Kondang Hapa who were the people sent by the last King of Pajajaran, namely Prabu Ragamulya Surya Kencana and the Harisbaya incident, namely the kidnapping of Harisbaya's daughter who was the wife of Prince Girilaya Cirebon, which sparked conflict between the Cirebon kingdom and the Sumedang Larang kingdom. Apart from that, the Bubu Chronicle of Sumedang also tells about the regents of Sumedang after the reign of Prince Geusan Ulun (PGU). As for the collection of ancient manuscripts, besides being stored in the library of the Pangeran Sumedang Foundation, this manuscript is also stored in the Netherlands with the title *wawacan babad Geusan Ulun* which is a collection of Snouck Hurgronje in Javanese letters and also in Arabic letters Pegon and in the National Library of Indonesia with the title *wawacan babad sumedang* and *wawacan* are derivatives of Sumedang origins which are collections of C.M. Pleyte is written in Latin letters.

Given the importance of the value of the information contained in the two ancient manuscripts (Harvey, 1993), both the Waruga Jagat book and the Sumedang chronicle text, the authors are interested in researching the activities of preserving the ancient manuscripts of the Waruga Jagat Book and the Sumedang Chronicle book. This research was conducted at the Sumedang Pangeran Foundation Library. There are several objectives of this research activity, namely: First, to find out the policy of the Pangeran Sumedang Foundation librarian in preserving ancient manuscripts? Second, what are the preventive and curative actions of the Pangeran Sumedang Foundation librarian in preserving ancient manuscripts? And third, what obstacles do officers face in carrying out ancient manuscript preservation activities?

As stated above, this research examines the preservation of ancient manuscripts (Rachman, 2017, 2018a). Several definitions explain preservation as stated by Nelly Ballofet (2005) which states that preservation includes activities for the physical maintenance of documents and information contained therein which includes rearranging, re-placing, and using protective containers or places aimed at expanding access to information that might be lost because of missing pages, or because of damaged documents. Meanwhile, IFLA (2010) interprets preservation as managerial and financial regarding storage and accommodation, staffing levels, policies, techniques, and methods seen in library and archive preservation activities, and the information contained therein. In general, preservation is an activity to preserve collections and to minimize the risk of damage to collection items so that collection items can be used longer by interested agencies, especially libraries (Holil, 2020; Rachman, 2018b). Preservation activities can be preventive, namely preventive activities with the aim of extending a document's life. This activity is in the form of maintaining, caring for, monitoring periodically, and preventing physical damage caused by chemical, biological factors, and so on, as well as curative preservation, namely activities to restore damaged documents to be good again, repairs, deacidification functions, lamination and so on (Kuswara, 2018; Mahastama, 2020).

To explain ancient manuscripts, it is necessary first to explain the concept of the manuscript itself. Mamat Sasmita (2008) defines a manuscript as "a handwritten work on *daluang*, palm-leaf media or other media. In Latin, manuscripts come from the word manuscript: *manu scriptus* (handwritten), specifically meaning all written documents that are handwritten, distinguished from printed documents or reproduced in other ways". Meanwhile, for the meaning of ancient manuscripts, when referring to the Cultural Conservation Law No. 5 of 1992. Chapter

Article 2 is "documents in any form that are handwritten or typed and have not been printed or made into printed books that are more than 50 years old" (Fitri, Ahmad, & Ahmad, 2015).

In conducting a study on the preservation of ancient manuscripts, there are several previous research bases, such as research conducted by Susanti and Sukaesih (2017), who conducted research entitled community participation in the preservation of ancient manuscripts as an effort to build knowledge management. This research was conducted on ancient manuscripts in Garut district, West Java province (Behrend, 1988). The method used in this research uses mixed methods with data collection techniques through questionnaires, interviews, field observations, and through library research (Campbell & Evolvi, 2020). The results showed that for some community members who kept ancient manuscripts, preserving them was still done by storing them in a clean and dry place and, at certain times, cleaning the dust and dirt that had stuck to the ancient manuscripts. Regarding the awareness of community members who own ancient manuscripts to report ownership of ancient manuscripts to the government, in general, it is still low. This is due to concerns that the ancient manuscripts they have must be submitted to the government.

The second research was conducted by Sumiati, Agustini, and Winoto (2010), with the title preservation of our ancient manuscripts of *waruga jagat*, a Case study at the Pangeran Sumedang Foundation Library. The methodology used in this study uses a qualitative method with a case study approach. It is done by using interview, observation, literature study, and documentation techniques to collect data. Based on the research results, several efforts are made by the Pangeran Sumedang Foundation Museum Library, both preventive and curative in nature. As for the obstacles in carrying out preservation include the lack of human resources, limited facilities and infrastructure for ancient manuscript preservation activities.

This study uses a qualitative approach with a case study type of research (Mustari & Rahman, 2012). According to Robert K Yin (1994), case research is more suitable for research with how and why questions. In addition, this type of case study research is applied when the researcher has no control over the events being studied, and the research focuses on current events in a real-life context.

Regarding the subject in this study, the librarian of the Pangeran Sumedang Foundation. While the object of research is preserving ancient manuscripts of the *Waruga Jagat* book and Sumedang chronicle books. Sources in the study include primary data, namely people involved in protecting ancient manuscript library materials, namely librarians. While secondary data is additional information that will complement the primary data in the form of both printed and recorded/audio documents. Such as books, journals and articles related to the preservation and ancient manuscripts of *waruga jagat* and chronicle Sumedang. The data collection technique is carried out through observation, interviews, and literature studies. The data analysis technique is carried out through data reduction, presentation, and verification stages.

## 2. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The Pangeran Sumedang Foundation Library is a particular library located at Pangeran Geusan Ulun street No.40 Sumedang, West Java. The Pangeran Sumedang Foundation library building is located in the Pangeran Geusan Ulun museum area which is located about 50 meters on the south side of the Sumedang town square, next to the State building. Geusan Ulun is taken from the name of a charismatic historical figure who contributed to spreading Islam in the former colonial area that entered the Sumedang Larang area.

At first, the library collections were still united with the Pangeran Geusan Ulun museum collections. At the end of 2006 the library collections were separated by placing these collections in one of the rooms within the museum area. According to the head of the Pangeran Geusan Ulun Museum, R. Moch Ahmad Wiratmaja, the history of the Pangeran Geusan Ulun Museum was founded by the birth of the Pangeran Aria Suria Atmaja Foundation (YPSA) in 1950 which was later changed to the Pangeran Sumedang Museum in 1955 with the deed of Mr. Tan Eng Kiam No. 98. This foundation acted as nadzir of the waqf of Prince Aria Suria Atmaja or Prince of Mecca, regent during the 1883-1919 period.

The Pangeran Geusan Ulun Museum has 4 (four) main buildings: Srimanganti, Bumi Kaler, Gedeng and Gamelan. The Srimanganti Building was founded in 1907 by the Regent Dalem Adipati Tanujaya who moved the district city center from Tegal Kalong to this place. Until 1950 the Srimanganti building became the regent's official residence or family residence. Between 1950–1981 it was used by the Sumedang Regional Government office and underwent restoration at the same time as the Bumi Kaler building in 1982. After that Srimanganti was handed over to the Pangeran Sumedang Foundation by the Director of Culture of the Ministry of Education and Culture at

that time. Srimanganti Building and Bumi Kaler, previously included in the Monumenter Ordonantie in 1931 as a cultural heritage Ordonantie.

Figure 1. Pangeran Sumedang Foundation Library



Source: Personal Documentation, 2019.

In the Srimanganti building, quite an extensive collection of historical objects is stored, including the *kalantaka* cannon left by the Dutch Company, gamelan Panglipur left by Prince Rangga Gede in 1625-1633, Gamelan Pangasih left by Prince Kornel 1791-1828, and gamelan Sari Arum left by Prince Sugih 1836-1882. Meanwhile, the Bumi Kaler Building, built in 1850 or during the reign of Prince Kusumah Dinata (Prince Sugih) 1836-1882, was used as the residence of the Sumedang regent. The architectural form is very distinctive, namely in the form of Julang Napak and most of it is made of teak wood. In this building are stored, among other things, ancient books/scripts consisting of a handwritten Al-Quran from the 19th century, the early 18th-century *waruga jagad* book, as well as 19th-century history books and pegon letters. In addition to the book, there is also a collection of domestic and foreign money collections, *puades*, altars for circumcised children in the 19th century, and books from the regents' collections.

The Gamelan Building which was founded in 1973 was a donation from Ali Sadikin, the Governor of DKI Jakarta at that time. The regional government handed it over to the Pangeran Sumedang Foundation. It was later used to store 10 gamelan units and other traditional musical instruments, as well as being used for dance practice. The gamelan in the gamelan building include the 19th century gamelan sari oneng parakan salak, which was included in exhibitions in Amsterdam in 1883, in Paris in 1889, and in Chicago in 1893. Apart from the gamelan sari oneng parakan salak, there are also the 17th century Mataram Sari Oneng gamelan left by Prince Panembahan and many other gamelan originating from the 18th century.

Gedung Gedeng is a building that was initially built in 1850 by Prince Suria Kusumah Adinata. This building stores heirlooms, conventional weapons, and gamelan relics from the past. The Gedeng building was restored in 1950, but its function remained the same: to store ancestral heirlooms; then, in 1990, a new heritage building was built so that most of the heritage collections were transferred to this new building. The collections owned include types of manuscripts (*Quran, wawacan, books, paririmbón*) and types of *cariosan* (history, *saga, manakib*).

### Library Officer Policy in Preserving Ancient Manuscripts

Ancient manuscripts are a unique collection owned by the Pangeran Sumedang Foundation library. This collection, which is hundreds of years old and inherited from the regents during the reign of the Kasumedangan kingdom, is in a quite alarming condition. The age of the collection has reached hundreds of years, so the use of the collection by users is a challenge that the Pangeran Sumedang Foundation library must face. Several policies have been implemented to minimize damage, including preservation policies.

Preservation activities are essentially an attempt to preserve or extend the age of a document, including in this case, ancient manuscripts. As for what prompted the implementation of the policy to protect ancient

manuscripts by the library manager of the Pangeran Sumedang Foundation, it was based on several things, including the information and historical value contained in a manuscript, the scarcity of manuscripts, the age of steps, etc. Therefore, in the context of the preservation policy of the Sumedang babad ancient manuscripts and the book of waruga jagat, because these two ancient manuscripts have very important informational value and are related to the history of the founding of Sumedang larang, the ancient manuscripts must be preserved so that they can be used longer as a source of information.

In carrying out the ancient manuscript preservation policy, it can be carried out either in a preventive manner, namely by carrying out maintenance or through a curative approach, namely by making repairs or even transferring forms in other forms of media so that the value of the information is still maintained. Due to the policy of preserving ancient manuscripts in the library of the Pangeran Sumedang Foundation, if described, it includes several things namely:

*First*, Policies relating to the storage and arrangement of ancient manuscripts and the temperature conditions required for the storage of these manuscripts;

*Second*, Policies in terms of security and preparedness to save ancient manuscripts from damage and loss in the face of disasters such as earthquakes, floods, fires, etc.;

*Third*, Policies in the repair and reproduction of collections of library materials. How is the collection of library materials preserved, does the original physical form need to be conserved or mediated, if the physical form needs to be preserved what method will be used.

The purpose of preserving documents or library materials is so that documents or collections of library materials are always available and ready for users who need information. This effort can be done by preserving or transferring the physical form of library materials. Preserving information content in other media such as microfilm, microfish, photo reproductions, and photocopies, or preserving both, namely in physical form and information content. There are several objectives to be achieved related to the maintenance of library materials in the library:

*First*, save the value of the information contained in any library materials or documents. *Second*, save the physical form of library materials or documents. *Third*, overcoming the problem of lack of storage space. *Fourth*, speed up the process of searching and obtaining information. Maintaining the beauty and tidiness of library materials.

Still regarding the purpose of preserving documents or library materials, according to Sulisty-Basuki (1994), preservation of library and archive materials is to preserve the information content of library materials and archives by transferring forms using other media or preserving the original condition as completely as possible so that it can be used optimally (Basuki, 1991, p. 271). It can be concluded that the purpose of preserving library materials is basically to preserve both the information content and the physical form, by transferring the media or maintaining the original form so that it can be utilized by users to meet their information needs.

Based on the explanation above, it was revealed that the policy of preserving ancient manuscripts in the Pangeran Sumedang Foundation library was carried out considering the large number of ancient manuscripts that have informational and historical value that are hundreds of years old and many of which have suffered damage due to the age of the manuscripts so that special handling is needed so that the age of this manuscript can always be maintained. As for carrying out the preservation policy, the library manager has gone through several stages and how to handle it following the procedure for preserving library materials.

In compiling a policy on preserving ancient manuscripts at the Pangeran Sumedang Foundation library, the library manager first prepares an activity plan. Several stages are prepared in compiling a policy for the preservation of this ancient manuscript, namely as follows:

*First*, drawing up a budget. Regarding the budget for carrying out library material preservation activities, it requires a lot of money for preventive and curative activities such as conversion. As for the source of funds for organizing the library, including preservation activities, it is sourced from the Sumedang Regency APBD funds, and the amount is also minimal. Therefore, in carrying out preservation activities, the priority of the types of ancient manuscripts must be carried out is determined by considering various factors. One of the ancient manuscripts that is a priority for preservation is our ancient manuscript "Waruga Jagat" and the Ancient Manuscript "Babad Sumedang".

*Second*, prepare facilities and infrastructure for the preservation of ancient manuscripts following library material preservation standards;

*Third*, prepare human resources who will be involved in conservation activities both for preventive preservation and curative activities;

*Fourth*, determine the methods and techniques of ancient manuscript preservation. In connection with the determination of this method and technique, preservation activities involve the preservation of the contents and the preservation of the physical aspect. In the context of preserving the contents of ancient manuscripts, it concerns media transfer, script conversion, and language conversion. As for physical preservation concerns preventive activities such as fumigation and air temperature regulation as well as curative preservation in the form of binding, lamination, etc.

### Preservation of ancient manuscripts at the Pangeran Sumedang Foundation Library

As explained at the beginning of this paper, the preservation of documents or ancient manuscripts consists of preventive conservation, namely preservation activities that are preventive in nature and preservation which are curative or remedial. As for the preservation of ancient manuscripts, the book *waruga jagat* and the *Babad Sumedang* (Sumedang chronicle) carried out by the library manager of the Pangeran Sumedang Foundation, they include:

*First*, preventive preservation. Preventive preservation activities are activities in the form of preventive measures to extend the life of a document, while the mechanisms used are maintenance, maintenance, regular monitoring and physical prevention of damage caused by chemical, and biological factors and so on. Meanwhile, based on the results of interviews with library staff at the Pangeran Sumedang Foundation, preventive activities are carried out to prevent insects, fungi and keep the air temperature from humidity. As for the steps taken, according to Fetty K Soemawilaga, namely the method is, "using cloves once a week and sprinkling them on the sidelines of the ancient manuscript collection cupboard. In addition, camphor and silica gel are also given to reduce humidity and prevent insects and rats from attacking".

Figure 2. Cloves, camphor, and silica gel for preventive activities in ancient manuscripts



Source: Soemawilaga, Interview, August 2019.

Another preventive effort made to maintain the age of the ancient manuscripts in the Pangeran Sumedang Foundation library is by adjusting the lighting and air circulation. In this regard, librarians usually open the library cupboard door and let free air enter to replace dirty air as long as the cupboard door is locked.

*Second*, curative preservation. Then regarding curative preservation activities carried out by the library manager of the Pangeran Sumedang Foundation in handling ancient manuscripts, especially we *waruga jagat* and chronicle books, there are several activities carried out, namely through fumigation and lamination which is carried out every 4 years by asking for help from the library of the Sri Baduga Museum, Bandung. As for the results of interviews with library managers stated that. "As an effort to save ancient manuscripts, especially the collection of Waruguja Jagat books and Babad Sumedang, we converted them into CD media," (Soemawilaga, Interview: August, 2029).

Figure 3. Activities of Transforming Ancient Manuscripts in the Form of CD Media



Source: Soemawilaga, Interview, Agust 2019.

### ***Obstacles in Carrying Out Ancient Manuscript Preservation Activities***

In carrying out the preservation of ancient manuscripts in the library of the Pangeran Sumedang Foundation there are no obstacles or constraints. There are several obstacles faced by library managers such as budget constraints (Nurmalasari, 2021). This is because carrying out preservation activities requires a large amount of money, especially regarding repairs and conversion of media forms. Meanwhile, there is no special budget for preservation because the library budget is a budget for all activities and its source only comes from the regional revenue budget (APBD); limited human resources both knowledge and aspects of special skills related to the handling of preservation activities; as well as limited facilities and infrastructure that support preservation activities both preventive and curative.

### **3. CONCLUSIONS**

The policy of preserving ancient manuscripts in the Pangeran Sumedang Foundation library was carried out considering that this library has several works that have informational and historical value, including the ancient manuscripts of *waruga jagat* and the *Babad Sumedang* books. While these works, seen from their age, have reached hundreds of years, so special handling is needed for this collection of ancient manuscripts. Efforts made by the library manager are to carry out document preservation activities both preventive in nature, namely in the form of prevention and curative or remedial activities. The preventive activities carried out by the Sumedang Foundation's library manager are by sowing cloves, camphor, and silica gel and regulating air exchange and lighting in the library. Meanwhile, curative preservation activities include repairing the loose volumes and pages of the book and converting the media form to a CD to save the manuscript's contents. However, implementing this preservation activity cannot be separated from obstacles or barriers. Several obstacles are encountered in carrying out these ancient manuscript preservation activities, such as limited budget or funds, limited human resources, and limited facilities and infrastructure that support ancient manuscript preservation activities.

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