



archives
at ncbs

Archives at NCBS

OVERVIEW

A public collecting centre for the history of science in contemporary India

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The Archives at NCBS (<https://archives.ncbs.res.in/>) is a public collecting centre for the history of science in contemporary India. Over 350,000 processed objects across over 50 collections are housed at our 2000-square-foot state-of-the-art physical centre in Bangalore. We opened to the public on Feb 4, 2019.

Our objectives are four-fold:

- To strengthen research **#collections** and public access in our domain
- Push the frontiers of **#research** in archival sciences in India
- Build capacity through **#education**
- Reimagine the archives as part of the commons through vibrant public **#engagement**



Archives at NCBS Reading Room

Archives enable diverse stories

350000+
archival
objects

140+
years of
history

50+
collections



Archives at NCBS commissions artists to develop exhibitions using archival material. *Bodies at Sea* (Season 3, 2022-23) traversed the boundaries between the visible and unknown, examining complexity of our interior bodies alongside oceanic bodies.



Max Born and Hedi Ehrenberg at the Bangalore residence of the mathematician, BS Madhava Rao, ca 1937, MS-013-7-6-17-31, BS Madhava Rao Papers, Archives at NCBS.

10+
languages

1876
oldest
material

40 TB+
data



COLLECT & PRESERVE

We are committed to building diverse collections for free public access to help us better understand the history of science in contemporary India

- 350k+ objects | 50+ collections
- Monitoring 10 environmental parameters in a 2000-sq-ft state-of-the-art storage centre
- Dedicated labs for physical conservation, digitization, media transfer and processing
- Archival material is accessible and interoperable through international standards.

Processed Collections, Jan 2025

MS-001 Obaid Siddiqi
MS-002 TM Sahadevan
MS-003 KS Krishnan (Biologist)
MS-004 Ravi Sankaran
MS-005 Ajith Kumar
MS-006 TSG Sastry
MS-007 MS Swaminathan
MS-008 MM Panicker
MS-009 BV Sreekantan
MS-011 A Ratnakar
MS-012 Leslie Coleman
MS-013 BS Madhava Rao
MS-014 Wayanad Prakrithi Samrakshana
Samithi (WPSS)
MS-015 NL Char
MS-016 CP and Kusala Rajendran
MS-017 NV Joshi
MS-018 Prakash Gole
MS-019 RJ Ranjit Daniels

MS-020 Aasheesh Pittie
MS-021 R Prabhakar
MS-022 AN Yellappa Reddy
MS-023 TS Balakrishnan
MS-024 KS Krishnan (Physicist)
MS-027 Shripad and Nandini's Papers of
Narmada Struggle
MS-028 Krishnaja AP
MS-029 PK Sukumaran
MS-030 Ashish Chandola
MS-031 Navnirmiti
MS-032 Usha Rai
MS-033 Carl D'Silva
MS-035 Panduranga Hegde
MS-036 Salim Ali
MS-037 Kalpavriksh
MS-038 TNA Perumal
MS-039 Rachel A Jesudasan
MS-040 Chayanika Shah

MS-041 YS Rajan
MS-042 BC Choudhury
MS-043 GS Rawat
MS-044 Ram Kumar Varma
MS-045 V Subrahmanyam
MS-046 Jamal Ara
MS-049 Anil Sadgopal
MS-050 Environment Support Group
MS-054 M Sarada Menon
MS-055 Chandita Mukherjee
OH-001 Oral Histories - NCBS
OH-002 Oral Histories - History of Science, individual interviews
OH-003 Oral Histories - Ecology and Conservation
OH-004 Oral Histories - Life of Science

collaboration
BB-001 - BB-009 Rare books, various collections
BB-010 Vigyan O Vigyan Karmee
IN-APUA-PMB-DOC-12-1 Vijnan-Karmee digital (APU Collaboration)
LB-001 Science Reporter Magazine
LB-002 Swasth Hind Magazine
LB-003 Science Today Magazine
SD-001 - SD-003 Small Donations - Various Disciplines
AT-001 - AT-003 Artefacts - Obaid Siddiqi and KS Krishnan labs
NI-001 - NI-008 NCBS Institutional Collections
NS-001 - NS-005 NCBS Lab Collections



EDUCATE

We seek to scale and build capacity through sensitizing the public about the form and content of archives, training of archivists and using archives in education.

- Trained 75+ students across 15 disciplines between 2017-2024, including the sciences, social sciences, humanities, design, law, journalism, and commerce.
- Student projects ranging from archiving to engineering, design to writing, and more.
- Curriculum development program with dedicated courses around the history, philosophy and cultures of science
- Archives-in-education programme toward curriculum modules for school teachers, using archival material for critical thinking.
- Development of graduate-level course for archives



Archives, Ethics and the Law in India

A GUIDEBOOK FOR ARCHIVISTS IN INDIA

Published by Archives at NCBS in collaboration with the Milli Archives Collective

Supported by the International Council on Archives (ICA), Fund for the International Development of Archives (FIDA), and the National Centre for Biological Sciences (NCBS)

RESEARCH

We aspire to push the frontiers of research in archival sciences in India, intersecting with the sciences, law, humanities, social sciences, semantic web, and more.

- Development of one of India's first guidebooks for the interface of archives, ethics and law, in collaboration with Milli Archives Foundation.
- Conservation research on special aspects of material deterioration in archival objects.
- Development of one of India's first integrated physical and digital preservation programs with an emphasis on open initiatives.
- Obaid Siddiqi Chair in the History & Culture of Science (2021-Present): First of its kind in India, an effort to draw in world renowned scholars to bridge the gap between the Sciences, Social Sciences and Humanities, and foster a diverse and inclusive community of academics across disciplines, and reimagining the Archives as a foundational 'lab'.
- Coming soon: Development of the first national framework for science archives, ethics and law, with a sensitivity analysis.



ENGAGE

Through vibrant public engagement, we hope to reimagine the archives as a public space that strengthens the commons.

- Featured in The Hindu, The Wire, Hindustan Times, The Times of India, The Indian Express, and more.
- We are host to hundreds of visitors across disciplinary boundaries, from arts to sciences, social sciences to performing artists.
- Archives Public Lecture Series: 65+ editions, running continuously for 7 years
- Archives Exhibitions: 6 Seasons, at the intersection of history, culture and design, first of its kind in India
- Scrolls & Leaves Podcast: First in India, with original sound, and stories at the intersection of history and science.
- Four grants and international collaborations.
- Serving on national and international advisory boards.
- Liaison with the Milli Archives Foundation (<https://milli.link>), a non-profit company for nurturing all aspects of archives.

About the Archives at NCBS

The Archives at NCBS is a public collecting centre for the history of science in contemporary India (<https://archives.ncbs.res.in>). It is also a founding member of the Milli Archives Foundation, a network of individuals and communities interested in the nurturing of archives (<https://milli.link/>).



Accessing material

Visit our catalog! <https://catalogue.archives.ncbs.res.in/>

See <https://archives.ncbs.res.in/access> for details on accessing the archives from your home!

The Archives at NCBS is open between 10am-5:30pm on weekdays, and weekends by appointment. To plan your visit, email us at archives@ncbs.res.in

Donors

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GKVK Campus, Bellary Road, Bangalore 560 065.
Karnataka, India
archives@ncbs.res.in | +91-80-2366-6011



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Brochure Illustration and Design
by Megha Ramachandra

@archives_ncbs

