BIRPARA COLLEGE

Affiliated to: University of North Bengal
Government aided co education degree colleges
Accredited by NAAC

Birpara, Alipurduar,
West Bengal, PIN-735204

birparacollege.ac.in / birparacollege.com
birparacollege@gmail.com
03563-266217

Ref. No: **BC/N/461**

Date: **28/Mar/2025**

General Notice

This is to inform all members of the Research Sub-committee of Birpara College that a meeting will be convened on **Wednesday, April 2, 2025 at 2.30pm in the IQAC Room** to discuss a proposal submitted by the School of Cultural Texts and Records (SCTR), Jadavpur University for a Community Archiving Workshop at Birpara College in the near future. All members of the Sub-committee are requested to be present in the meeting.

Principal
Birpara College

School of Cultural Texts and Records, Jadavpur University
for
Wikimedia Foundation Knowledge Equity Fund

About the School:

The School of Cultural Texts and Records (SCTR) at Jadavpur University, Kolkata, was established in 2003 to enhance Jadavpur University's work in archiving, digitisation, bibliography, textual studies, editing, and book history. The School has a broad and open-ended agenda of documenting, processing and studying the cultural basis (both textual and audio-visual) of human society in the widest sense. It has grown to become a leading centre for Digital Humanities and Cultural Informatics in India. SCTR manages a variety of archives, including text, images, music, oral histories, and audio-visual records.

The School's mission is to promote the use of archives amongst the general public and it regularly organises events to this effect and also runs a course in Digital Humanities and Cultural Informatics to teach students about digitisation and digital humanities approaches to archives. As the Endangered Archives Programme Hub for South Asia, the School collaborates with the British Library to regularly conduct workshops on various archival practices.

About the Knowledge Equity Fund:

The Wikimedia Foundation Knowledge Equity Fund (the Fund) is a US$4.5 million fund created by the Wikimedia Foundation in 2020, to provide grants to external organisations that support knowledge equity by addressing the racial inequities preventing access and participation in free knowledge. The Knowledge Equity Fund defines racial equity as the concept and goal of achieving fairness and justice in society by addressing historical and contemporary disparities and biases rooted in racism and racialisation. It recognises that certain racialised peoples and ethnic groups have been historically and systematically disadvantaged and oppressed, leading to unequal access to opportunities, resources, and power. The School was the recipient of this Grant in 2024.

About the Project:

This grant enables the School to extend our reach and allow us to travel to remote areas in West Bengal to reach marginalised and at-risk communities such as Santali and Kurmi in the South-West of Bengal and Lepcha, Gorkha, Tibetan, Mech, Rawa, and Santali in Northern Bengal. These communities are not only at risk of being homogenised but also the cultural artefacts are at risk of loss due to the climate crisis. We hope to work with these communities to

highlight the importance of community archives through these workshops by involving community leaders and collaborating with other stakeholders in the region, like colleges and organisations who have been active in preserving cultural heritage to participate.

Through the workshops, we will not only teach the participants easy and low-budget digitisation skills but also hope to provide a bridge between generations by combining the tech-savvy youth of the community with the community elders, who are the repositories of knowledge. The outcome of the workshops will be to share the digitized items through the Wikimedia platform where everyone will have free and unlimited access. We will also collaborate with the Wikimedians from these communities who will act as resource persons for any technical help with the digital resources beyond the ambit of the workshop and they will also act as mentors for those who wish to contribute to enriching the digital presence of the community. This will not only enrich cultural understanding by creating diverse knowledge bases of these under-represented communities but also allow these communities to have an authentic representation of their culture.

Workshop Outline:

2-day Workshop

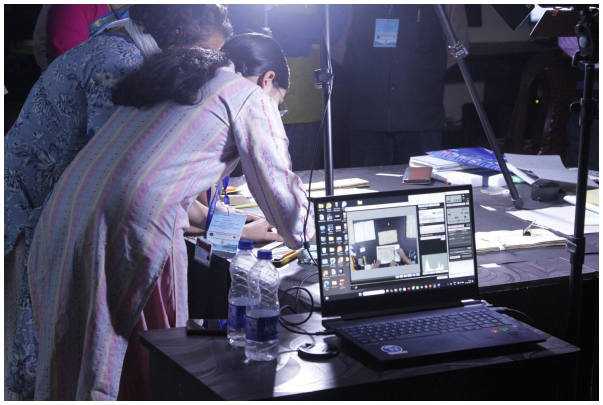
Day 1: Low-Budget Community Archiving Strategies and Digitisation
Day 2: Digitisation and Transcription/Edit-a-thon on Wikimedia platforms

Workshop at Nistarini College, Purulia:





Digitisation of textual objects





Handling Documents





Transcription on Wikisource





Community knowledge exchange





Community Archiving Strategies