

Protection of Traditional Knowledge (TK) and Traditional Cultural Expressions (TCEs) of South Asia in Digital Libraries and Museums

Kamani Perera

ABSTRACT

Traditional medicines and therapies, traditional cultural expressions (TCEs) are used in music, artwork and designs. These are all elements of what is known as traditional knowledge (TK). South Asian countries are rich in TK and TCEs. It has been considered as a treasure and part of the cultural identities. Thus, TK and TCEs give a value to the future wellbeing of local communities and sustainable development of the respective countries. Nevertheless, TK and TCEs have become a part of the human life and added value to their spiritual beliefs and usual the legitimate circle. Therefore, it is important to safeguard TK and TCEs that because of it is vital to sustain not merely the knowledge, but the social and physical environment of which it forms an integral part.

Keywords: Traditional knowledge, traditional cultural expressions, cultural identities