

CORRESPONDENCE

Digital Library¹¹. However, at the moment, these do not seem to take into account the much needed cause of e-journals digital preservation.

The consortia approach to licensing e-journals has almost become a norm the world over. Although there have been reports about consortia being enticed with 'big deals' to largely benefit the publishers, the advantages of consortia licensing in lowering prices and provisioning additional content cannot be overlooked. However, it is about time that consortia go beyond licensing e-journals and also look at long-term preservation of the e-journals that they license¹².

In India, without a national digital preservation policy in place¹³, institutions including libraries seem to be groping in the dark. For ensuring continued availability tomorrow to what we have access today, steps need to be taken for

preservation of the electronic journals. Indian institutions should begin pursuing suitable digital preservation approaches which should have the backing of a digital preservation policy thus ensuring a vibrant digital preservation ecosystem in the country for assuring posterity to the digital scholarship.

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Rich biodiversity of River Kulsi

River Kulsi, a southern tributary of the Brahmaputra, is considered as one of the last refuges of the endangered Gangetic dolphin (*Platanista gangetica gangetica*) in Assam. Wakid and Braulik¹ have reported a total of 29 dolphin individuals. The presence of a top carnivore and an indicator species like the dolphin, not only indicates the significance of the river, but also presents a picture of the healthy freshwater ecosystem. Dolphin is to a river, as tiger is to a forest. And indeed it is true in case of Kulsi.

Recent studies report the richness of fish and aquatic invertebrate fauna in the Kulsi. Goswami and Ali² reported the presence of 63 fish species belonging to 8 orders and 21 families. Of these, six are exotic and the rest are indigenous having ornamental and economic value. Islam *et al.*³ reported the presence of five crustacean species. Kulsi also supports rich and varied semi-aquatic macrophytes distributed along its banks; they exhibit a heterogeneous assemblage. Heavy rainfall, high humidity, and mod-

erate to high temperature primarily influence the profuse development of semi-aquatic macrophyte, *Ipomoea carnea* ssp. *fistulosa* during the monsoon and early autumn seasons. Geographically, Kulsi originates in the Meghalaya (25°38'N, 91°38'E) and enters Assam after traveling about 12 km from its place of origin. It finally discharges into the main Brahmaputra at Nagarbera. It is surrounded by a number of wetlands, among which Chandubi, Solbeel and Beeldora play a pivotal role in providing a healthy prey base for the Gangetic dolphin. Kulsi is also fed by tributaries, namely, Botha, Kharkhari, Boko, Singra and other streams. Therefore the river is characterized by structural complexity.

There are 25 villages along the entire course of Kulsi. Seventy per cent of the people depend on river water for their daily needs, fishing, sand mining, cattle bathing, recreation, etc. It is indeed a life-giving river with rich biodiversity. However, at present Kulsi is facing serious threats in the form of sand mining,

overfishing, uncontrolled motorboat traffic, river-bank erosion, construction of dam, etc. Proper planning, further research and awareness activities are necessary to sustain the ecology of the river.

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