

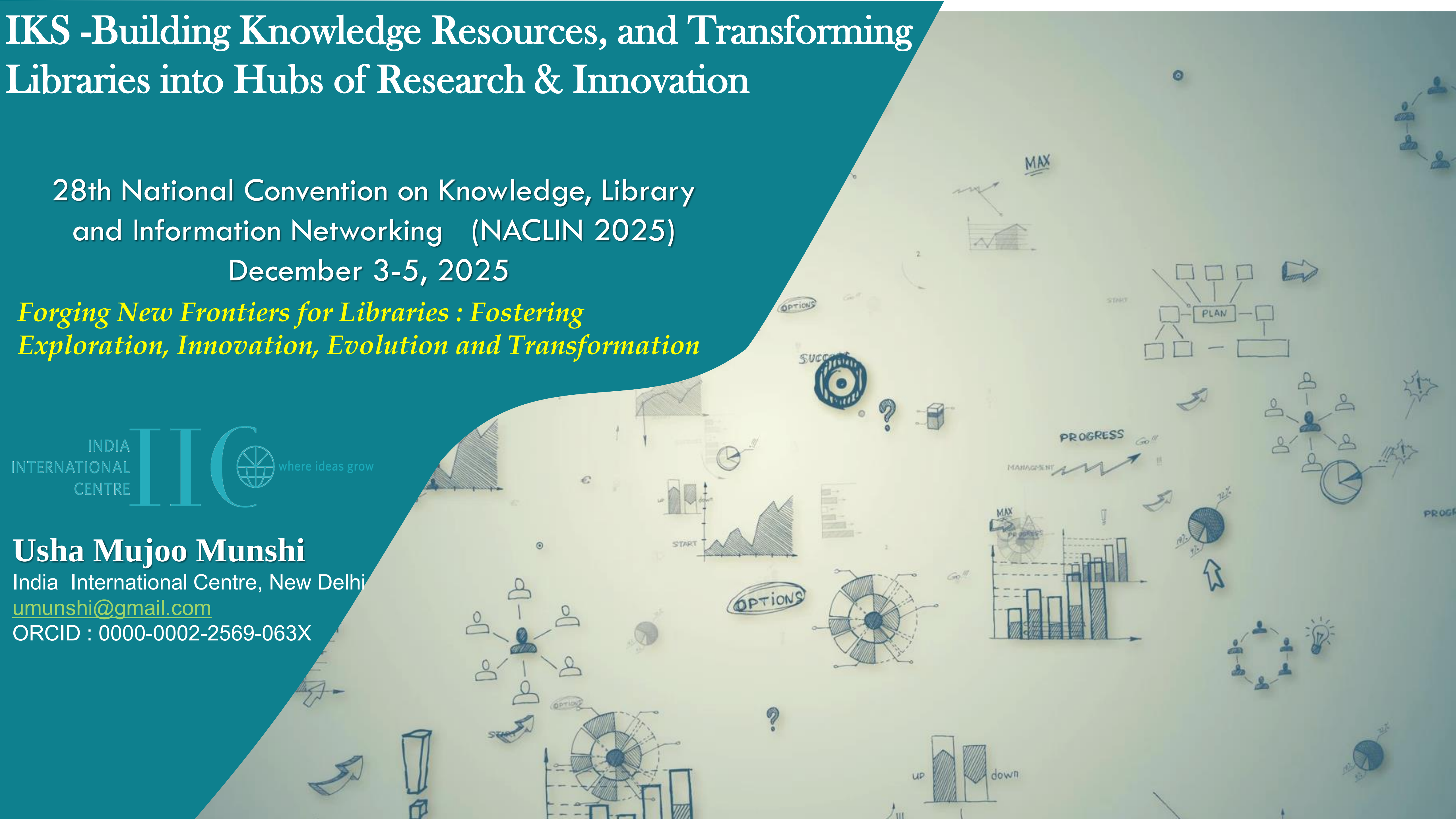
IKS -Building Knowledge Resources, and Transforming Libraries into Hubs of Research & Innovation

28th National Convention on Knowledge, Library and Information Networking (NACLIN 2025)
December 3-5, 2025

Forging New Frontiers for Libraries : Fostering Exploration, Innovation, Evolution and Transformation

INDIA INTERNATIONAL CENTRE **IIC** where ideas grow

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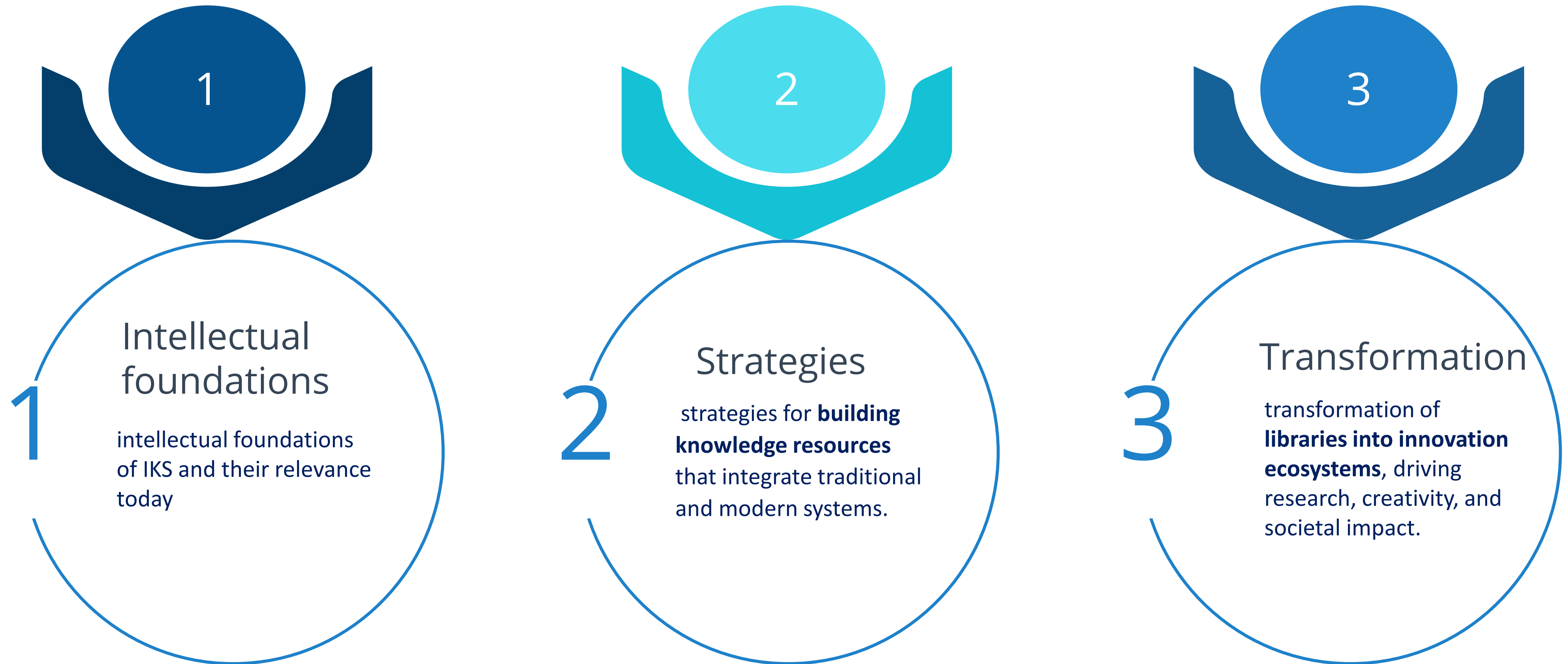
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India International Centre, New Delhi

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Agenda for Today

Explores three interrelated themes



Indian Knowledge Systems as Foundations

1

Intellectual foundations

intellectual foundations of IKS and their relevance today

1

IKS

Indian Knowledge Systems encompass the cumulative intellectual traditions of India, evolved over thousands of years. These traditions span multiple domains

1

Philosophy & Epistemology (Nyaya, Mimamsa, Vedanta)

Health Sciences (Ayurveda, Yoga, Siddha, Unani)

Mathematics & Astronomy (works of

. **Health & Well-being:** Yoga and Ayurveda are now part of mainstream global wellness.

. **Sustainability:** Traditional farming practices, water harvesting systems, and

The survival of IKS depends on **documentation, digitization, interpretation, and application.** The task is not merely to archive ancient texts but to reinterpret them in dialogue with contemporary science, thereby ensuring their relevance and impact.

2

Contemporary Relevance

IKS offers profound insights into today's global challenges

2

3

Preserving and Reinterpreting IKS

3

IKS, are not relics of the past. They are living systems of inquiry and discovery — highly relevant to modern research, from sustainable technologies to AI ethics and holistic healthcare.

IKS teaches us that **knowledge** is interconnected — a **principle** that resonates strongly with today's interdisciplinary world.

Takeaway?





Aryabhata (476-550 CE)



Panini

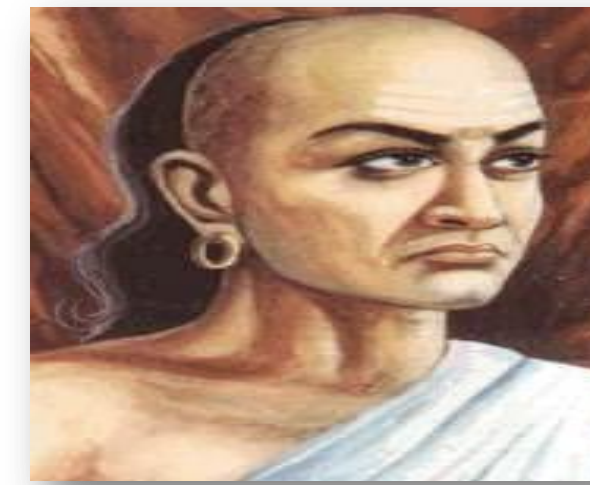
Father of Sanskrit Grammar



Maharshi Yajnavalkya



Gautama Maharishi



Kautilya

4th to 3rd century BCE Indian
statesman and Philosopher



Mahakavi Banabhatta

marks the inception of biographical writing in
India



Vācaspati Miśra



Mahakavi Vidyapati



Mahakavi Kalidasa





Building Knowledge Resources in the 21st Century



Traditional Knowledge Resources

- Rare manuscripts in Sanskrit, Prakrit, Persian, and regional languages.
- Oral traditions transmitted through folklore, performing arts, and community memory.
- Local knowledge in agriculture, medicine, and ecology.



Modern Knowledge Resources

- **Digital Libraries:** National Digital Library of India, Digital South Asia Library.
- **Global Knowledge Networks:** JSTOR, and other open-access repositories.
- **Big Data & AI-Driven Platforms:** Knowledge discovery through natural language processing and semantic mapping.



Integrative Strategies

- **Digitization and Preservation:** Scanning manuscripts and fragile texts into open-access digital formats.
- **Metadata Standards:** Developing ontologies that include IKS categories and terminologies.
- **Cross-disciplinary Archives:** Combining science, humanities, and indigenous knowledge databases.
- **Open Access & Collaboration:** Making knowledge resources universally available while respecting cultural sensitivities.



Libraries as Custodians and Amplifiers of IKS

- Custodians, interpreters, and amplifiers of our intellectual/knowledge heritage
- <http://digilib.iicdelhi.in/jspui/>
- <https://samhita.iicdelhi.in/>



Digital Libraries

- Bharat Ki Soch Foundation is a think tank with a Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) commitment to protecting national heritage, art & culture, revitalizing the insights of Indian wisdom, and applying them to contemporary policy challenges and governance frameworks.

It supports research on the following areas: Governance; Economy, Commerce & Taxation; Health, Nutrition and Wellbeing; Agriculture and Food Security; Environment and Sustainability; and National Security

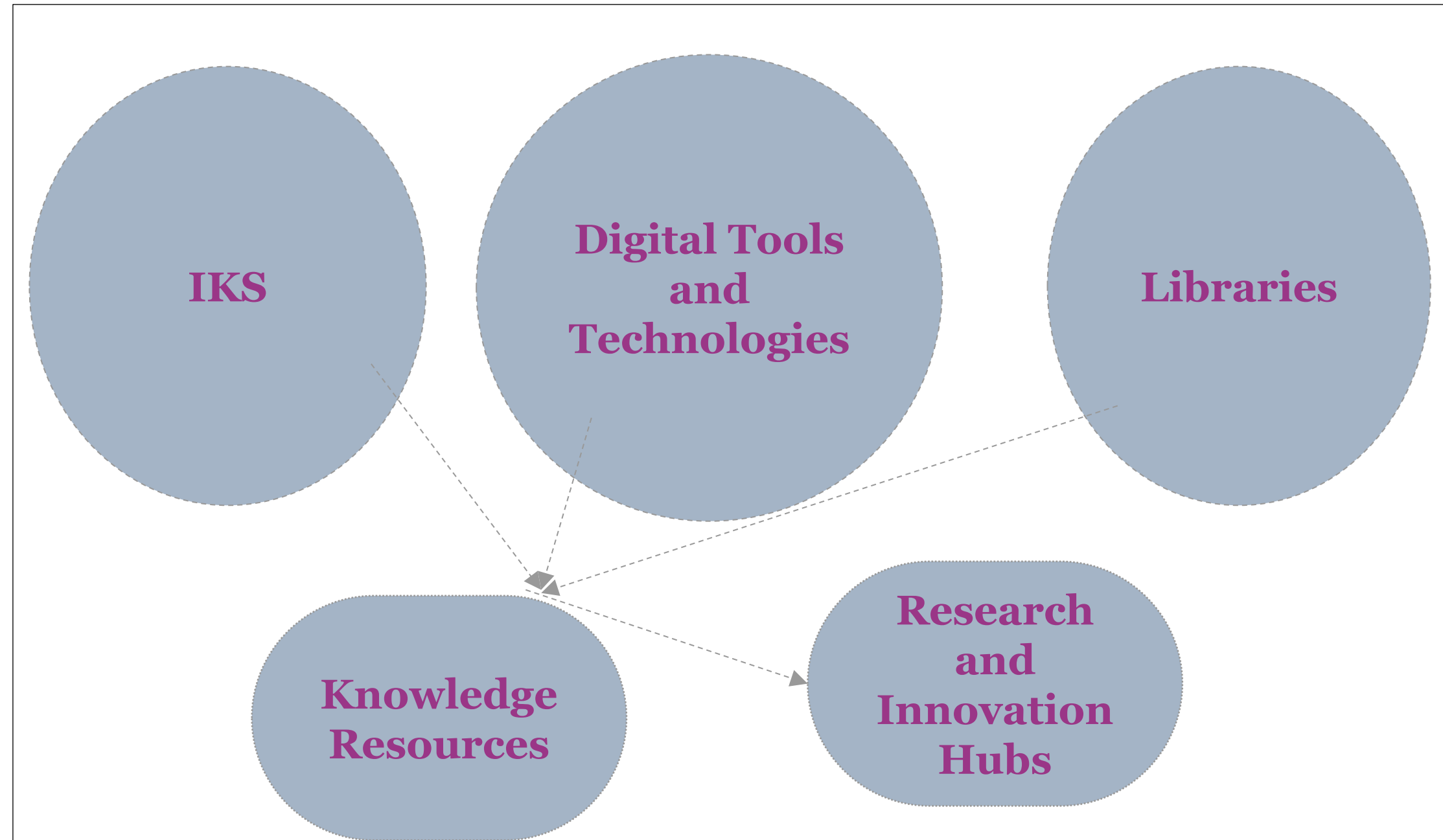
August 2025, Bharat Ki Soch signed an agreement with IIC to take forward research on the broad areas of “**Health, Nutrition and Wellbeing**”, and on “**Education**”.

- ✓ survey primary texts and prevailing practices
- ✓ compile sourcebooks on these subjects in the form of excerpts from texts organised thematically
- ✓ identify and digitise rare manuscripts
- ✓ translate unpublished works/selections from works
- ✓ organise activities for public awareness, including an annual lecture, seminars/workshops/ roundtables, exhibitions, and food festivals
- ✓ bring out occasional papers based on lectures and seminars



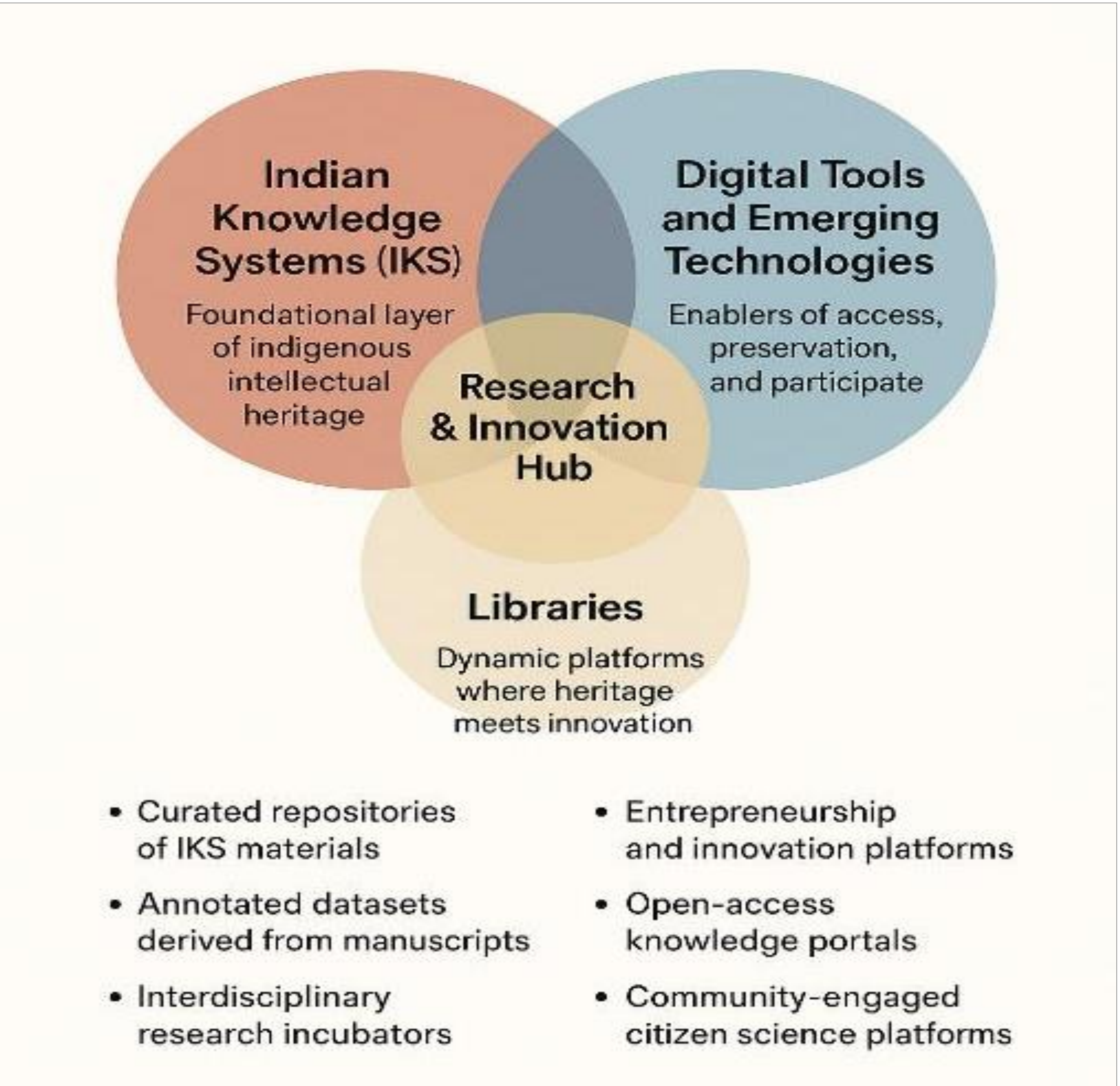
Conceptual Framework

requires a **hybrid model**—bridging ancient repositories with modern digital ecosystems.



Conceptual Framework
IKS, Libraries & Innovation Ecosystem

- **Three Pillars**
 - IKS | Digital Tools | Libraries



3

Libraries as Hubs/Catalysts of Research and Innovation

Changing Role of Libraries

Evolve into **innovation ecosystems**:

- ✓ From **custodians** to **curators** of knowledge.
- ✓ From **lending spaces** to **learning and innovation spaces**.
- ✓ From **individual learning** to **collaborative knowledge creation**.

- **Knowledge Curation:** Developing thematic collections on IKS, sustainability, and frontier research.
- **Research Support:** Providing access to digital humanities tools, AI-driven knowledge discovery, and advanced bibliometric analysis.
- **Innovation Facilitation:** Hosting makerspaces, digital labs, and co-innovation hubs within libraries.
- **Community Engagement:** Acting as connectors between academia, industry, and civil society.

Core Functions of Future Libraries

Global and Indian Case Examples

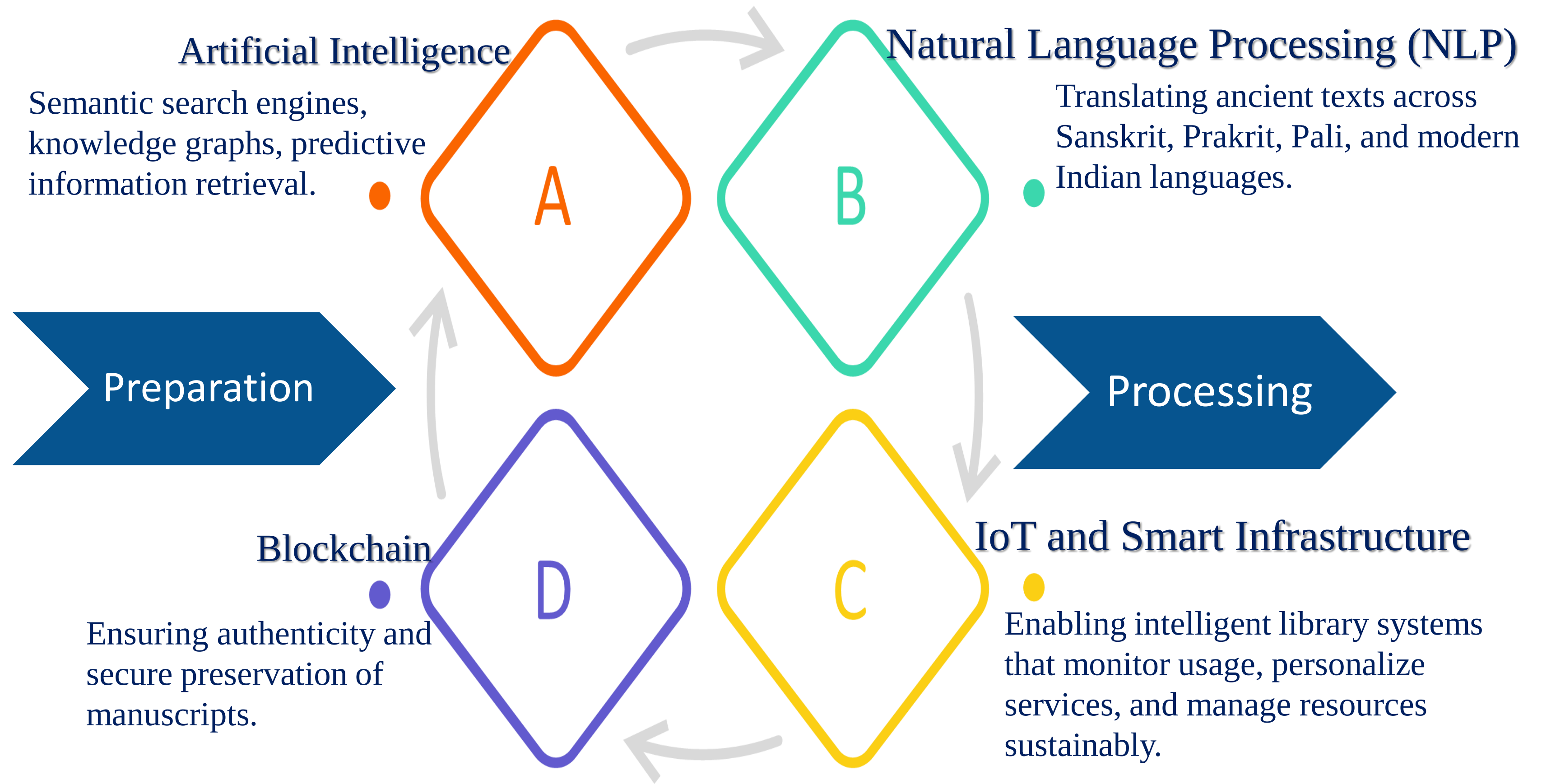
- MIT Media Lab Open Library
- British Library Digitization Projects
- National Digital Library of India (NDLI)
- Nalanda University Revival Project
- SAMHiTA; DigiLib; Bharat Ki Sonch

Transformation

transformation of **libraries into innovation ecosystems**, driving research, creativity, and societal impact.



Harnessing Technology for Knowledge Transformation



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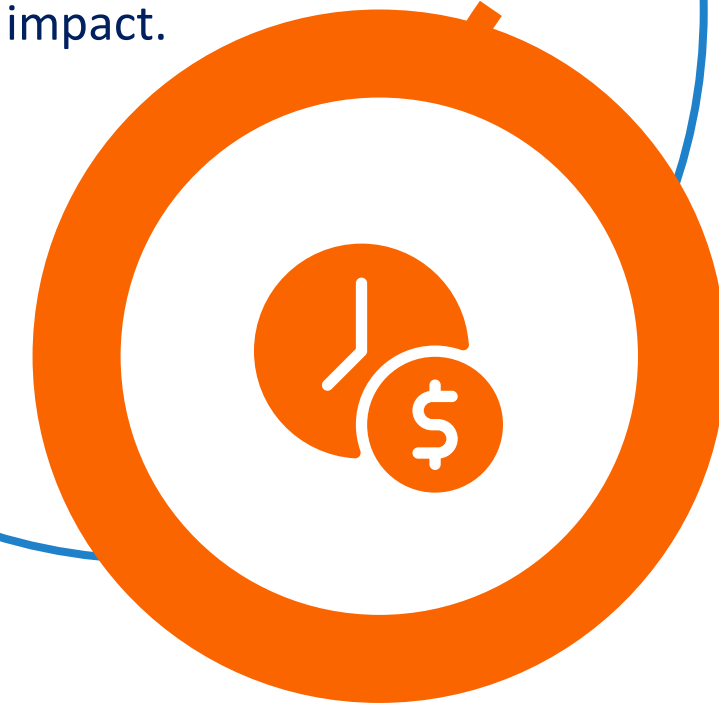
Policy and Institutional Imperatives

Policy, Education, and Collaboration

These steps will position libraries as active, strategic partners in national research and innovation agendas.

Transformation

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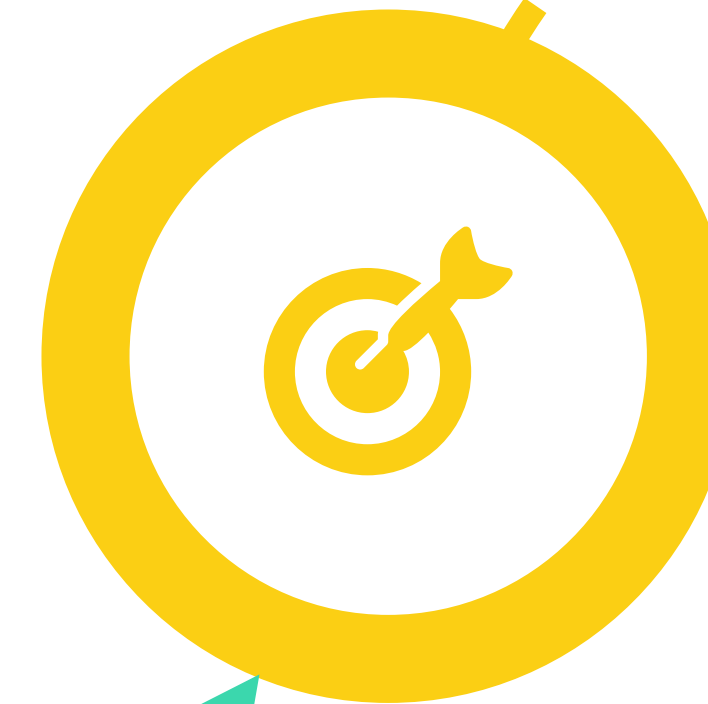
National Education Policy (NEP 2020)

Explicitly emphasizes integration of IKS, digitization, and research support.



Capacity Building

Librarians must be trained as knowledge professionals, data curators, and innovation managers.



Collaborative Networks

Building national and global consortia for knowledge sharing (e.g., Shodhganga, World Digital Library).

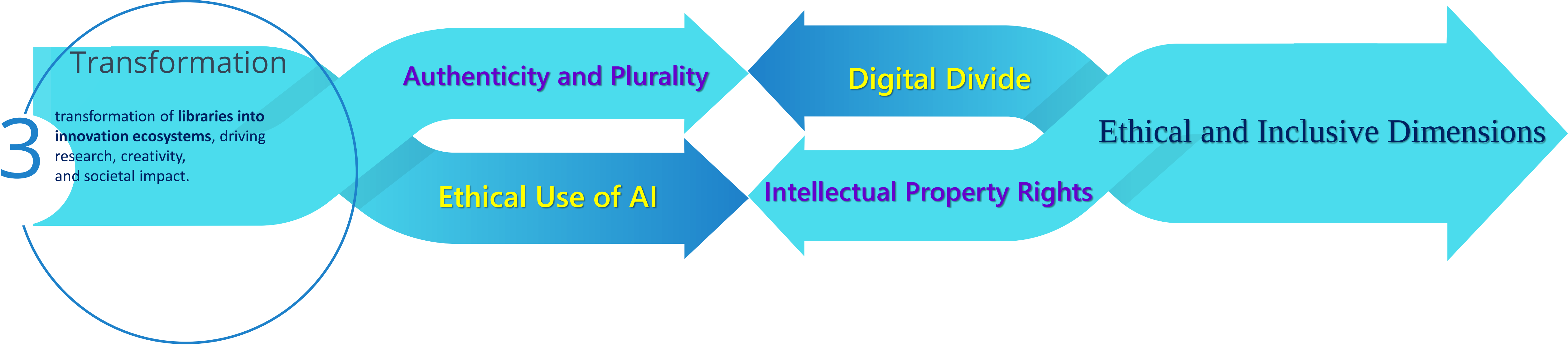


Industry Partnerships

Encouraging academia-industry collaborations for applied innovation.

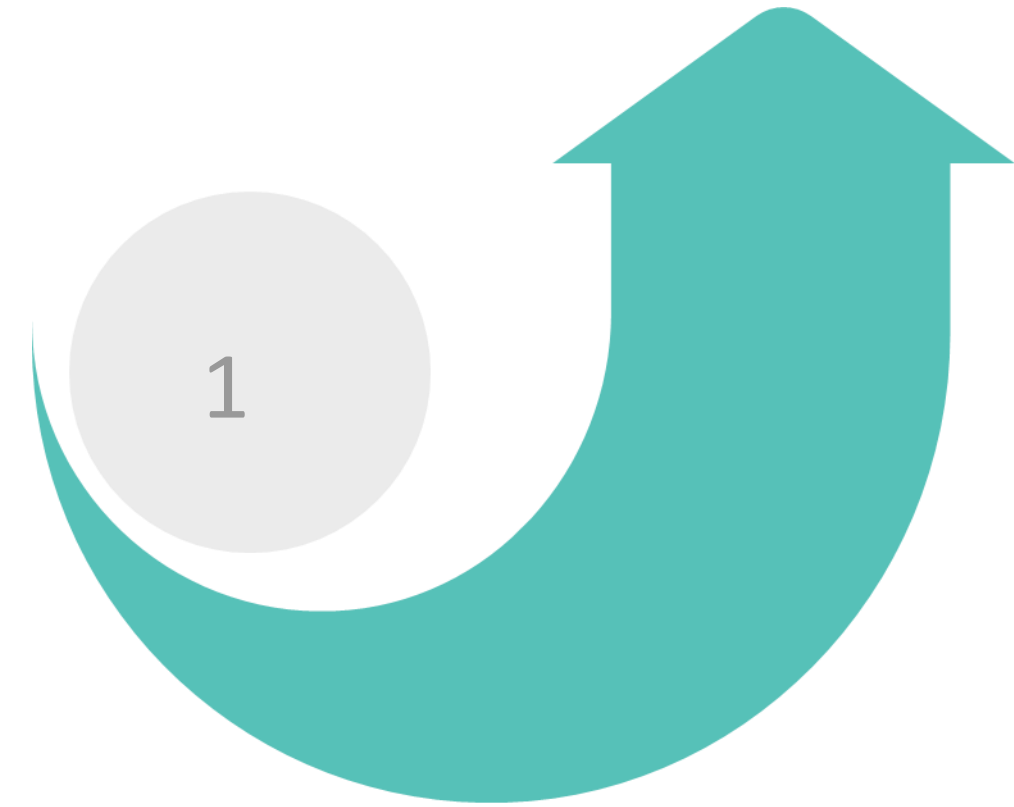
Challenges and Ethical Considerations

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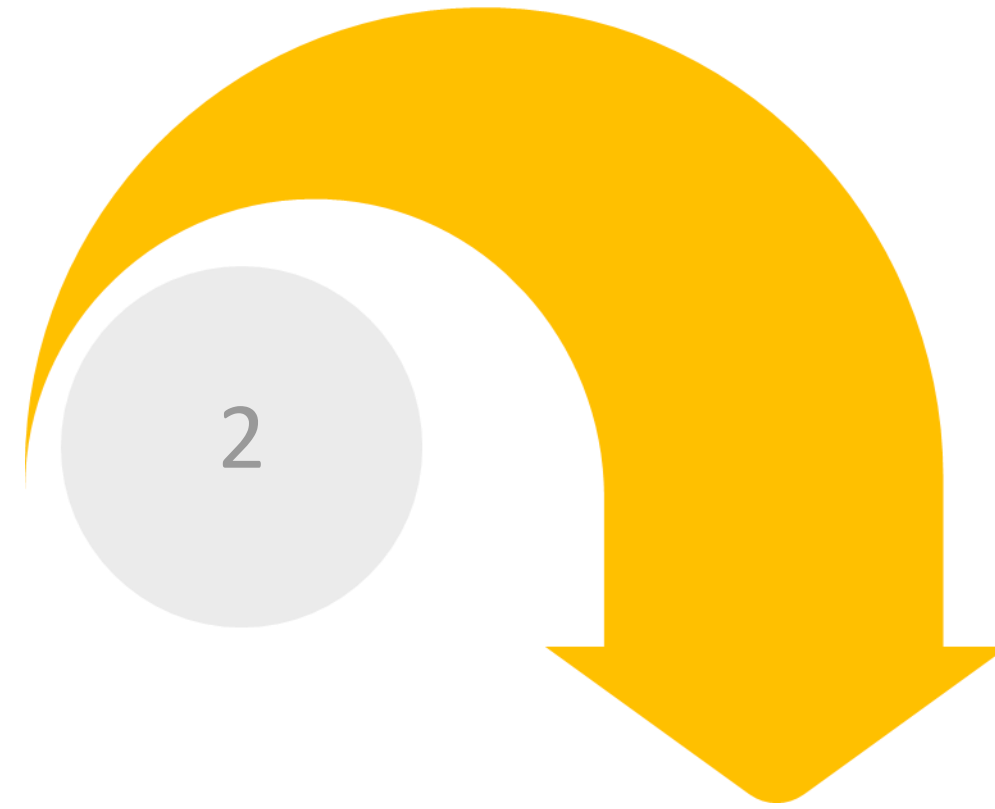
•The Way Forward

Libraries as Living Ecosystems



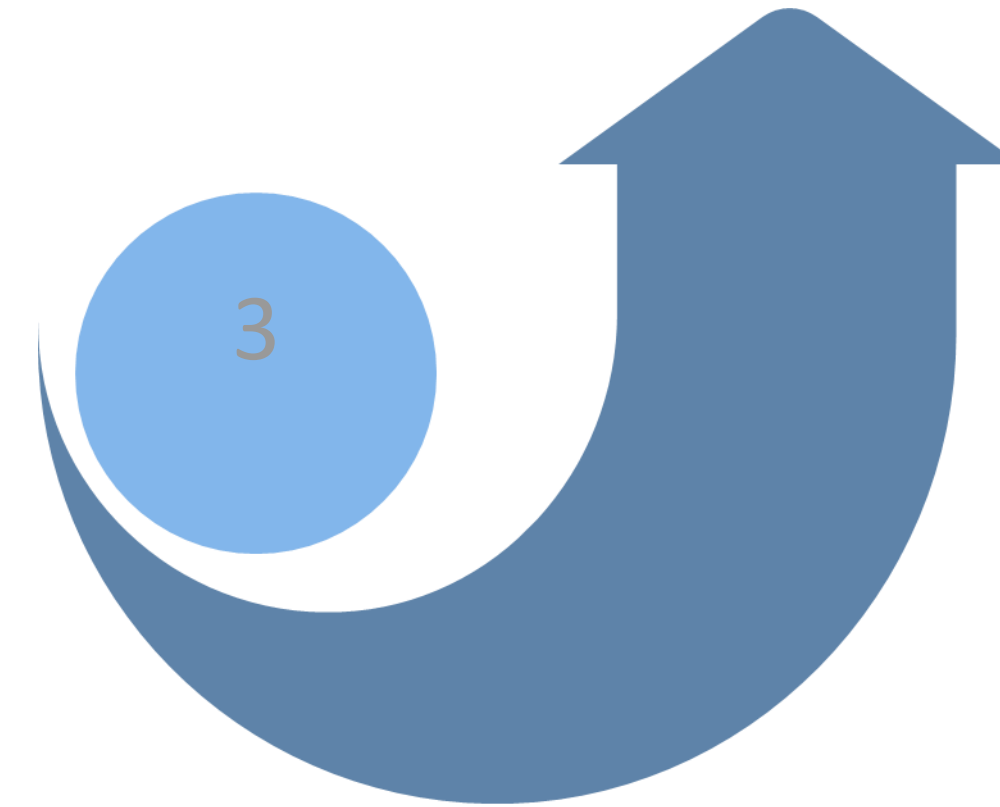
Living Knowledge Repositories

Libraries must evolve as dynamic, growing ecosystems integrating new research and traditional knowledge.



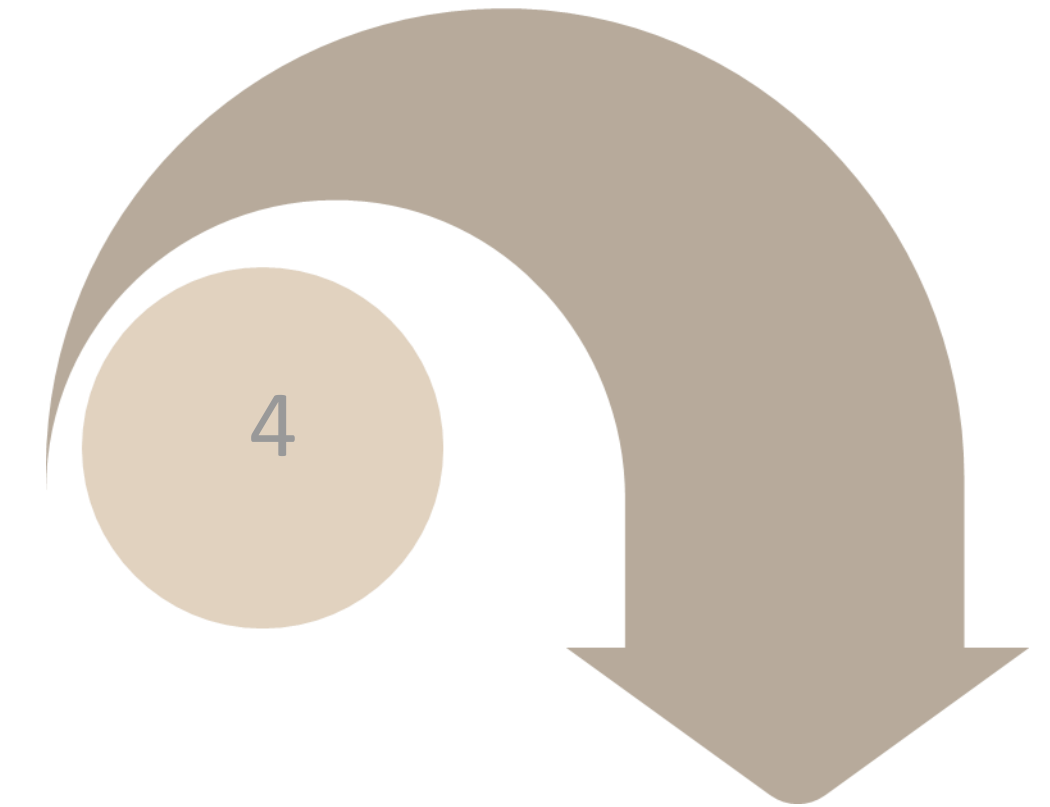
Research Commons

Libraries should act as collaborative platforms for interdisciplinary work across universities, think tanks, and industries.



Innovation Incubation

Embedding entrepreneurship and innovation cells within library ecosystems.



Global Leadership

Positioning Indian libraries as pioneers in blending IKS with cutting-edge science and technology.

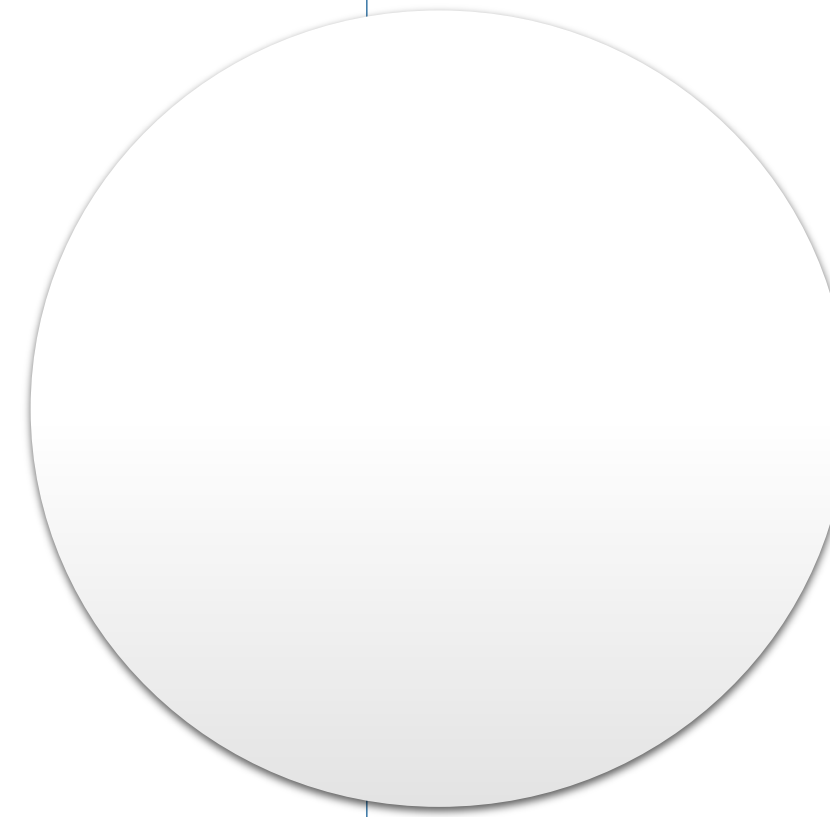


Closing Reflections

Combining the wisdom of Indian Knowledge Systems with the power of digital tools-

Libraries are not only guardians of memory; they are *architects of the future*

The future of libraries lies not merely in **preserving knowledge**, but in **empowering** societies to **think, create, and innovate**.



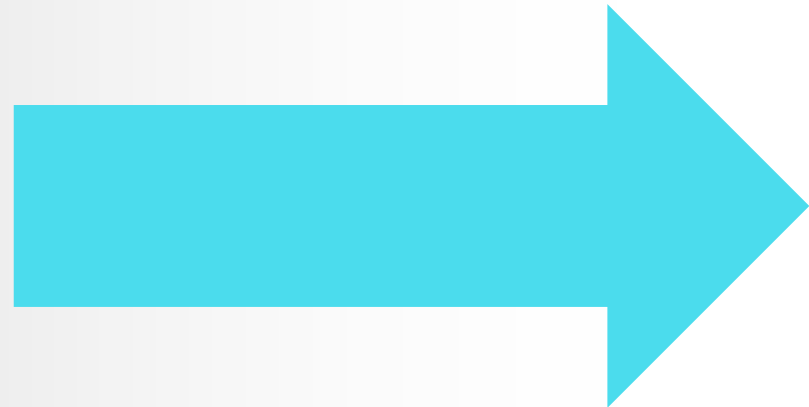
So let us reimagine our libraries —

- ✓ not as quiet archives,
- ✓ but as workshops of ideas;
- ✓ not as storehouses of the past,
- ✓ but as engines of transformation



Ecosystems

libraries can become living ecosystems — spaces that **inspire discovery**, **nurture creativity**, and **shape**/power the knowledge economy of tomorrow.



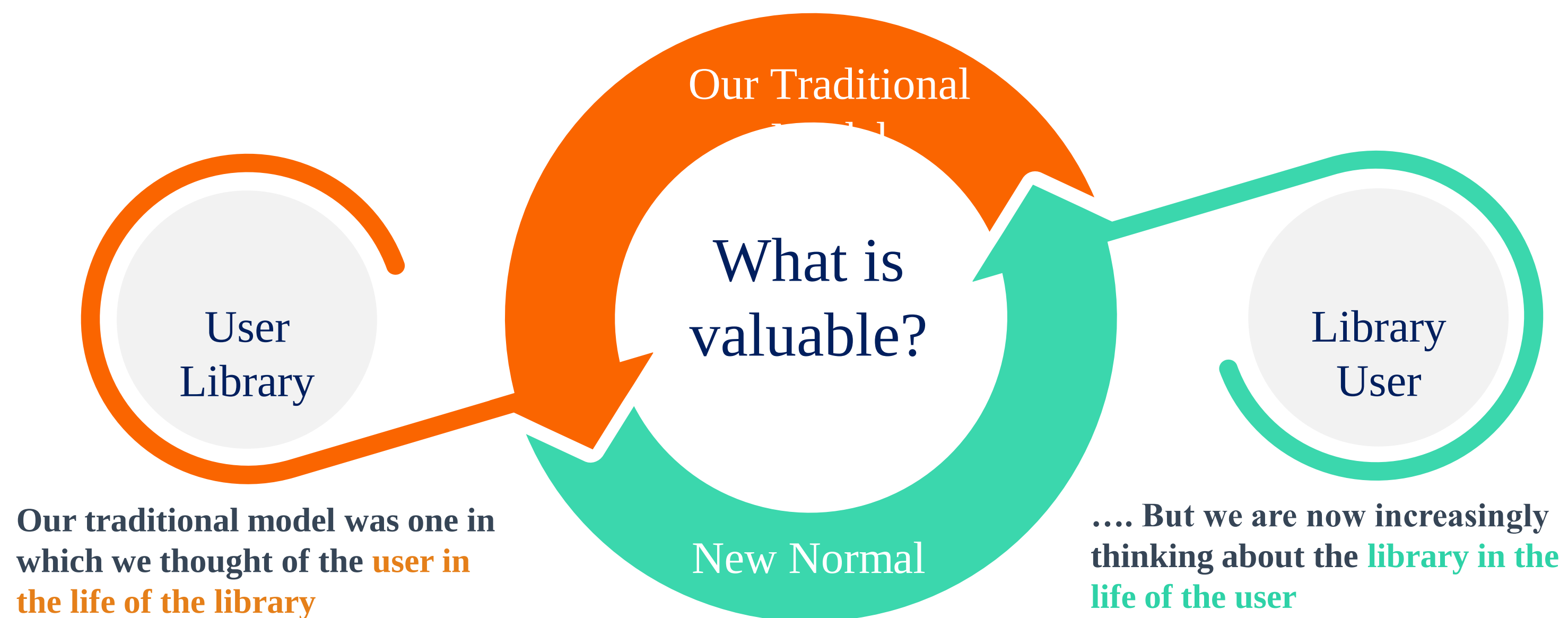
Dynamic Engines

libraries can emerge as dynamic engines of **intellectual** growth, **cultural** preservation, and **innovation** ecosystems



Safeguard

In doing so, they will not only safeguard India's intellectual **heritage** but also enable it to **serve** as a beacon of knowledge for the world.



“Knowledge is not a static archive but a living force. To nurture it, libraries must become not just repositories of the past, but laboratories of the future.”

Thank