International Journal of Scientific Research in Engineering and Management (IJSREM)
Volume: 09 Issue: 10 | Oct - 2025 SJIF Rating: 8.586 ISSN: 2582-3930

Impact of Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning on Future Library Services in Ayurveda Colleges

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Abstract
The evolving technologies of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML) are restructuring many domains, including libraries in academic institutions. Colleges of Ayurveda-specialized institutions emphasising traditional medical knowledge-face both opportunities and challenges in adapting their libraries to future-oriented services.

This paper explores how AI/ML can transform library services in Ayurveda colleges: from acquisition, cataloguing, digitization of ancient manuscripts, personalized information retrieval, predictive services, to knowledge discovery. It also considers particular aspects of Ayurveda (e.g., Sanskrit manuscripts, multilingual texts, holistic knowledge systems) and how AI/ML might specifically benefit them. The study examines current literature, outlines practical applications, anticipates future trends, and highlights key challenges and recommendations for implementation.

Keywords
Artificial Intelligence (AI), Machine Learning (ML), Ayurveda college library, library services, digitization, manuscript preservation, personalized information retrieval.

1. Introduction

Libraries in academic institutions have been undergoing digital transformation for decades, but the pace of change is accelerating with the advent of AI and ML. Academic libraries are no longer merely repositories of books but are becoming dynamic hubs of information, learning, discovery and data analytics. For colleges of Ayurveda, this means that their libraries must adapt not only to standard academic content but also to the unique features of Ayurvedic literature - such as ancient manuscripts, multilingual texts (Sanskrit, regional languages, translations), holistic knowledge systems (e.g., Ayurveda's concept of prākriti, dosha, etc.), and rapid integration of modern research with traditional knowledge.

In this context, the integration of AI/ML into the library services in Ayurveda colleges offers the potential to significantly enhance accessibility, discoverability, personalization and preservation of knowledge. At the same time, special challenges arise - data standardization, digitization of non-standard scripts, ensuring authenticity of traditional texts, staff training, cost and ethics. This paper investigates how AI/ML may impact future library services in Ayurveda colleges, what services could look like, what benefits may accrue, what challenges must be overcome, and what strategic recommendations may guide implementation.

The paper is structured as follows: Section 2 examines the literature on AI/ML in libraries in general; Section 3 covers AI/ML in the domain of Ayurveda and its knowledge systems; Section 4 discusses specific applications of AI/ML in Ayurveda college libraries; Section 5 explores future services enabled by AI/ML; Section 6 addresses challenges and ethical considerations; Section 7 gives recommendations; and Section 8 concludes.

2. Literature Review: AI/ML in Libraries

Over the past few years, many studies have investigated how AI and ML are transforming library and information science (LIS). For example, a systematic review found that while much of the research is theoretical, AI/ML tools are increasingly considered for tasks such as cataloguing, information retrieval, recommendation systems and predictive analytics.

One recent paper “Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning in Libraries: Transforming Information Access and Management” notes that AI can automate routine tasks (cataloguing, metadata generation), personalize user experiences (recommendations), support chatbots/virtual assistants, and assist predictive analytics (demand forecasting).

Another study, “Integrating Artificial Intelligence in Academic Libraries: An Analysis” reviews

implementation challenges such as staff training, privacy/ethics, cost and infrastructure.

Additional work on "Innovations in Library Services: The Integration of AI and ML in Modern Libraries" highlights that besides automation, these technologies enable smarter services-pattern-recognition, clustering of user behaviour, predictive collection development.

Another recent article "Future Trends in AI and ML Applications for Library Collection Development: A Roadmap" shows that academic libraries are using AI/ML for predictive analytics (e.g., which resources will be in demand), automated acquisitions, personalised services.

In sum, the literature demonstrates that academic libraries are actively exploring AI/ML for efficiency, user centricity, and advanced analytics-but also flagging barriers such as cost, data quality, ethics, staff readiness.

3. AI/ML in Ayurveda Domain: Unique Considerations

The domain of Ayurveda presents special features which libraries in Ayurveda colleges must contend with-and which make AI/ML both more necessary and more complex.

3.1 AI/ML in Ayurveda research

Several recent articles explore how AI is applied to Ayurveda. For instance, one study examined the use of machine learning and natural language processing (NLP) to standardize and classify Ayurvedic texts, showing that a BERT-based model achieved high accuracy in classification when the data were standardized.

Another article, "Artificial intelligence powered OCR models for digitizing Ayurveda manuscripts" describes how AI-enhanced OCR (optical character recognition) is applied to manuscript digitization in Ayurveda, dealing with older scripts and handwriting styles.

A systematic review of AI in Ayurveda shows applications in Prakriti (body constitution) classification, Nadi-Pariksha (pulse diagnosis) via IoT/ML, herbal drug-discovery via ML, telemedicine for Ayurveda, etc.

These show that the Ayurveda domain is already seeing AI/ML use-though largely in clinical/health informatics contexts rather than specifically library services.

3.2 Implications for Ayurveda College Libraries

Because Ayurveda colleges handle both classical texts (often handwritten manuscripts, Sanskrit or regional languages), current research literature (Ayurveda, integrative medicine, evidence-based studies), and education/training materials, the library stands at the intersection of tradition and modernity. AI/ML can support:

- Digitization/preservation of manuscripts and rare texts
- Multilingual text processing (Sanskrit, regional languages, translations)
- Semantic mapping of Ayurvedic concepts (dosha, prakriti, medicinal herbs, therapies)
- Personalized retrieval of information for students, researchers
- Analytics on resource use, research trends in Ayurveda

However, this also suggests special challenges: data heterogeneity, non-standard scripts, lack of standardized metadata, specialized subject knowledge, copyright/traditional knowledge concerns, and infrastructure limitations.

4. Specific Applications of AI/ML in Ayurveda College Library Services

Here we examine concrete ways in which AI/ML might be applied to future services in an Ayurveda college library.

4.1 Digitization and Manuscript Preservation

For many Ayurveda colleges, a significant portion of holdings may be old manuscripts, rare books, handwritten notes, and analog materials. Using AI-enhanced OCR and computer vision, libraries can digitize and transcribe such items. For example, the study on AI-OCR models for Ayurveda manuscripts shows how machine learning and forensic handwriting analysis improved accuracy.

Further, AI/ML can enable image enhancement (for faded manuscripts), script recognition, multilingual translation, semantic tagging of content, and indexing for retrieval.

4.2 Automated Cataloguing, Metadata Generation and Classification

Traditional cataloguing can be time-consuming, especially when dealing with non-standard texts. AI/ML tools can generate metadata, classify documents to subject categories (e.g., herbology, rasaśāstra, śuddhikarma), and

assist in subject heading assignment. Library automation studies highlight that AI/ML is increasingly used for cataloguing and metadata generation.

For Ayurveda libraries, this may involve training classifiers on Ayurvedic subject taxonomies, linking traditional knowledge structures with modern library classifications.

4.3 Personalized Information Retrieval and Recommender Systems

With the large and growing body of Ayurveda and integrative medicine literature, and with students and researchers having diverse needs, AI/ML-powered recommendation engines can help users discover relevant resources (e.g., "If you read this manuscript on Bhaishajya Kalpana, you may be interested in this research article on powdered formulations"). Machine learning algorithms can monitor use patterns, subject interests, and generate personalized suggestions. Such capabilities are described in the library AI/ML literature.

4.4 Predictive Analytics for Collection Development and Resource Allocation

Libraries have budget constraints and must decide which resources to acquire, retain or digitize. ML models can predict which subjects will see increased demand (e.g., integrative medicine, panchakarma research) and suggest acquisitions accordingly. The study "Future Trends in AI and ML Applications for Library Collection Development" indicates that predictive analytics is already a trend. In the Ayurveda college setting, this might mean analysing student course registration data, research output trends in Ayurveda, citations, to decide which e-journals, databases or manuscripts to emphasise.

4.5 Virtual Assistants, Chatbots and User Services

AI-based chatbots and virtual assistants in the library can assist patrons (students, researchers) with queries: "Which book covers dravyaguna vijnana for MS (Ayurveda)?" or "Show me manuscripts on Rasayana in Sanskrit." These tools can operate 24/7, support multilingual queries, and provide guidance to novices. Library research identifies chatbots as important AI application.

4.6 Semantic Knowledge Graphs and Ayurveda-Aware Information Systems

An advanced application is building semantic knowledge graphs that tie Ayurvedic concepts (herbs, therapies, diseases, prakriti, dosha) with library resources (manuscripts, books, articles). AI/ML techniques (NLP, ontology learning) can assist. As one Ayurveda/AI paper states: "Knowledge graphs facilitate structured navigation through Ayurvedic concepts, enhancing understanding and engagement." This could lead to future services where users navigate via concept maps rather than simple keyword search - especially useful in a domain like Ayurveda where concepts interconnect widely.

4.7 Multilingual and Translated Content Services

Ayurvedic texts exist in Sanskrit, regional languages (Hindi, Marathi, Tamil, Kannada, etc.), as well as translated languages. AI/ML tools can support translation, transliteration, multilingual indexing and retrieval. The digitisation/AI in Ayurveda literature emphasises this need.

5. Future Library Services in Ayurveda Colleges Enabled by AI/ML

What might the future look like for libraries in Ayurveda colleges when AI/ML are integrated? Some envisioned services:

- **Smart Digital Ayurveda Library Portal**: A unified portal where students/researchers can search across manuscripts, e-books, e-journals, databases, multimedia, with AI-driven indexing, semantic search, concept-based retrieval (e.g., "show me all resources addressing Vata imbalance in elderly").
- **Personalized Learning & Research Dashboards**: Each user may have a dashboard recommending resources, upcoming seminars, tracking their research interests, detecting gaps and suggesting readings.
- **Auto-Digitisation Workflow**: Machine vision, OCR, script recognition and AI-based metadata generation automate digitization of manuscripts.
- **Resource Demand Forecasting & Budget Intelligence**: ML models forecast which resources will be in demand next semester/year, helping librarians plan budgets, negotiate with vendors, de-duplicate holdings, retire under-used items.
- **Interactive Chatbots & Virtual Reference Services**: Multilingual chatbots specialised in Ayurveda can guide

students and researchers, answer subject-specific questions, and direct them to relevant resources.

- **Conceptual Navigation via Knowledge Graphs**: Users can explore Ayurveda knowledge via concept graphs (e.g., herb → property → formulation → treatment → research article) rather than just text search.
- **Preservation & Authenticity Checking of Manuscripts**: AI can assist in determining authenticity, dating, script variation, condition monitoring of manuscripts.
- **Learning Analytics & Research Support Services**: Analytics on user behaviour, resource usage, research outputs leading to insights about curriculum gaps, collection strengths/weaknesses, user training needs.
- **Collaborative Digital Scholarship Services**: Libraries can offer AI-enhanced tools for research (text mining of Ayurveda manuscripts, network analysis of citations, herb-therapy-disease associations) thereby shifting their role to active research support centres.

Thus the library evolves from a passive store of books/non-books to an intelligent service centre, digitally enabled, personalized, predictive, and research-oriented.

6. Challenges, Risks and Ethical Considerations

While AI/ML hold great promise, significant challenges must be addressed-particularly in the context of Ayurveda college libraries.

6.1 Data Quality, Standardization and Metadata

As noted in the Ayurveda/AI literature, standardization is a prerequisite. For example, the paper on data standardization for Ayurveda shows that machine-learning models achieved best performance when data were standardized via ontology of Ayurvedic terms. In many libraries, metadata may be inconsistent, manuscripts may not have structured cataloguing, scripts may differ widely. This poses a risk to effective AI/ML deployment.

6.2 Infrastructure, Cost and Expertise

Implementing AI/ML systems requires hardware (servers, storage), software tools, licensing, staff trained in data science, NLP, etc. Studies of AI in libraries show cost and expertise are major bottlenecks. In Ayurveda colleges-often smaller institutions with limited budgets-this is a non-trivial barrier.

6.3 Staff Readiness and Change Management

Transitioning to AI/ML-enabled services implies new roles and skills for library staff: data preparation, algorithm evaluation, user-interface management, analytics interpretation. Resistance to change, lack of training, fear of job displacement may arise.

6.4 Ethical, Privacy and Bias Issues

AI/ML models may embed biases (e.g., favouring English language, neglecting regional language materials), expose user data (behavioural analytics), or raise copyright concerns (digitising manuscripts, sharing data). Libraries must adopt transparent, ethical policies. The library literature emphasises these concerns.

6.5 Traditional Knowledge Protection and Authenticity

In Ayurveda, many manuscripts contain traditional knowledge, may have IP/traditional knowledge rights, may require authenticity verification, may be culturally sensitive. AI/ML deployment must respect these. Also, AI-based transcription may introduce errors or misinterpretations of ancient scripts.

6.6 Sustainability and Maintenance

Once the system is deployed, continuous maintenance, updates, retraining models, data governance are required. Otherwise, the system may degrade or become obsolete.

7. Recommendations for Ayurveda College Libraries

Based on the above analysis, the following recommendations are offered for Ayurveda college libraries planning to adopt or prepare for AI/ML-enabled services:

1. **Start with a pilot project**: Choose a manageable domain (e.g., digitization of manuscripts in one subject) to build confidence, refine processes, and demonstrate value.

2. **Metadata and Data Governance Strategy**: Establish standards for metadata (script, language, topic, authorship), data cleaning workflows, ontology of Ayurvedic terms, and ensure consistent practices.

3. **Collaborate with IT/Data Science Teams**: Engage with computer science departments, data science centres or external vendors to bring in expertise for tool selection, algorithm training, and deployment.

4. **Staff Training and Capacity Building**: Provide librarians and support staff with training in AI/ML basics, data preparation, metadata, ethics, user-experience design.

5. **User-Centred Design and Change Management**: Involve students, faculty, researchers in design of systems (chatbots, recommender engines), gather feedback, pilot and iterate.

6. **Ethical Framework & Traditional Knowledge Respect**: Develop policies for data privacy, bias mitigation, rights of traditional content, user consent, transparency of AI services.

7. **Infrastructure Planning and Budgeting**: Assess hardware/ software needs, storage for digital collections, backup/disaster recovery, costs for software licences, and plan accordingly.

8. **Scalable and Interoperable Systems**: Choose open standards, interoperable platforms (e.g., metadata standards, APIs) to ensure future growth and integration with wider systems (e.g., national Ayurveda databases).

9. **Monitoring and Evaluation**: Set KPIs for services (e.g., usage of digital manuscripts, user satisfaction, time to find resources), monitor outcomes and refine.

10. **Future-Proofing**: Keep abreast of evolving AI/ML trends (knowledge graphs, generative AI, NLP for non-Latin scripts) and plan for incremental upgrades rather than one-time implementation.

8. Conclusion

The integration of Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning into Ayurveda college library services promises substantial benefits: increased efficiency, enhanced user experience, personalized services, better preservation and access to traditional knowledge, and stronger research support. By leveraging AI/ML for manuscript digitization, metadata automation, recommendation systems, predictive analytics, knowledge graphs and chatbots, libraries can evolve from static repositories into dynamic service centres aligned with modern educational and research demands.

However, realizing this potential requires careful planning: addressing data quality and standardization, building infrastructure and expertise, managing change among staff and users, ensuring ethical and culturally sensitive practices, protecting traditional knowledge rights, and sustaining systems over time. Ayurveda colleges, with their unique profile-bridging ancient tradition and modern research-are particularly well-positioned to benefit from AI/ML–enabled libraries but also face distinctive challenges.

In closing, a phased, user-centred, ethically grounded approach is recommended so that Ayurveda college libraries can progressively implement AI/ML services, thereby enhancing their value, supporting students and researchers, preserving legacy, and contributing to the future of Ayurveda education and knowledge dissemination.

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