

INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF AYURVEDA360



**AYURVEDA
360**

**PEER-REVIEWED
BIMONTHLY JOURNAL**

| www.ayurveda360.in/journal

ISSN

PRINT:

3048-7382

ONLINE:

3048-7390

2024

VOLUME 1

ISSUE 2

SEPTEMBER-

OCTOBER

REVIEW STUDY

Access this article online

Scan Here



Website:

www.ayurveda360.in/journal

ISSN

PRINT: 3048-7382
ONLINE: 3048-7390

Publication History:

Submitted: 24-August-2024
Revised: 19-September-2024
Accepted: 02-October-2024
Published: 15-October-2024



How to cite this article:

PS, N., & D, A. (2024). The Significance of Colophons: Insights into Ayurveda Manuscript Studies. International Journal of Ayurveda360, 1(2), 53-59.

<https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.14043410>

The Significance of Colophons: Insights into Ayurveda Manuscript Studies

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Abstract

Introduction:

This study explores the significance of colophons in Ayurveda manuscript studies, highlighting their critical role in preserving and conveying ancient medicinal knowledge. Colophons serve as essential metadata that enhances our understanding of the historical, cultural, and philosophical contexts of Ayurveda texts, thereby linking the past with the present.

Methods:

A comprehensive analysis of various Ayurveda manuscripts was conducted, focusing on the content and characteristics of colophons. Data regarding the identities of scribes, patrons, dates, and locations of manuscript creation were extracted and categorized.

Results:

The findings reveal that colophons provide valuable insights into the provenance and authenticity of manuscripts, shedding light on scribal identities, social and economic conditions, and cultural exchanges. They illustrate the transmission of Ayurveda knowledge, tracing the evolution of practices and adaptations over time. The study identifies specific components of

colophons, including dates, locations, and ownership, that contribute to understanding the socio-cultural significance of these manuscripts.

Discussion and Conclusion:

Colophons emerge as critical artifacts that document the creation and use of Ayurveda texts while reflecting the intellectual heritage and societal interactions surrounding them. They enrich our comprehension of how Ayurveda has evolved and adapted to various cultural contexts while maintaining its foundational principles. This research underscores the importance of colophons in Ayurveda manuscript studies, advocating for their preservation and further scholarly exploration to ensure the continuity of Ayurveda wisdom for future generations.

Keywords: Colophon, Manuscriptology, Ayurveda, Classical

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