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## **Ancient Manuscript Documentation as a Culture Conservation Effort: The study of ancient manuscripts documentation in Garut Regency, West Java**

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### **Abstract**

Garut is one district in West Java province which has the potential of interesting cultural heritage. One of the cultural heritage in Garut which is the site of ancient manuscripts. In Garut regency, there are just a few ancient manuscripts that have been recorded and stored in the museum, while most have not been registered and was stored by local community members. Therefore, there is a need for all parties concern in preserving the culture that exists in the community. One effort that can be done to preserve the culture is through culture documentation. The purpose of documentation is to record, store and process, so if there are people who need information about the existence of the manuscript, it can be easily found. In this research, the method used is qualitative where data are collected through interviews, observation and through the study of literature. The results showed that of most members of the community who own the manuscripts keep them simply by storing in a clean and dry place/ box, and at certain times cleaning the manuscripts from stuck dust and dirt. In terms of the communities awareness to report their manuscripts' ownership to the government is generally remains low. This is because they are worried that the manuscripts are sent to the government, they could not get them back.

**Keywords:** Conservation, ancient manuscripts, culture documentation.

### **Research Context**

Ancient manuscript is one type of records or documents that need to be preserved because the very old and rarely used documents were can be attractive to specific people or for specific purposes. Manuscript is one of a collection that is not owned by everyone so is categorized as rare collection. The manuscript is a form of cultural relics that still can be felt its existence. Manuscript is a document of various types of handwritten form of expression of thoughts and feelings as a result of the nation's culture in the past (Barried, 1985: 54, the Cultural Heritage Bill No. 5 of 1992, Chapter I, Article 2).