

# New Media and Assamese Literature: An Introduction

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## ABSTRACT

New Media or Internet is an important medium for publishing Assamese Literature in the e-world. The published and digitalized forms of the Assamese literature via New Media are called Assamese Electronic-literature. Assamese literature is now published in the form of New Media i.e. E-magazine, Blog, Websites, Social networking site, Wikipedia, Bikashpedia etc.

**KEYWORD:** *New Media, Internet, Digital, Electronic Literature*

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## 1. INTRODUCTION:

New media is one of the most important elements of Mass media. The Assamese word "Nabya Madhyam" is a synonym of English word New Media. In current technology and information era, generally new media is called as a connection of internet with newly invention device such as Mobile, Laptop and Desktop computer etc. Definitely, the word New Media describes those devices, which are interactive, two-way abstract connection and also related with computing the different form of Old Media such as Newspaper, Radio, Television etc. Some of the new media are seen as an invention for connection between old media and computer chips or a hard drive. Internet is the primary element of new media or the wireless connectivity on computers as a network of networks. Many of the researcher and educated person in the world have given the definition of new media but any of the definition is not accepted universally till now. New Media means "modern electronic media these are based on internet." The phrase new media describes the content available on demand through internet. It is in relation to "Old Media" forms, such as print newspaper, printed books and magazines that are static representation of texts and graphics.

Before the study of the evolution of literature on New Media, It is more essential to evaluate the history of new media. At present, in the quick development of science and technology began to relate people directly with the changes of various aspects on social, cultural, economic and political etc. In this time, Internet was approximately capable on positively effected of the publicity and expansion of Assamese literature on New Media like other literature in the world. The published and digitalized forms of the Assamese

literature through internet are called Assamese E-literature. Assamese literature is now published in the form of New Media i.e. E-magazine, Blog, Websites, Social networking site, Wikipedia, Bikashpedia etc.

The invention of Unicode by Unicode Consortium on 1991, the path of the new era is opened for the regional languages also. In the current information-technology era, education and literature can be seen much popular through new media tools between young generations. The root cause is cited only as the fastest, availability, low cost, universal, eco-friendly and long-term storage arrangement.

After development of various software and tools, the regional language "Assamese" in the Indian state of Assam became easier to write in the New Media. The name of the software and tools are "Jahnabi key board", "Lachit keyboard", "Xobdo keyboard, Google Indic Keyboard and Rodali keyboard etc.

## 2. Objectives:

- To find out the impact of new media on Assamese literature.
- To search the literary text of Assamese language in new media.
- To study the type of Assamese literature in New Media.
- To discuss the future feasibility of Assamese Literature in New Media.

## 3. Analysis:

Assamese literature is published on new media in various ways. Some of published only on New Media and some of

them published on New Media and Print Media both. In notable that, sometimes some of the Assamese writers publish their literary work on New Media, before published on Print Media. In such aspects, Assamese literature on New Media can be divided in two types. The form of New media where published the various genres of Assamese Literature are given below -

#### A. On the basis of Publishing -

- Assamese E-magazines
- Assamese literature in Blogs
- E-journals/ E-papers
- Assamese literature in Social networking sites

#### B. on the basis of Preservation-

- Assamese Wikipedia/Wikisource/Bikashpedia
- Assamese E-books available on e-library, e-archive
- Digitalized material of Assamese literature.

### 3.1. On the basis of Publishing:

One of the divisions of Assamese E-literature is the based on the basis of Publishing. On the basis of publication Assamese e-literature can be divided as mentioned below:

#### 3.1.1. Assamese E-Magazine:

The magazines which published in Assamese on new media via Internet instead of Print Media are called Assamese Electronic magazine. Electronic magazine is also called Digital magazine, Online Magazine and briefly E-magazine. In Assamese Language, E-Magazine is known as "Baidyutin Alochani". The first Assamese E-magazine is *Enajori* (<https://www.enajori.com>). This magazine is edited and designed by Himjyoti Talukdar, Which published in 13<sup>th</sup> March, 2010. After published Enajori, several numbers of E-Magazine are published in Assamese. Every E-magazine has played a significant role in Assamese Literature, Language and Culture. Assamese E-magazine has various characteristics. Such as-

- A. Assamese E-magazines are published basically only on Assamese Language. Sometimes, few magazines are published by bilingual form especially Assamese and English Language both.
- B. Most of the Assamese text in the e-magazine is short.
- C. Assamese E-magazines have focused on creating new writers and readers and enriching Assamese Language-Literature and Culture in the e-world.
- D. The discussion, publicity and expansion of Assamese language-literature-culture universally on New Media via E-Magazines.
- E. The surprisingness ornamentation, cover page, cover painting, sketch, photography is also one of the important characteristics of Assamese e-magazines.

At present, more than thirty five Assamese E-Magazines and E-Journals are found. But, some of e-magazine are published for a short period then discontinued. Some of e-magazines are publishing continuously. The name of the some most popular E-Magazines are mentioned below-

- Xahitya ([www.xahitya.org](http://www.xahitya.org))
- Aakhar ([www.aakhar.in](http://www.aakhar.in))
- Junakirbatere ([www.junakirbatere.com](http://www.junakirbatere.com))
- Projanma (<http://www.projanma.wordpress.com>)
- Manikut ([www.manikut.wordpress.com](http://www.manikut.wordpress.com))
- Nilacharai ([www.nilacharai.com](http://www.nilacharai.com))
- Nezine (<http://nezine.com/>)

- Udbhashonline ([www.udbhashonline.vpweb.in/editorial](http://www.udbhashonline.vpweb.in/editorial))
- Muktosinta ([www.muktosinta.org](http://www.muktosinta.org))
- Mumbaichaneki ([www.mumbaichaneki.com](http://www.mumbaichaneki.com)) etc.

### 3.1.2. Blogs:

Blogs are one of the most important components of the New Media. Blogs have been playing an important role in the promotion and conservation of Assamese Language-Literature and Culture in the E-world. There are two types of Blogs available in Assamese Language- Some single writers' blogs and some group blogs or many writers' blogs. Priyanku Sharma's "Axomiya Blog" (<http://priyankoos.blogspot.in>) is known as the first Assamese Blog. The blog has been active since August 2, 2015 which documents Priyanku's diary. The first Assamese group blog is "Xugondhi Pokhila" (Hridoyar Bhasha) (<http://xugondhipokhila.blogspot.in>). This Blog have been active since December 5, 2008. Later on, several group blogs have been created including The Blog of Hiren Bhattacharya, Ashar Dubari and others. A blog may have all the headings that can be in an electronic magazine starting from cover page. It also has the advantage of feedback on how the readers have read blogs. Some Assamese Blogs are mentioned below-

- Ami Axomiya (<http://amioxomiya.blogspot.in/>)
- Mur Antarar Duwar (<http://osrukona.blogspot.in/>)
- Mur Hridoyar Kuthari (<http://ridipnath.blogspot.com/>) etc.

### 3.1.3. E-journals/E-Papers:

At present, there are many Assamese E-journals/E-research journals and E-papers available in Assamese Language in New Media. Ajay Lal Dutta's "Asomiyar Xukh-Dukh" is the first Unicode based E-papers published in Assamese language. Some of the names of Assamese E-Research Journals available in New Media are mentioned below:

- Udbhash ([www.udbhashonline.vpweb.in/editorial](http://www.udbhashonline.vpweb.in/editorial))
- Social Science Researcher (<http://www.ssrnlc.in>) etc.

### 3.1.4. E-books:

Now a day, instead of printed media, Assamese literature, language and culture related books are available only on New Media. Jatin Mipun's novel *Miksijili* ([www.miksijili.com](http://www.miksijili.com)) on the missing tribes of Assam as the first Assamese Book published on Internet. Later in the publication of *Miksijili*, the e-version of the book *Xugondhi Pokhila* and *Xeujor Pothar Manuh* by Hiren Bhattacharya and *Mahakabyar Pratham Pat* by Bipuljyoti Saikia are published on the website named Xophura ([www.xophura.org](http://www.xophura.org)). Even after these, a number of Assamese texts, books have been published in New Media.

### 3.1.5. Assamese literature in Social networking sites:

Social networking sites are a significant platform for the promotion and prosperity of Assamese Language-Literature and Culture in the E-World. The spread of Assamese E-literature through Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Whatsapp etc. is now a very interesting step. These sites have also give birth to a new writers and readers. The role of different groups in this field is also one. Examples of some notable groups are-

- Asomiyat Kotha Botora ([www.facebook.com/groups/axomiyakothabotora](http://www.facebook.com/groups/axomiyakothabotora))
- Ami Asomiya ([www.facebook.com/amiasomiyamagazine/](http://www.facebook.com/amiasomiyamagazine/)) etc.

Some Assamese poems, plays, folktales are available on YouTube. Here are a number of old and new Assamese songs and films.

### 3.2. On the basis of Preservation:

One of the divisions of Assamese E-literature is the based on the basis of Preservation. On the basis of preservation Assamese e-literature can be divided as mentioned below:

#### 3.2.1. Assamese Wikipedia/Wikisource/Bikashpedia:

The Assamese free online encyclopedia was launched in 2002. This is the Assamese version of English encyclopedia. It was released in 2002 but its growth has been rapid since 2011. But as soon as Unicode became popular, the real works of Assamese Wikipedia's started. Wiki is a knowledge based website where users have access to content additions and corrections directly from web browsers. Examples of Assamese Language Wikis are Assamese Wikipedia and Assamese Bikashpedia. Through the portal "Bikashpedia" efforts are being made to the people, knowledge of information, information technology and communication services and access to goods. The Assamese E-Literature has also prospered through the websites of "Assamese Wikipedia" and "Bikashpedia".

#### 3.2.2. Assamese E-books available on e-library, e-archive:

During the current advances of Information-technology era, E-Libraries and E-Archives have given an important role in the conservation of Assamese Literature in parallel with the traditional library. At present two or more e-libraries have different contents of Assamese Language-Literature and culture. I.e. Digital Library of India. Name of the E-Archive that contains selected content of Assamese Language and Literature are –  
[www.sahityarathi.com](http://www.sahityarathi.com)  
[www.indiragoswami.com](http://www.indiragoswami.com)

[www.bkbtrust.in](http://www.bkbtrust.in) etc.

#### 3.2.3. Digitalized material of Assamese literature:

In recent times, many of the contents related of Assamese Literature, Language and culture as a form of print has been available in e-form on New Media. Various E-Libraries, E-Achieves, different websites etc. have been taken important steps in this direction. For examples-  
[www.ernet.in/content/repository-digital-library](http://www.ernet.in/content/repository-digital-library),  
[www.tezu.ernet.in/casms/archive.php](http://www.tezu.ernet.in/casms/archive.php) etc.

### 4. Conclusion

The study found that most of the New Media write-ups were short and unedited. In the era of enhanced information-technology, New Media has also been seen to play a special role in making Assamese Literature universal, faster and more available. A number of new writer's writings have been published along with the write-ups of Assamese writers of Print Media in the New Media. The writing of young writers is more common in the New Media. In the New Media, different content of Assamese Literature can be gained in the form of textual, audio and audio-visual etc. The contents of Assamese Literature are seen as Unicode, JPEG, and PDF etc. and also audio-visually published in New Media.

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