Metadata Research: The Poetry of South Asia Collection

Data auditing, metadata structuring, and accessibility considerations in digital heritage projects.

This project was completed as part of my volunteering with The Poetry Archive, supporting the Poetry of South Asia Collection – a digital heritage initiative showcasing poets across South Asia and the diaspora. My work focused on improving data consistency, multilingual accessibility, and metadata quality to enhance digital preservation and user navigation.

Methods:

I conducted spreadsheet-based data auditing for 571 poets' records, cross-referencing entries to ensure uniform formatting and accurate biographical data. As well as metadata table creation for three poets, and detailed biographical research for Amarjit Chandan. The work aligned with metadata and accessibility standards for digital heritage, including DCMI and ISAD(G), thereby improving searchability and inclusivity across the archive. I also collaborated with the editorial and digital teams to check for data completeness and accessibility compliance before launch. I contributed to launch day with visitor engagement, membership and organisation promotion.

Key Outcomes:

- Applied metadata structuring aligned with DCMI and ISAD(G) frameworks
- Ensured data consistency and accessibility across 571 poets' records.
- Contributed to multilingual metadata accuracy within a live digital archive
- Gained practical experience in data auditing, editorial collaboration, and digital heritage preservation

This project strengthened my understanding of how digital archives bridge access, representation, and preservation. It highlighted the importance of inclusive metadata in amplifying diverse voices and reinforced my interest in the intersections between data, culture, and curatorial practice.