APRIL 2017

IASLIC NEWSLETTER

For Members only

At a Glance

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Quote of the Month

" *A library is a place that is a repository of information and gives every citizen equal access to it.* "

- Neil Gaiman,
English Fiction Writer

Appeal to Readers

News from different regions / states are solicited from IASLIC members for inclusion in the newsletter. Send such news to the Editor.

Email: *chatterjeeamitabha@yahoo.co.in*

CONFERENCES / SEMINARS / WORKSHOPS

National

INFLIBNET Workshops

INFLIBNET Centre, Gandhinagar, is organising a National Workshop on' Ethical Issues and Use of Anti-Plagiarism for Research Integrity' during April 6-7, 2017 and a 'National Workshop on Metadata Standards: Retrospective Conversion, Preservation and Migration' during June 07-09, 2017. For details visit: *http://inflibnet. ac.in/forthcoming/Training_Brochure_2017.pdf*

DELNET Workshop

DELNET is going to conduct a 'Workshop on DELNET Discovery Services, Open Source Software and Emerging Trends in Library and Information Services' at Christ University, Bangalore, on April 11, 2017 and at S R M University, Chennai on April 13, 2017. For details visit: *http://delnet.nic.in/wsbc17.pdf*

Seminar on Divyangs and Digital India

A National Seminar on 'Divyangs and Digital India*'* is being organized by Punerutthan NGO/Trust on April 16, 2017 at Gandhi Peace Foundation, New Delhi. For details visit: *http://api.ning.com/files/pEYWotxu2NJisoTgTSH*BmYAj EUgRuLPdngwNibtr3fmT4bo4ELVB7l3QvlR9kjt1IOcloMNt3Gv6c0dKi8**BSlk7s TNisN/PunerutthanNationalSeminarBrochureA2.jpg*

Conference on Future of LIS Profession

United Progressive Library Association, Uttar Pradesh, Agra, is organizing a National Conference on 'Trends, Challenges and Future of Library and Information Science Profession in Digital Era' on April 16, 2017 at Hindustan College of Science & Technology, Farah, Mathura. For details visit: *http://upla.co.in/news.html*

Workshop on Digital Repository

The Central Library of School of Planning and Architecture, Vijayawada, is organizing a Regional (South - IV) Workshop on 'Institutional Digital Repository (IDR-2017)', in collaboration with IIT Kharagpur under National Digital Library of India programme, during April 21-22, 2017. For details visit: *http://spav. ac.in/library_workshop.html*

Conference on Transformation of Libraries

The DLIS of C U Shah University, Wadhwan city, Dist. Surendranagar, is organizing a National Conference on 'Transforming Libraries into Digital Era: A Journey from Librarian to Cybrarian' on April 23, 2017. For details visit: *http://vbtlis.org/cilibcon2017/*

Seminar on Professionalism in Library Services

The DLIS, Mangalore University, is organizing a National Seminar on 'Professionalism in Library and Information Services for User Empowerment: Opportunities and Challenges (PLISUE 2017)' during April 27 28, 2017. For details visit: *http://profuse.weebly.com/* .

Conference on Libraries Beyond Borders

The Nehru Library, Chaudhary Charan Singh Haryana Agricultural University, Hisar, in collaboration with Association of Agricultural Librarians and Documentalists of India (AALDI), is going to organize the National Conference of Agricultural Libraries & User Community (NCALUC-2017) during May 4-6, 2017. The theme of the conference is 'Libraries Beyond Borders : Navigating Towards Global Dissemination'. For details email to: *aaldiconference2017@gmail.com*

Workshop on Koha

A National Workshop on 'Open Source software - Koha Training & Certification' will be held during May 27-28, 2017 at Mandsaur University, Mandsaur, Madhya Pradesh. For details visit: *http://www.mandsauruniversity. edu.in/koha-training/*

Workshop on Open Source Software

The Central Library, Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur, is going to organise an International Workshop on 'Open Source Software for Library Management (OSSLM 2017)' during June 12-17 2017. For details visit: *http://www.library.iitkgp.ernet.in/sites/osslm17/index.html*

SALIS National Conference

The National Conference of the Society for the Advancement of Library and Information Science (SALIS) is being organized by the Central Library, Thiagarajar College of Engineering, Madurai, during July 7-8, 2017. The theme of the conference is 'Role of Libraries in Making Digital India'. For details visit: *www.salis.in* or *tcesalis2017.wordpress.comwww.tce.edu*.

NACLIN 2017

DELNET is organising the 20th National Convention on Knowledge, Library and Information Networking (NACLIN 2017) at the India International Centre, New Delhi, during November 28-30, 2017. The theme of the convention is 'A Digital Universe of Infinite Possibilities for Libraries'. DELNET will be celebrating its silver jubilee year from June 2017. For details visit: *www.naclin.org*

Seminar on Quality LIS Education: Brief Report

The Central Library, K D College of Commerce and General Studies, Medinipur, West Bengal, in collaboration with Bengal Library Association, Paschim Medinipur District Committee, organized a UGC sponsored National Seminar on 'Roadmap for Ensuring the Quality of Library and Information Science Education and Research' during January 27-28, 2017. Inaugurating the seminar, Prof. Juran

Krishna Sarkhel of DLIS, Kalyani University, Nadia., briefly traced the history of LIS education and research in India and in West Bengal. Earlier, welcoming the guests and participants, Dr. Milan Kumar Sarkar, Librarian of the college and Organising Secretary of the seminar, described the main objectives and scope of the seminar. Prof. Pijush Kanti Panigrahi, Dean, Faculty of Education, Journalism and Library and Information Science, Calcutta University, and former General Secretary of IASLIC, in his keynote address, stressed on raising the standard of LIS education in order to meet the present and future demands of the new knowledge economy. Prof Pijush Kanti Jana, President, Bengal Library Association, Paschim Medinipur District Committee, and Professor, DLIS, Vidyasagar University, in his lecture, described the present scenario of LIS education in West Bengal, while Shri Indrajit Pan, District Library Officer, Pashim Medinipur, in his lecture, pointed out the changing needs of LIS education and research. Prof Bibekananda Dasmahapatra, former Teacher-in-charge of the college, delivered a lecture on Quality of Library Services. Dr. Dulal Chandra Das, Principal, of the college delivered the presidential address. Others who delivered special lectures were Prof. Goutam Maity of DLIS, Jadavpur University, Prof. Sudip Hatua of DLIS, Rabindra Bharati University, Prof. Subarna Das of DLIS, Jadavpur University, and Prof. Durga Sankar Rath of DLIS, Vidyasagar University. A total of 39 papers out of 35 were presented in five technical sessions during the seminar. Altogether 119 delegates participated in the seminar. Shri Amiya Kumar Sarkar, Deputy Librarian, Central Library, Vidyasagar University, delivered the valedictory address.

Training Programme for School Librarians: Brief Report.

A training programme, 'Try-out of the manual among school Librarians/In-charge Libraries of KVS/NVS/AWES/ AEES/CTSA/Railway Board Schools' was organised by Library & Documentation Division (LDD) of NCERT, New Delhi, during February 6 10, 2017. The manual entitled 'Library Management: A manual for SCERT/SIE, DIET and school librarians' has been developed by LDD. Twenty-three librarians of schools functioning under Atomic Energy Education Society (AEES), Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti (NVS), Central Tibetan Schools Administration (CTSA), Army Welfare Education Society (AWES), Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangthan (KVS) and Railway Board participated in the programme. The inaugural session on 'School library as a learning resource centre: role and responsibilities of the school librarians and implications of laws of Library Science' was conducted by Mrs. Madhu Bhargava, Dean of Libraries, G D Goenka World School, Gurgaon, which was followed by a session on 'Policies and infrastructure planning, library authority, library committee and organisational structure; rules and regulations; library budget, library statistics and records' conducted by Dr. N K Bar, Sr. Consultant, Prasar Bharti (Archives and Library), New Delhi. Mrs. Roma Roy, Director, Library Services, Bureau of Indian Standards, New Delhi, delivered a lecture on 'Types of information sources and their dissemination through different housekeeping operations, role of

standards; and need of standards, with special reference to library standards'. She emphasised on importance of Standards in providing quality library services. Dr. Anil Singh from LDD, NCERT, who served as Assistant Co-ordinator of the programme, narrated different activities and services of LDD through website presentation. Three different sessions on 'Automate your library; SWOT Analysis with reference to library collection, resource sharing and consortia, and issues pertaining to IPR, Copyright & DRM' were conducted by Dr. (Mrs.) Moortimatee Samantaray, Head LDD, NCERT, and coordinator of the programme. Dr. Gayas Makhdumi, former University Librarian, Jamia Milia Islamia, New Delhi, conducted a session on 'Traditional library services; and need of information literacy (IL) programme to enhance use of libraries'. A lecture on 'Integrated Library Management System; and digitisation: tools and techniques' was delivered by Dr. Usha Mujoo Munshi, Librarian, Indian Institute of Public Administration, New Delhi. Dr. Aerum Khan and Mr. Mohd Mamur Ali, Assistant Professors of CIET, NCERT, made the participants aware of the various initiatives taken by CIET in developing e-resources for school education. They discussed about web searching techniques; E-Pathshala, digital archiving of open access information resources; NROER and SWAYAM Portal. The valedictory session on 'Promotion of reading habits; outreach services and best practice' was conducted by Prof. Sandhya Sahoo of the Department of Education in Languages, NCERT.

Workshop on Capacity Building: Brief report.

A state level workshop on 'Capacity Building on Library Automation and E-Resources for College Libraries' was organized by Central Library, Dhakuakhana College, Dhakuakhana, Lakhimpur, Assam, in collaboration with Internal Quality Assurance Cell, Dhakuakhana College, on March 18, 2017. Prof. Rajani Kanta Barman and Prof. Sanjay Kumar Singh from DLIS, Gauhati University served as resource persons. Dr. Jugananda Sut, Principal, Dhakuakhana College, delivered the inaugural address. Shri Jamini Kumar Saikia, Coordinator, IQAC of the college, welcomed the guests and participants. Prof. Barman highlighted the relevance of using technology for easy and smooth access to library resources, while Prof. Singh discussed the significance of e-resources in the college libraries of Assam. Shri Birender Pal, Librarian, Dhakuakhana College, informed the gathering about the latest software for easy access to information. A total of 97 library and information professionals took part in the workshop.

International

Seminar on Best Practices

Society for Library Professionals, in association with Institute of Economic Growth, Delhi, and Asian Chapter, SLA, is organizing an International Seminar on 'Best Practices and Trends in Global Libraries' on April 5, 2017 at the Institute of Economic Growth, Delhi. For details visit: *http://slp.org.in/lips2017/*

Conference on Cultural Heritage

The 5th International Conference of Asian Special Libraries (ICoASL 2017) will be held at UIN Sunan Kalijaga, Yogyakarta, Indonesia, during May 10 -12, 2017. The theme of the conference is 'Curation and Management of Cultural Heritage through Libraries: Challenges and Opportunities for the Digital Society'. For details visit: *http://icoasl2017.uin-suka.ac.id/*

SLA Conference

The 2017 Annual Conference of Special Libraries Association of USA will be held during June 16- 20, 2017 in Phoenix, Arizona. For details visit: *http://www.sla.org/ attend/sla-2017-annual-conference/?utm_source= Vocus&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Special+ Libraries+Association&utm_content=SLA+2017+ +Making+Your+Case*

IFLA Satellite Meeting on Open Access

IFLA Section on Serials and Other Continuing Resources, in collaboration with IFLA Section on Acquisition and Collection Development and the European Solidarity Center, Gdańsk, Poland, will organize IFLA Satellite Meeting on 'Open Access: Action Required' during August 16 - 17, 2017, at European Solidarity Center, Gdańsk, Poland. The event is being hosted by Joseph Conrad Voivodship and City Public Library in Gdańsk, Poland. For details visit: *https://www.ifla.org/serials-and-continuing-resourcesor*

Conference on LI Services in Knowledge Society: Brief Report

An International Conference on 'Library and Information Services in Knowledge Society: Innovative, Value Added Services and Best Practices' was held during March 1-3, 2017 at DLIS, Mizoram University, Aizawl. The conference was organized in collaboration with North Eastern Council, Shillong; Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, New Delhi; Indian Council of Social Science Research, New Delhi; Raja Rammohan Library Foundation, Kolkata; Information and Library Network Centre, Gandhinagar; and knowledge partner National Digital Library (MHRD), Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur. The conference commenced on March 1, 2017 amidst a gathering of more than 170 comprising of delegates from USA, Germany, Singapore, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Indonesia, Nigeria, Mynmar and various parts of India. Altogether 46 papers out of 64 on four broad sub-

themes of the conference, viz., (i) Digital Library: Innovative and Value Added Services; (ii) Social Media: Its Application in Libraries; (iii) Indigenous Knowledge and Preservation; and (iv) LIS Education and Research, were presented in different technical sessions. The conference volume, edited by Prof. Pravakar Rath, Prof. R K Ngurtinkhuma and Prof. R N Mishra, was released on the occasion. Prof. Pravakar Rath was the conference director while, Prof. R N Mishra and Prof. R K Ngurtinkhuma were the Secretary and Joint Secretary respectively of the organizing committee.

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

LIS Withdrawn from CBS Curriculum

The Central Board of Secondary Education, New Delhi, in its circular no. 10/2017, dated 09.03.2017, has notified discontinuation of some academic and vocational subjects, including Library and Information Science, at the senior secondary level due to very low enrolment from the session 2017-18 and consequently advised the schools offering such subjects not to offer these subjects from the forthcoming session.

South Asian Library Innovators visit Australian Public Libraries

International Network of Emerging Library Innovators (INELI) South Asia, a continental leadership and networking platform, strives to bring together voices and experiences of librarians, mentors, ambassadors, and stalwarts in the field of public library from India and across the regional INELIs. As part of this programme, the M S Swaminathan Research Foundation team, facilitating institution, with the support of Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation organised the first International Convening II of Cohort I at Melbourne, Australia, from March 6 to 12, 2017. A group of 23 public librarians from 18 states in India, including Shri Partha Sarathi Das, Assistant Editor of this newsletter, along with 6 mentors and other project leaders from MSSRF visited various Victorian public libraries in and around Melbourne. The objectives of their visit were to appreciate and realize their capacity to innovate, inspire and lead in the public library field in India, individually and collectively; deepen their understanding of diverse and sustainable innovative services that could be offered in and through public libraries using strategic partnerships; learn the system functioning of public libraries in Australia, and explore the scope for promoting effective network of INELI India and South Asia, and its integration with INELI Oceania. The event paved the way for the Indian public librarians to interact with the INELI Oceania public librarians for building and strengthening relationships through networking, and building of knowledge through cross learning. The Victorian public libraries shared and showcased diverse and inclusive innovative services to meet the needs of the multicultural society in Australia. This face-to-face convening was designed to strengthen the learning network within INELI South Asia that commenced a year ago through the 1st Convening in Chennai followed by the online learning programme, specially designed to hone the leadership skills and the innovative culture amongst young and emerging librarians in India.

ACLA Newsletter Released

The first issue of *ACLA Newsletter*, the newsletter of Assam College Librarians' Association was released on March 27, 2017 by Shri K K Kochukoshy, Librarian, Central Reference Library, Kolkata, during the inauguration of 'National Seminar on Comparative Librarianship' at Gauhati University. Dr. Nirmal Ranjan Mazumdar and Dr. Kishore Kalita are the editors of this issue of Newsletter. An Editorial Board consisting of Prof. N Lahkar President, Sri Srimanta Madhab Bora, Working President and Dr. P K Deka, General Secretary of the Association has been formed for this purpose.

Atlas for Visually Impaired

The Union Minister for Science & Technology and Earth Sciences Dr. Harsh Vardhan recently released the Special Edition of "Atlas for Visually Impaired (India)" in English Braille in New Delhi. This Braille Atlas has been prepared by National Atlas and Thematic Mapping Organisation (NATMO) under Department of S&T. In the Braille Atlas, maps are raised and embossed with simple point and lines symbols to facilitate users to realize the location and area coverage easily in terms of distinguishable shapes and textures. The legend and reference are placed on the map in Braille script to navigate the map. This Atlas has been bestowed with National award for S&T intervention in empowering the physically challenged by the Prime Minister on January 3, 2017 during Indian Science Congress held in Tirupati. For details visit *http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx? relid=158369*

NDL Coverage

Educational material ranging from primary to post-graduate levels, more than 40 types of learning resources, over 13,00,000 items in 70-plus languages will be available on the National Digital Library (NDL), an initiative of the Human Resource Development (HRD) ministry, says a PTI report available on N D TV website. In a letter to vice-chancellors of central universities, the University Grants Commission (UGC) has asked them to advise students to register on the NDL portal being hosted by IIT Kharagpur to avail of the facility. The HRD Ministry, under the National Mission on Education through Information and Communication Technology (NMEICT), has entrusted IIT Kharagpur to host, coordinate and set up NDL towards building a national asset, the UGC letter by its secretary Jaspal S Sandhu said. The objective of the project is to integrate all the existing digitised and digital contents available with different institutions and provide a single-window access with e-learning facility to different groups of users, the letter said. For details visit: *http://www.ndtv.com/india-news/education-ministrys-digital-library-to-have-content-in-over-70-languages-1444988*

Family Reading Time in Chandigarh Library

The Children's Section at the Sector 34 Divisional Library (South) of Chandigarh is abuzz with activity and the excitement in the air is hard to miss, as parents and children get together to bond over books, share stories, explore and devour the world of words, away from the humdrum of life and technology, says a *The Indian Express* report. To encourage reading among children and make parents a part of this effort, the library has introduced an interesting concept 'Family Reading Time', twice a month over the weekends. According to librarian Parveen Khurana, it has been received with great enthusiasm. The library is open to the public seven days a week and, as Khurana says, the need of the hour is to involve parents in making reading a fun-filled and sustainable activity, and also encourage families to spend productive time together. Apart from story-telling, which is a regular and popular activity, parents and children select a few books for reading, followed by informal conversations and discussions. For details visit: *http://indianexpress.com/article/cities/ chandigarh/bonding-over-books-library-launches- family-reading-time-3021312/*

First Indian Sign Language Dictionary

The Union Government is all set to come up with the country's first-of-its-kind dictionary which aims to bring uniformity in sign languages used by hearing and speech impaired people across the nation, according to a PTI report published in *Business Standard*. The Indian Sign Language (ISL) dictionary, which is being developed by the Indian Sign Language Research and Training Centre (ISLRTC), has so far compiled 6,032 Hindi and English words and their corresponding graphic representation of the signs which are used in daily life. The dictionary is being developed in both print and video format. "A comprehensive Indian Sign Language Dictionary is the need of the hour to facilitate communication between the hearing and speech impaired and create a basic database for further policy making", Union Social Justice and Empowerment Minister Thaawar Chand Gehlot has said. For details visit: *http://www.business- standard.com/article/pti-stories/india-s-first-sign- language-dictionary-to-come-up-soon- 117032000659_1.html*

Social Media Dictating Reading Habit

From five kids and a dog on a mystery solving spree in The Famous Five series in the 20th century to the adventures of a rodent named Geronimo Stilton now, reading habits among kids have undergone a sea change over the years, says a *The Times of India* report. Teenagers these days are more into crime thrillers, that too, the ones dictated by the social media popularity rather than the content, experts said. Julie Mishra, a parent, said that with the advent of all kinds of media, kids these days are spoilt for choice. "Earlier, we just had books and a sole television channel in 'Doordarshan'. This led us to wait for fortnightly comics which were often swapped with friends. As we grew up, we moved on to books like 'The Famous Five' and then the

Nancy Drew, followed by some classics and the ones penned by Jeffrey Archer and Sydney Sheldon. And it remained like this for generations. But now it is not so", Mishra added. For details visit: *http://timesofindia. indiatimes.com/city/pune/Social-media-dictating-reading- habits-in-kids/articleshow/54399805.cms*

Priceless Antiquarian Books Stolen

Antiquarian books worth more than £2m have been stolen recently by a gang who avoided a security system by abseiling into a west London warehouse, according to a *The Guardian* report. The three thieves made off with more than 160 publications after raiding the storage facility near Heathrow in what has been labelled a Mission: Impossible-style break-in. The gang is reported to have climbed on to the building's roof and bored holes through the reinforced glass-fibre skylights before rappelling down 40ft of rope while avoiding motion-sensor alarms. Scotland Yard confirmed that "a number of valuable books", many from the 15th and 16th centuries, were stolen during the burglary in Feltham between 29 and 30 January. According to the *Mail*, one dealer lost £680,000 worth of material. Experts said the most valuable item in the stolen haul was a 1566 copy of Nicolaus Copernicus's *De Revolutionibus Orbium Coelestium*, worth about £215,000. Among the other books stolen were early works by Galileo, Isaac Newton, Leonardo da Vinci and a 1569 edition of Dante's *Divine Comedy*. For details visit: *https://www.theguardian. com/uk-news/2017/feb/12/thieves-steal-2m-of-rare-books- by-abseiling-into-warehouse*

Gates Foundation's Open-Access Platforms

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation has unveiled Gates Open Research, an open-access publishing platform designed exclusively for the foundation's grant recipients. The platform, which was developed by F1000 and is scheduled to be launched in the third quarter of 2017, gives grant recipients another option for where to publish their work that complies with the foundation's open-access requirements. The requirements went into effect on January 1 and requires recipients to publish their research and data in an open-access journal or repository. The foundation has also created Chronos, a service that aggregates information about scholarly journals to help recipients find eligible journals. For details visit: *https://gatesopenresearch.org/*

Training of Librarians as Wikipedia Editors

Wikipedia is one of the most-visited sites on the Internet, and an incredibly common source of facts for everything from blog posts to term papers. But as we all know, crowd-sourced sites like Wikipedia are not always correct. In view of this, an OCLC sponsored project has been undertaken which aims to both make library resources available for Wikipedia editors in order to create better, more accurate entries, and to train librarians to become Wikipedia editors themselves, because better sources mean better entries mean better term papers. For details visit: *http://www.smithsonianmag.com/innovation/future- libraries-180959925/#dIfxj CtQofruCxBT.99*

Knowledge Management Plan

The IFLA Knowledge Management Section has developed a comprehensive Action Plan for 2015-17 based on the core values of IFLA. The goal of this section of IFLA is to promote the role of librarians and libraries in leading Knowledge Management (KM) activities and initiatives in their respective organizations to leverage intellectual assets and facilitate knowledge creation. For more details visit: *https://www.ifla.org/node/11279*

TECHNOLOGY NEWS

Faster Transmitter to Boost in-flight Internet

Japanese researchers have successfully gone past 5G data speeds to reach terahertz (THz) data transmission speeds that are 10 times faster than 5G -- which is undergoing trials right now, says a report by Jayesh Shinde available on *indiatimes.com* website. Where 4G LTE speeds peak out at 50 Mbps in most parts of the world, including in India, 5G data speeds have easily reached over 3 Gbps to 50 Gbps in trials conducted around the world before it is launched globally in 2020. In fact, last year some trials in Japan actually saw 5G researchers blast past 100 Gbps wireless data transfer speeds. But this terahertz technology allows researchers to unlock a whole new level of data transmission speed at scale. The research group developed a transmitter that achieves 105 gigabits per second throughput between 290 GHz to 315 GHz frequency range. Not just on terrestrial networks, terahertz transmitters could seriously revolutionize how high-capacity, high-bitrate data transfer is achieved between base stations and satellites in earth's orbit, which could significantly boost in-flight network connection speeds. For details visit: *http://www.indiatimes.com/lifestyle/technology/terahertz-transmitter-sends-wireless-data-10-times-faster-than-5g-will-boost-in-flight-internet-271010.html*

Free Indian Language Keyboard

The Industrial Design Centre of the Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay (IIT-B) has designed a free Indian language keyboard for Android phones called the "Swarachakra", according to a report published in *The Indian Express.* The keyboard is available in 12 languages and can be downloaded from the Android playstore. The keyboard is a part of the "Better Together" framework of Future Interaction Technology Lab of Swansea University, UK. The project is a part of the Lab's "Re-shaping the Expected Future" project and is funded by UK's Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC). The app would allow users to type on one phone using the keyboard in different regional languages and the conversation can be viewed on another device, a press release by IIT Bombay said.

ICT Access: India's Poor Record

Two of the world's most populated countries India and China are among the few underperformers on access to ICT, according to a write-up by Amit Kapoor and Deepti Mathur based on World Development Report 2016

published in *The Hindu*. India, which has been appreciated globally for providing IT services, faces a huge digital divide, having a relatively low percentage of population with access to the Internet. In 2014, it had only about 18 people per 100 using the Internet (World Bank Data). China on the other hand has a very weak press freedom index, resulting in its overall low performance on access to ICT. Apart from the digital divide existing between countries, there also exists a gap in adoption of digital technology across different demographic groups within the country. For more details visit: *http://www. thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/Bridging-the-digital-divide/article14511451.ece*

Google Repository of Open Source Projects

Google has launched a new website -- *opensource. google.com* -- that serves as a central repository for all of their open source programs and initiatives, with information on various Google open source products as well as useful resources that coders and companies can use on their open source journey, says a report in *www.dnaindia* website. One of the key areas of this website is the Projects section, which is a visual directory of all Google open source projects the company is actively supporting. Implemented in the form of a tag cloud, you simply click or tap the icons of a particular open source product you're interested in, which takes you directly to a page from where you can download its source code from Google's own Git code hosting service. For details visit: *http://www.dnaindia.com/scitech/report-google-announces-a-repository-for-all-its-open-source-offerings-2373290*

Microsoft Closing Project Repository

Microsoft is closing down CodePlex on December 15, 2017. The company says that its repository for open source software projects has seen a dramatic fall in usage, and points to GitHub as the "de facto place for open source sharing.", says a report by Mark Wilson in *betanews.com* website. With 11 years of service under its belt, CodePlex is not just giving way to GitHub, Microsoft is actively recommending migrating to the renowned service - and is making it easy to do so. CodePlex usage has really plummeted. Microsoft says that in the last 30 days, fewer than 350 projects saw a source code commit. In short, explains the company, "it's time to say goodbye to CodePlex." For details visit: *https://betanews.com/2017/04/01/microsoft-closes-codeplex/*

SPECIAL FEATURE

Any Time Library!

You finished your book last night. You're on your way to work this morning and you're sad because you don't have time to get to the library today. What would be perfect? A machine at your bus stop, waiting to dispense your next book. Mere seconds out of your day and you have a new book in hand. Sounds like fiction? Not quite, says

Katharine Ann in a post on *thelibrarylife* blog. Indeed it is no longer a dream, for such library book lending or book dispensing machines, functioning like a bank ATM, can now be found in public places like bus-stops, railway stations, airports, shopping malls, community centres and even in hospitals in different parts of the globe.

Book lending machine possibly owes its origin to commercial book vending machines. Interestingly first book-dispensing vending machine was built by Richard Carlile in England in 1822, as mentioned by John Geoghegan, who has chronicled the history of book vending machines. Carlile was a bookseller who wanted to sell seditious works like Paine's *Age of Reason* without being thrown in jail. His answer was a self service machine that allowed customers to buy questionable books without ever coming into contact with Carlile. The customer turned a dial on the devise to the publication he wanted, deposited his money, and the material dropped down in front of him. It's unclear whether this was an automated process, but that didn't stop England's own automated process from convicting one of Carlile's employees for selling "blasphemous material." The next book-dispensing machine was the Penguincubator, which appeared in London in 1937. Conceived by Allen Lane, the founder of Penguin Books, the Penguincubator dispensed classic literature in paperback form for about the same price as a pack of cigarettes. In June 1947, *Popular Science* featured an early book vending machine called the Book-O-Mat, which could hold a selection of 50 books. Two years later the Rock-Ola Manufacturing Corporation introduced an upgraded version also named the Book-O-Mat. Rock-Ola, which is known for making slot machines and jukeboxes, decided at some point that books might also make a buck as demonstrated by their advertising for the device: "Here for the first time is a coin operated automatic merchandiser which permits the operator to share in the profits of the multi-million dollar paperback book business", says Geoghegan.

It is not exactly known when the first library book lending machine was introduced. But possibly it first appeared in Sweden, where a company called Distec AB manufactured and installed a machine named Bokomaten (or Library-a-Go-Go) in different libraries which allowed people to borrow and return books using library card. Some employees of Contra Costa County Library, USA, on a trip to Sweden in 2006 were impressed to see the functioning of this machine and the library acquired two such machines for the first time in that country. These machines were installed at Pittsburg/Bay Point and El Cerrito del Norte stations. Each of these machines contains over 300 books, including bestsellers as well as non-fictions and functions round the clock. Any member of the library can get a book dispensed from the machine with the help of his or her library card. The Pioneer Library System in Norman, Oklahoma, has installed a machine, built by EnvisionWare, which can dispense more than 400 pieces of media (books/DVD/audio-books) and store more than 1000 returned items. In California Fullerton Public

Library in Organ county has set up a book dispensing machine near local station. San Antonio Public Library has also installed such a machine at the San Antonio International Airport. Besides, some kiosks have been set up in places like county office and school in the coastal region. Several other public libraries in that country have followed suit. The library book dispensing machines have now also been introduced in Canada. Among the Canadian libraries which have installed such machines, St. Thomas Public Library in Ontario has installed its first lending kiosk, as they call it, at the local shopping mall, while Niagara Falls Public Library has installed such a machine in a four-rink ice complex. Ottawa Public Library has installed a kiosk at a community centre, and Toronto Public Library is setting up such a kiosk at Union Station, a major railway station.

In UK, the first such kiosk has been installed at George Elliot Hospital set up by Warwickshire Libraries, which can be accessed round the clock by patients, visitors and staff of the hospital who are members of Warwickshire Libraries. The machine holds around 400 books. The machine is activated by scanning a library card and scrolling down the touch screen using simple commands to choose and borrow a book and take a receipt. Books can also be returned likewise. Another such machine has been installed outside Newcastle Library. Though more information about such machines in UK is not readily available, it is quite likely that some more machines have been installed since the installation of the machine at George Elliot Hospital in 2013. Some reports suggest availability, though in a limited number, of library book dispensing machines in other parts of Europe too such as in Germany, France, the Netherlands, Slovania, Croatia, Switzerland, Norway and Finland.

In Asia and Oceania region, at least 50 such kiosks have sprung up across the Beijing city in China and 100 more are in offing in highly populated areas of the city. The 24-hour service allows readers to choose from 20,000 books housed in giant automatic machines. A single machine holds more than 400 books. Such machines have become popular in other parts of the country too, specially in smaller cities and towns without branch libraries. In Sydney, Australia, Hillshire Council Library is setting up book delivery stations using such machines of smaller size having the capacity of holding around 150 books. The Australian library consortium CAVAL has signed an agreement with a German manufacturer, mk Sorting Systems, for acquairing automated, stand-alone, 100 percent weatherproof library dispensers, named LibDispenser.

The idea of library dispensing machines is certainly quite relevant in our country too, specially for rural and remote areas, where people want to read but there is no library. It is more cost effective than to run a full-fledged library by recruiting necessary library staff. Will our planners think in this line? But it may be pointed out that for proper utilization of such machines the users need to be sensitized and trained.

[Sources : *https://thelibrarylife.wordpress.com/2015/08/11/library-book-lending-machines/, http://www.huffingtonpost.com/john-geoghegan/book-vending-machines_b_2945364.html, http://bookriot.com/2013/11/05/library-vending-machine/, http://www.*

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PERSONALIA

Shri Khorgeswar Bora, retired librarian of DKD College, Dergaon, Assam, and a noted educationist, and writer, was felicitated and honoured as *'Granthapran'* for his outstanding contributions towards the greater Dergaon area on March 10, 2017. To mark the occasion, a festschrift volume titled *'Prajnalap'*, edited by Dr. Chandcharan Goswami, was released by Dr. Kandarpa Kumar Deka, Vice-Chancellor, Mahapurusha Srimanta Sankardeva Viswavidyalaya, Nagaon. The programme was organized by Abhinandan, a socio-cultural organization of Dergaon.

Ms. Sharmila Bose Majumder has been awarded Ph D degree by Gauhati University for her thesis entitled 'Evaluation of University Library Websites of West Bengal: A Study from Librarians' Perspective'. She pursued her research under the guidance of Prof. Narendra Lahkar of DLIS, Gauhati University, Guwahati.

OBITUARY

Eugene Garfield is no more

Eugene Garfield, who introduced citation indexing in the field of science, passed away on February 26, 2017 in Pennsylvania, USA. He was 91. Born Eugene Garfinkle in New York City in 1925, Garfield earned his PhD degree in structural linguistics from the University of Pennsylvania in 1961. His contribution to citation analysis began when he established Institute for Scientific Information (ISI) in 1960, from where he started *Science Citation Index* in 1964. Garfield's work led to the development of numerous citation databases, such as Web of Science, the online subscription base citation service. SCI now forms part of this service. In 1992, Thomson Reuters (formerly the Thomson Corporation) acquired the ISI and its citation index. It later became part of Thomson Reuters' intellectual property and science business. It is now maintained and run by Clarivate Analytics. Garfield also launched *Current Contents* and devised the journal impact factor - a measurement of the reach of a particular journal based on the annual number of citations of its publications and the *Journal Citation Reports*, an annual publication detailing the impact factors and other citation data for thousands of scholarly journals. He also founded *The Scientist*, a news magazine for researchers, in 1986. Garfield was awarded the John Price Wetherill Medal in 1984 and the Richard J. Bolte Sr. Award in 2007. Obviously Garfield was a great intellectual and was always ahead of his time. IASLIC deeply mourns the death of this pioneer.

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