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IASLIC NEWSLETTER

For Members only



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Quote of the Month

"The library is a great place to go to learn about even the most niche topics."

- Riane Konc,

American humour writer and essayist.

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

IASLIC ACTIVITIES

P C Shah Memorial Lecture

The First P C Shah Memorial Lecture on the topic 'Corporate Information Management in the Knowledge Economy' will be delivered by Shri S B Banerjee, Retired Deputy Manager (Information), Hindustan Paper Corporation Ltd., Kolkata, on December 6, 2018 at IASLIC Meeting Room. The programme will be chaired by Dr. Jayati Ghosh, Retired Librarian, Commercial Library, Kolkata.

CONFERENCES / SEMINARS / WORKSHOPS

National

Seminar on Recent Trends in LIS

Sri Kanya Parameswar College of Arts and Science for Women, Chennai, jointly with Madras Library Association and Elsevier, Delhi, is organizing a seminar on 'Recent Trends in Library and Information Science' on December 6, 2018. For details visit: <https://st1.ning.com/topology/rest/1.0/file/get/138354922?profile=original>

Seminar on Use of OA Resources

The Central Library of Annasaheb Dange College of Engineering, Ashta, is organizing a National Seminar on 'Optimum Utilization of Emerging Open Access Resources to Support the Quality Education and Research for Accreditation in the Changing Digital Environment' during December 7 - 8, 2018. For details visit: <https://storage.ning.com/topology/rest/1.0/file/get/135468612?profile=original>

BOSLA Annual Lecture

Bombay Science Librarians' Association (BOSLA) is organizing the Annual Lecture Series-2018 and 126th birth anniversary celebration of Father of Library Science, Dr. S R Ranganathan on December 8, 2018 at Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Agency, Bandra-Kurla Complex. On this occasion eminent speakers will speak on the theme 'Next Generation Libraries: The Way Forward'. For more details visit: <https://storage.ning.com/topology/rest/1.0/file/get/135896977?profile=original>

Workshop on Koha

The LNM Institute of Information Technology, Jaipur, is organizing a National Workshop on 'Open Source Library Management Software-Koha' during December 13 - 15, 2018. For details email to: workshop.library@lnmit.ac.in

Conference on Role of LICs

JILACON'18, the annual conference of Jharkhand Information & Library Association

(JILA), will be held at Shavak Nanavati Technical Institute (SNTI), Jamshedpur, during December 15 - 16, 2018. The theme of the conference is 'Role of Libraries & Information Centres in Industrial, Educational & Socio-Economic Sectors in Digital Age'. For details visit: http://www.jila.org.in/images/Conference/2018/Bharat_jilacon%2018%20brochure.pdf

Workshop on Research Paper Writing

The Centre for the Study of Society and Politics (CSSP), Kanpur, is organizing a Workshop on 'Research Paper Writing' during December 19 - 21, 2018. For details visit: <http://csspindia.com/>

Programme on E-Content Development

The Department of Library & Information Science and Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) of Y & M Anjuman Khairul Islam's Poona College of Arts, Science & Commerce, Pune, in collaboration with Knowledge Bridge, Ahmednagar, are organizing a National Level Faculty Development Programme (FDP) on 'E-Content Development for Effective Teaching' during December 26 - 27, 2018. For details visit: www.akipoonacollege.ac.in

Seminar on Next Era Libraries

The Department of Library & Information Science, Kalyani University, Kalyani, and Kalyani University Library & Information Science Alumni Association are organizing a National Seminar on 'Libraries in Next Era' during December 29 - 30, 2018. For details visit: <https://easychair.org/cfp/LiNE-2018>

Workshop on DSpace

Kerala Library Professionals Organisation (KELPRO) is organizing a Workshop on DSpace on January 6, 2019 at Model Finishing School, Science & Technology Museum Campus, Thiruvananthapuram. For details visit: <http://www.kelpro.in/>

Workshop on Research Data Management

The Energy Research Institute (TERI) is organizing a workshop on 'Research Data Management Tools and Techniques' during January 17 - 18, 2019 at TERI, India Habitat Centre, New Delhi. For details visit: <http://www.teriin.org/event/workshop-research-data-management-tools-and-techniques>

Seminar on PL and Digital Divide

A National Seminar on 'Public Library and Digital Divide: Opportunities and Challenges' is being organized by the Sambalpur Public Library, Sambalpur, in collaboration with Odisha State Open University, Sambalpur, Odisha, during February 5 - 7, 2019. For details email to: mishramzu@gmail.com or sbppubliclibrary@gmail.com

Conference on Koha

An International Conference on 'Koha' will be held at

Ramakrishna Mission Vidyamandira Sabhagriha, Belur Math, Howrah, during February 23 - 24, 2019. For details visit: <https://sites.google.com/view/indkoha2019/home>

Conference on S & T Libraries

IIT Gandhinagar Library is organizing the Second International Conference on 'Changing Landscape of Science & Technology Libraries' during February 28 - March 2, 2019. For details visit: <http://www.iitgn.ac.in>

International

Workshop on Impact Factor Publications

An International Workshop on 'Impact Factor Publications, Citation Analysis, Plagiarism, Getting Patent and Copyright' is being organized by the University Library and the Department of Library and Information Science, Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, Tirunelveli, during December 7 - 8, 2018. For details visit: <https://st3.ning.com/topology/rest/1.0/file/get/134060920?profile=original>

Conference on Publishing Industry

An International Conference on 'Changing Scenario of Publishing Industries and Role of Librarians' (ICCSPIRL-2K19) is being organized by the Department of Library and Information Science and the University Library, Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, Tirunelveli, during January 23 - 24, 2019. For details visit: <https://www.msuniv.ac.in>

Conference on Health Informatics

The 12th Australasian Conference on 'Health Informatics and Knowledge Management' will be held at Macquarie University, Sydney, during January 29 - 31, 2019. For details visit: <http://www.hikm.net.au/index.html>

Conference on Librarianship Development

The 2nd International Conference on 'Librarianship Development through Internet of Things and Customer Service' is being organized by Gujarat Power Engineering and Research Institute, Mehsana, during February 6 - 8, 2019. For details visit: <http://www.gperi.ac.in/LDITCS/>

DATECH Conference

Digital Access to Textual Cultural Heritage (DATECH) Conference-2019 will be held in Brussels, Belgium, during May 8 - 10, 2019. For details visit: <https://www.digitisation.eu/datech-international-conference-2019-call-for-papers/>

Conference on Information Science

The 5th International Scientific Conference on 'Information Science in the Age of Change' is being organized by the Department of Information Studies, University of Warsaw, and Polish Chapter of International Society for Knowledge Organization at University of Warsaw, Poland, during May 13 - 14, 2019. For details visit: <http://infolog.Wdib.uw.edu.pl/?lang=en>

Conference on Research Libraries

LIBER's 2019, the Annual Conference of the Association of European Research Libraries, will be held during June 26 - 28, 2019 in Dublin. The theme of the conference is 'Research Libraries for Society'. For details visit: www.libereurope.eu

Open Repositories Conference

The 15th Open Repositories Conference, organized by Stellenbosch University, Stellenbosch, South Africa, will be held during June 1- 4, 2020. For details visit: <http://or2020.sun.ac.za/>

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

Disappearing Libraries

Libraries, as we have known them all these years, are disappearing one by one across the globe, according to a story by Jinoy Jose P published in *The Hindu Business Line*. Estimates from watchdogs such as the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions and the Global Library Statistics show that the number of libraries has plunged from, say, about five years ago. While there were some four lakh functioning libraries in the world just about a decade ago, now the number stands alarmingly low at a little over three lakhs. Pundits have not come to a conclusion on that yet, but there are, arguably, many reasons including the obvious (funds shortage, rise of digital books and online lending libraries) and the not-so-obvious such as the fall in the number of people who read (seriously) and the rise in incomes of emerging economies and even in the third world where the number of people who could afford to buy personal copies of books has seen a spike. The feeling is mutual. In fact, there is a general consensus that one of the biggest reasons behind the fall is the way funding agencies (mainly governments) refuse to dedicate money to the betterment and replenishment of libraries. Just recently, the UK saw a big campaign, which was backed by the likes of J K Rowling, Neil Gaiman and Philip Pullman, calling for library funding to be ring-fenced. The petition, started by a library lover (Frances Belbin) and so far signed by almost 30,000 people, says UK's libraries are being "closed, cut back and/or outsourced" as the government cuts budgets to local bodies. According to data from *Public Libraries News*, a popular watchdog that tracks the decline in public libraries across the globe, this is not a trend exclusive to the UK; similar trends have been noted across the globe from Greece to India. Our library system in India has also been facing serious threats of late given the cuts in social sector spending and the government's reluctance to spend on libraries. The threat is clear and present for private lending libraries as well. Recently, the demise of the 27-year-old Eloor library (more of a bookshop) in Chennai's T Nagar made news and brought to public attention the need to protect our book stores and reading rooms. For full story visit: <https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/columns/the-cheat-sheet/where-have-the-libraries-gone/article25498405.ece>

Labour of Love

Amita Sharma, 32 comes from a rural part of Modinagar, 25 km from Meerut. A postgraduate degree holder, for years she was concerned about children who had the aptitude and talent but no access to books. One day in 2016, in collaboration with her husband, she decided to do something about it. The couple's free library project for the underprivileged - Prerana Book Banks - has now expanded to four states and covers more than 40 rural areas, according to a story by Sandeep Rai in *The Times of India*. They have a small army of volunteers. The move began two years ago, when Amita discussed the matter with her husband Sanjay, 35. "I still remember when we used to walk more than 2 km to attend school. So many poor children would watch us with eyes full of longing to own a bag full of books. We couldn't do anything then, but now we can", Amita said. "Amita and I visit schools and colleges and encourage students to give away books they no longer need. The services are completely free", Sanjay said. For more details visit: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/couples-library-startup-gives-free-books-to-kids-in-4-states/articleshow/66818879.cms>

JNU Library faces Massive Fund Cuts

Jawaharlal Nehru University in New Delhi has cut down its library fund from Rs. 8 crore to Rs. 1.7 crore. This might result in Dr. B R Ambedkar Central Library cancelling important journals and research material, which would hit students hard, says a report by Mohammad Ibrar in *The Times of India*. The library committee's meeting on November 16 last saw many faculty members oppose certain decisions, including fund cuts. JNU Students Union said in a statement, "due to fund cut, the auto renewal of e-journals, e-subscriptions like Jstor, Sage and others are not going to be renewed, meaning closure of research in JNU from January. For details visit: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/delhi/jnu-slashes-library-funds-from-rs-8cr-to-rs-1-7cr-research-to-be-hit/articleshow/66742019.cms>

Facebook's Digital Literacy Library

In a bid to train 3 lakh Indians in digital safety, Facebook recently announced the launch of the Digital Literacy Library - a collection of lessons in Bengali, Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, Kannada and Malayalam. The announcement was made at Facebook's South Asia Safety Summit held in New Delhi in the presence of Union Women and Child Development (WCD) Minister Maneka Gandhi. Joined by over 70 organisations from five countries - India, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bangladesh and Afghanistan - the event included discussions among experts on a wide range of topics, from safety and technology to keep the most vulnerable people safe when they go online. For details visit: <https://www.hindustantimes.com/tech/facebook-launches-digital-literacy-library-in-6-indian-languages/story-oqFF4Km7U6e7nbitd9Q9WP.html>

Varsity Students Collects Books for School Children

With a vision to illuminate minds even in the remotest parts of

the state, students of the Department of Marathi, at Savitribai Phule Pune University (SPPU), recently collected as many as 300 books to be distributed to school students in rural areas, says a report in *The Hindustan Times*. Having collected magazines and old books from classmates, in addition to buying some more, the students along with the department faculty carried the books to remote tribal areas of Amravati district, to set up open reading spaces for all. "Many of the students come from interior parts of the state, and over the years we have seen how students there are devoid of a good collection of books. Literature liberates the mind, be it fiction or non-fiction, and so as students, we wanted to do our small part in helping school students, from tribal areas. Instead of sending money, we thought books to be the most precious treasure that can benefit generations to come," said Akshay Lavand, a second year student, participating in the same. According to the head of the department, Tukaram Rongate, efforts will be taken to set up open libraries for tribal students. "This was a brilliant idea to introduce the culture of reading and learning among the youth as well as the elderly. As part of the project, an open library-cum reading hall has been set up in Amravati, where school students as well as village elders can come and read. But, we do not want to stop right there and treat it like an act of charity but go beyond it and ensure that it makes a difference to their lives. For now, the first attempt of distributing books to 300 students was successful. In the coming days we are planning to expand this activity to several other parts of the state. The next phase will be in Chandrapur," said Rongate. For details visit: <https://www.Hindustantimes.com/pune-news/savitribai-phule-pune-university-students-open-library-in-amravati-for-tribal-students/story-30RoM0Laep86zx1Jr8hHdO.html>

Initiative to Replace Flood Damaged Books

A silent relief campaign of a novel kind is now on in the villages of Thrissur district, says a report by Mini Muringatheri in *The Times of India*. It goes by the name *Pusthakakkooda* (book basket) and has as its goal replenishing the school and village libraries which have lost their precious collections of books in the devastating flood. An initiative led by N R Gramaprakash, social activist, *Pusthakakkooda*, is getting tremendous response not only from writers and book publishers, but also from the common people, including children. "The immediate focus of the Education Department is to replace the textbooks and notebooks of children, which were damaged in the flood. It is impossible for the government to do everything here. Hence this initiative," says Dr. Gramaprakash. "The entire world has appreciated the camaraderie with which we undertook the relief work. The empathy and social responsibility of the Malayali didn't come about overnight. It evolved from the culture of reading, information dissemination and active public debate that we have nurtured over the years. Books have been integral in this process," he adds. For details visit: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/kerala/hand-holding-for-libraries-from-all-sections/article24905275.ece>

A Library for Babywear

When passing through lush green farmlands in the hills or the rubble of a construction site, one often sees women going about their work with their babies tied securely to their chests or backs with colourful scarves and slings. This way, they can freely go about their daily routine, while the baby is at ease enjoying the mother's warmth. Pondering over this exact thought, architect Rashmee Bhatia Gajra started the Mumbai Sling Library in 2014, according to a *The Asian Age* story. It was when her second child was born that she realised how convenient it would be to carry him in a sling instead of putting him down. Later in 2016 joined in five mothers Yaman Banerji, Aloka Mehta Gambhir, Prachi Shah Dedhia, Koshali Dalvi and Sharmila D'Souza, giving the group new life. Together, they run a pop-up library introducing new parents to baby-wearing - or going around with babies tied to their bodies using slings. "Having the baby tied against your body is not a common sight in urban India. But if you go to the remote rural areas, it's often seen. I think, culturally, we missed a few generations of this practice," says Yaman. Describing the benefits of this system, she explains that this practice falls under the bracket of attachment parenting. The more you follow the cues of your child, the more they will grow into mature and self-sufficient individuals. "If the mother holds the child against her chest it helps in lactation and coping with postpartum depression," she asserts, adding, "by keeping the baby next to mother's body, happy hormones are released." For more details visit: <https://m.dailyhunt.in/news/india/english/asian+age-epaper-asianage/a+library+for+babywear-newsid-80379278>

Home Libraries Help Revive School

The total strength of Vanmukham-Elambilad MLP School in Kozikode is only 73. But with this limited number, it created a unique achievement of all students having a library at home, says a report in *The Deccan Chronicle*. Each of them has a minimum of 50 to 200 books at their home library adding up to a total of 4,000 books. "The home library project has been kickstarted under the academic master plan on June 19 this year, on reading day. Natives, former students and students themselves collected books. Social media was also made use of," says headmistress N T K Seenath. The school is located near Nandi Bazar, Koyilandy. Several contests and activities had also been set up associated with the project. Students and family members preparing appreciation of the book they read, discussion on book, etc. were arranged. "Students are enthusiastically taking part in reading competition. Parents are also happy as the kids are off video games and TV channels," she says. The school was in a pathetic state four years back, with only 39 students on the brink of a shutdown. But teachers, Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) and residents joined hands and came up with many projects to woo children, and it worked. "Now, the total student strength is 100, including pre-primary section. The home library project has bagged best school project award instituted by SSA this year," said PTA president N Sreeshna. Besides, the school has marked its presence in agrarian activities. For original report visit: <https://deccanchronicle.com/nation/current->

[affairs/291118/kozhikode-a-school-with-students-having-library-at-home.html](https://www.asianage.com/291118/kozhikode-a-school-with-students-having-library-at-home.html)

Human Chain Shifts Book Store

The plea went out a few weeks ago from the bookstore in a port city in southern England: "Care to lend a hand?" Volunteers were needed for "heavy manual work" in shifts. It was "essential" that they be able to lift and carry boxes and office supplies. Among the supplies: thousands upon thousands of books. The appeal from October Books, a non-profit that began 40 years ago as a "radical" bookshop, came after a rent increase forced it from its old home in Southampton, Jess Haynes, a member of the collective and one of the few paid employees, said. The shop was looking to move lock, stock and barrel about 150 meters (just under 500 feet) to a three-story building that used to house a bank. Would anybody respond to the call for help? The bookstore got more than a helping hand - it got hundreds, according to a report in *The New York Times*. A human chain began forming on the scheduled day recently from the old October Books stockroom, snaking past 54 doors to the new building. The shop stopped counting after about 250 people showed up, Haynes said by phone. Hand-to-hand, the chain of people passed thousands of books over a few hours. "It was very moving," Haynes said, adding that the employees were "all getting choked up" about how members of the community had leapt to help out. It was the local community, after all, that came to the bookshop's rescue more than once before including when, after 15 years, it had to move because the rent increased. For full report visit: <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/10/31/world/europe/october-books-human-chain.html>

Telugu Online Dictionary Launched

Telugu has joined a growing number of languages from around the globe as part of Oxford Dictionaries' global languages initiative, according to a *thehansindia.com* report. "We are excited to have Telugu as the latest addition to Oxford Global Languages, an initiative that seeks to raise the profile of languages around the globe and make dictionaries and other resources available online to all. Telugu is the fourth most populous language in India, spoken widely in the states of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana as well as elsewhere", explained Judy Pearsall, Director for Oxford Dictionaries. "We are especially proud of this new Telugu-English dictionary, which is one of the first to focus on modern spoken and written Telugu as well as the traditional classical language, ensuring that the vitality of the language in everyday use is celebrated and made accessible to all." For full report visit: <http://www.thehansindia.com>

Student Helps Create Libraries

A 17-year-old student has been facilitating the creation of libraries and donation of books in Delhi-NCR for underprivileged children, says a report in *The Asian Age*. A

literature lover, Mehr Juneja collects books, segregates them on the basis of age groups and genre and sends to different NGOs for them to provide them to those who are not introduced to these books yet. The class 12 student started the 'New Chapter Society' in November 2015. Through this, she helps create libraries according to the needs of the children engaged by different NGOs. "I am inclined towards literature and it has shaped me to become the person I am today. But some are unfortunate to explore literature so I thought of undertaking this initiative some years ago," said Ms. Juneja. She and others involved in the project, get books through door-to-door collection, organizing fundraisers, collecting novels, textbooks, encyclopaedias, dictionaries, and children books. "A lot of people living in my colony, students from my school, and some alumni are involved in the project, which also helps spread awareness among people to donate books they have read or no longer need," she said. For now, the group is working with NGOs like Sanshil Foundation, Vidya Foundation, Dreamgirl Foundation, and The Happy School. "We have provided 1,500 books to Sanshil Foundation for their project Bagiya, helped Vidya Foundation build a library of 500 books, and also provided books on Hindi, English, and Mathematics, to Dreamgirl Foundation which focuses on education of elementary level school girls," she said. She added that they had received a positive response from the NGOs and had seen children taking up reading enthusiastically. The team currently provides books to organizations in Delhi-NCR and wants to expand to other states soon. For original report, visit: <http://www.asianage.com/metros/delhi/250418/student-starts-society-donates-books-to-ngos.html>

PU to Strive for Unesco Heritage Status for Library

Punjab University (PU) will soon submit a proposal to the Chandigarh administration and other government agencies for getting Unesco heritage status accorded to the AC Joshi Library on campus. The above information was shared by assistant professor Manish Sharma during a press meet recently. "Though Chandigarh recognizes the building as heritage, we do not receive any grant for its restoration. We wish the library to be recognized by the Unesco (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) so that a conservation plan like that of the Gandhi Bhawan can be formed for it." Sharma said that the rooftop of the building, flooring, and electrical wiring needed immediate repairs. "The restoration plan will involve the repair and renovation of inside and outside of the building which will include the vegetation around the building, the lighting, and even replacement of the red sand stones wherever needed," he said. Designed by Swiss architect Pierre Jeanneret, in collaboration with the university architect B P Mathur, library expert B S Kesavan, and librarian J S Sharma, the library was inaugurated in 1963 by the first Prime Minister of India, Jawaharlal Nehru. For details visit: <https://www.hindustantimes.com/punjab/panjab-university-eyes-unesco-heritage-status-for-ac-joshi-library/story-yuk6WNgi9qFOKg2EHrLTXI.html>

TECHNOLOGY NEWS

Mobile App to Help Learn Coding

Google's incubator Area 120 has a new app called Grasshopper, which will teach users how to code with fun games and write in real JavaScript without making it look intimidating, says a report in *The Indian Express*. The Grasshopper app is available on iOS and Android for free, and relies on Quizzers, adventure games to teach users how to write code. The app is aimed at beginners who want to learn coding. *9 to 5 Google* had reported first Grasshopper app based on its Play Store listing. The app's description says it will include "fun, quick games on your phone that teach you to write real JavaScript". The app relies on different levels to teach a user how to code, and at each level the challenge gets hard. "Move through progressively challenging levels as you develop your abilities, then graduate with fundamental programming skills for your next step as a coder", reads the description. The Grasshopper app has visual puzzles to help users develop problem-solving skills and understand coding concepts. The app is relying on "industry-standard JavaScript" and gives real-time feedback as well after a user completes each exercise. Users will also collect achievements as they learn new skills. The idea with Grasshopper is to make coding more approachable and less scary for beginners. The app also asks users if they want daily notifications, weekly alerts. Daily notifications are for those who are using the app to learn coding on a daily basis. For more casual users, they can set weekly notifications as well. The app will have various levels to tackle the basics of coding. Users can also ask for solutions if they get stuck at a particular level. Each portion is like a small puzzle and quiz, except that it's got a coding lesson as part of the problem. The app is relying on 3D visuals to make coding more comprehensible, especially for beginners. The starting courses include *The Fundamentals*, which explain basics like functions, arrays, variables, strings, statements. Eventually, the app moves to more complex functions like animations functions from the 3D library. For original report visit: <https://indianexpress.com/article/technology/social/grasshopper-app-from-google-incubator-area-120-will-teach-how-to-code-for-free-5144615/>

SPECIAL FEATURE

How to Reach the Unreached?

If you are on a visit to Mongolia, a landlocked country in East Asia, and happen to pass by the rural region of Gobi desert located in the southern part of the country, you may come across a middle aged man, usually in a blue dress, riding on a Bactrian camel surrounded by young children. When you go nearer you will find colourful books neatly mounted on cloth frames and placed on two sides of the humps of his carrier. He is none other than writer Dashdondog Jamba. According to a story by Jeremiah Jacques in *The Philadelphia Trumpet* magazine, Jamba created his library sometime in the early

1990s being concerned about lack of reading facilities in his country as publishers of children's literature fared badly and no private investors wanted to take them over, and most children's libraries were converted into banks after Mongolia adopted free-market economy. Ever since, Jamba has been writing children's books, translating foreign youth literature into Mongolian, and bringing books to children on camel back. Several of these original books have received the Best Book of Mongolia award. During more than twenty years he has travelled with his packs of books for over 90000 kilometres through every region of Mongolia to bring smile on the faces of the children with his books. He even does not remember how many trips he has made.

This project is similar to the camel-back library in Kenya, introduced by Kenya National Library Service in 1985 for promoting literacy and reading culture in arid and far flung regions of north eastern Kenya. In this innovative initiative, camels carry books in boxes specifically made for the project and take them to children in far-flung schools. Also included in the boxes are tents and mats to be used by children for enjoying their reading on the field. Masha Hamilton, an American journalist and novelist, has given a nice pen-picture of such libraries in a story published in 'O' magazine. She states: "In a hot, remote region of Africa, Somalis (i.e. ethnic Somalis living in Kenya near Somalia border) will walk a mile for a camel especially when the beast is delivering a cartonful of books. The camels halt under an acacia tree, grunting, weary from a two-hour trip through the African bush. "Toh! Toh!" the herders cry, whipping the beasts' knees to force them to kneel so their cargo can be unloaded. Then the travelling librarians open a wooden box, revealing its cache: books of fairy tales, novels, atlases, biographies and more in English and Swahili (the official languages in Kenya). Barefoot children appear as if out of nowhere, sinewy and dusty, leaning against one another as they watch the librarians unroll grass mats and spread out the books. They wait for the moment when they can sit on the ground and hold the books in their own hands".

Nevertheless, camels are not the only carriers of libraries on their back to serve people, especially children, living in remote areas. Various other animals are employed in this job. Ridwan Sururi, an Indonesian man with a horse runs an equine library in the remote village of Serang, in central Java, according to a blog post by David Gonzalez on lens.blogs.nytimes.com. Several days a week, he loads books onto makeshift shelves he drapes over his steed, taking them to eager schoolchildren in that village. Sururi made a living caring for horses, as well as giving scenic tours on horseback. One of his clients, Nirwan Arsuka, came up with the book idea as a way of doing something to benefit the community, specifically a mobile library. He gave Sururi 138 books for starters. Most were in Indonesian, and the books included a lot with drawings. Thus began his mission. Sururi has been hailed as the Don Quixote of literacy by one of his admirers.

We also hear about Pack Horse Library Project that was run in rural areas of Kentucky, a state in USA, during 1935 - 1943.

Under this project, librarians, mostly women, took books to designated areas riding on horses. Thirty different libraries were thus serving 100,000 people. Pack horse librarians were known by many different names including "book women", "book ladies", "packsaddle librarians", and "horse-riding librarians". The project helped employ around 200 people. A post on www.historybyzim website mentions about existence of horse drawn sledges with a library delivery box in 1920s in another state of USA, viz., Minnesota. It states: "A man holds the reins of a draft horse pulling a sledge through the snow in Minnesota. The sledge is loaded with a delivery box used to transport materials between library branches".

In Venezuela, Momboy Valley University, located in Trujillo state of the country, started a project in 2009 known as *Bibliomulas* (book mules), under which mules deliver books to children in rural areas. Since there is limited mobile phone signals in rural areas, the organizers now equip the mules with laptops. Similar projects with donkey back libraries or donkey cart libraries also function in several other countries such as Peru, Zimbabwe and Ethiopia. In Colombia, a similar project called *biblioburro* has been started by a primary school teacher Luis Soriano for providing books to children in rural areas.

In Laos, elephants are engaged in carrying books to rural children. A story by Shauna Carey, a writer and communications strategist, published in online *Lao American Magazine*, describes the enthusiasm created by elephant libraries thus: "Elephants are coming! Elephants are coming!" Hundreds of young voices shout in chorus, the excitement palpable. But these are not just any elephants, they are four-legged libraries. In an effort to support literacy in rural communities, Room to Read Laos, an NGO, teamed up with two other NGOs (Action with Lao Children and Elefant Asia) as well as the local government to implement the first ever Elephant Mobile Library. The perfect mode of delivery for remote communities, the Elephant Mobile Library has been an instant hit. Stocked with 640 Lao-language children's books (many featuring elephants) and supplementary educational materials, the library's maiden voyage included four primary schools that serve more than 1,000 students in the northern province of Xaybouly. As the elephants enter the gates of one of those schools, scores of students line up dutifully eager to get a closer look at their unusual guests. With bright eyes and wide smiles, the youngest students strain to wait their turns, bouncing up and down with excitement". Elephants also carry books to Omkoi region of northern Thailand where there are no schools or libraries.

In India too there are examples of using animals for carrying libraries to remote areas. In 1925 Rabindranath Tagore experimented with Chalantika Library (mobile library) for extending library services to rural areas. Some of these libraries were loaded on bullock carts. Kanakasabhai Pillai, a resident of Mannargudi town of Tamil Nadu, who was an assistant engineer with the PWD, designed a bullock cart, to carry books to the villages. This mobile library on bullock

cart was inaugurated in Melavasal village, Mannargudi taluk, on October 21, 1931 by none other than Dr. S R Ranganathan.

Interestingly, several books have been published on such animal back libraries, such as *My Librarian is a Camel*, by Margriet Ruurs, *That Book Woman*, by Heather Henson, *Waiting for the Biblioburro*, by Monica Brown and *Biblioburro: A True Story from Columbia* by Jeanette Winter.

There is no doubt that animals can very well play important role in extending library services to the people in remote areas, especially in developing countries. Authorities willing to provide library services to the people who are unable to enjoy such services due to dearth of proper communication facilities may very well think of taking help of animals to reach the unreached.

[Sources: <https://www.thetrumpet.com/12152-the-camelback-library>, <https://www.oprah.com/omagazine/the-camel-library/all>, <https://blog.bibliotech.education/the-most-unusual-libraries-youve-ever-seen-9b1ea2e58ce2>, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pack_Horse_Library_Project, <http://www.historybyzim.com/2018/01/horse-drawn-sledge-with-a-library-delivery-box-1920s/>, <http://www.laoamericanmagazine.com/2012/08/elephant-mobile-library/>, <https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-features/tp-fridayreview/genesis-of-the-mobile-library/article23767237.ece>, <https://www.knls.ac.ke/index.php/what-we-do/library-services/public-library/camel-library>]

NEW LIS LITERATURE

[Note: Publishers of books enlisted here and/or any new books in LIS may send copies of such books to the Editor, *IASLIC Bulletin*, for review]

Indian

1. CHAVAN (Subhash P) et al, *Eds. Re-Envisaging Knowledge Resource Centres: Roles and Responsibilities*. 2018. Ess Ess Publications, New Delhi. ₹ 1600. ISBN: 9788193607480
(Provides a concise, informal account of the ways in which information and society are related and of our ever-increasing dependence on a complex multiplicity of messages, records, documents, and data)
2. DASGUPTA (Arjun), *Ed. Sixty-one Years of 'IASLIC Bulletin: A Cumulative Index, 1956 - 2016*. IASLIC, Kolkata. ₹ 280. ISBN: 9788190777742
3. NARAYANA (G J). *The Roses and the Thorns in the Career of an Information Scientist: A Managerial Insight*. 2018. Ess Ess Publications, New Delhi. ₹ 625. ISBN: 9788193431146

(It is a collection of experiences, thoughts and

reflections drawn from the working life of the author in the domain of library and information service, and teaching management science in different capacities over a period of three decades)

4. NASIRUDHEEN (T). *Library Movement and Development in India: A State-Wise Scan*. 2018. Ess Ess Publications, New Delhi. ₹ 1550. ISBN : 9788193607466

(Presents a comprehensive picture of the start, growth and the present status of libraries in every state in the country)

5. NAUSHAD ALI (P M), *Ed.* *Information Access in Knowledge Society: Changing Paradigms (Festschrift in honour of Prof. Shabahat Husain)*. 2017. Shree Publishers & Distributors, New Delhi. ₹ 3200. ISBN: 9788183298810

(A collection of invited research papers, it highlights the current trends in information access in the age of web-based resources and services)

Foreign

1. FOWLER (George) and HINES (Samantha Schmehl). *Challenging the "Jacks of All Trades but Masters of None" Librarian Syndrome*. 2018. Emerald Publishing Ltd. West Yorkshire. \$114.95. ISBN: 9781787569041

(Explores the current purpose of librarianship and libraries, how we become "Masters of our Domains", develop expertise in various elements of the profession, and how we extend outward into our communities)

2. FERGUSON (Jennifer S). *Using Authentic Assessment in Information Literacy Programs: Tools, Techniques, and Strategies*. 2018. Rowman & Littlefield Publishers,

Lanham, MD. \$ 140. ISBN: 9781538104804

(Offers teaching librarians practical resources and approaches that will help them to implement authentic assessment in any instructional setting).

3. DECKER (Emy Nelson) and PORTER (Seth) *Engaging Design: Creating Libraries for Modern Users*. 2018. Libraries Unlimited, Santa Barbara, CA. \$ 70. ISBN: 9781440856129

(Demonstrates how aesthetics, design elements, and visual literacy can be implemented in the library to enhance spaces, programmes, services, instruction, and outreach so that the library will appeal to all users)

4. OWEN (Tim Buckley). *Successful Enquiry Answering Every Time*. 7th ed. 2017. Facet Publishing, London. £54.95. ISBN: 9781783301935

(Designed to guide information professionals through all the stages of research, from finding out what the enquirer really wants, to providing a polished, value-added answer)

PERSONALIA

Dr. V K Thomas, Retired Librarian, Visva Bharati Library Network, Santiniketan, has joined Tamil Nadu National Law University, Tiruchirappalli, on October 1, 2018 as Consultant (Library). Dr. Thomas is the former editor of *IASLIC Newsletter*.

Shri Prayash Tamang has joined in the post of Assistant Librarian in Rabindra Bharati University, Kolkata, on October 4, 2018. Before joining RBU Library, he was serving as Librarian in Maharajadhiraj Uday Chand Women's College, Burdwan.

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