IASLIC NEWSLETTER

Indian Association for Special Libraries and Information Centres

August 2021

A Monthly Newsletter Published by IASLIC

Quote of the Month

"The very existence of libraries affords the best evidence that we may yet have hope for the future of man"
— **T S Eliot**
English Poet and Playwright

Appeal to Readers

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

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IASLIC ACTIVITIES

IASLIC QIP: A report

A 10-Day Quality Improvement Programme (QIP) on 'Image Building and Reputation Management of Library and Information Systems and Services (IBRM-LISaS)' was organized by IASLIC Education Division during May 15 - 24, 2021 in online mode. The QIP was conceptualized keeping in view the need to inculcate and induct certain basics of management, especially marketing, branding, advertisement, media planning, message creation, public relations, promotional planning, organizational behaviour, standardization of services and professional personality development, etc. among library and information professionals to help develop image and reputation of library and information systems and services.

The programme was inaugurated on May 15, 2021 at 4 pm. The inaugural session was chaired by Prof. Narendra Lahkar, President IASLIC. At the outset, Prof. Pijushkanti Panigrahi, Editor, *IASLIC Bulletin*, welcomed all the guests and the participants. He stressed on the novelty and importance of the course. Shri Abhijit Kumar, General Secretary, IASLIC, mentioned about the activities of IASLIC. Shri S B Banerjee, Course Director and Convener, Education Division, IASLIC, extended a warm welcome to the Chief Guest, Dr. Ajay Pratap Singh, Director General, RRRLF, and requested him to inaugurate the programme. Shri Banerjee briefly explained the need for the managerial acumen, more precisely the marketing management skill, for being able to provide the best possible services to the users. Dr. Singh, while inaugurating the programme, spoke highly of IASLIC and appreciated the course, which, he said, was of utmost need and was attuned to the hour. He also pleaded for emphatic library services. In his presidential address, Prof. Lahkar stressed upon the need to improve the quality of library services and also the essentiality of conducting such courses frequently. Smt. Banasree Roy, Joint Secretary, and Convener, Serials Division of IASLIC, extended hearty thanks to Dr. Singh for delivering the inaugural address, and to Prof. Lahkar for presiding over the session. She also thanked Shri Abhijit Kumar, General Secretary, Prof. Pijushkanti Panigrahi and the members of the Technical Team, who were providing technical support in conducting the programme. Besides the participants, the resource persons, EC and GB members of IASLIC, many invitees also graced the occasion.

Altogether 19 technical sessions were held to cover different facets of the subject of the quality improvement programme. Each session consisted of presentation by a designated resource person for one hour followed by 30 minutes of interaction/discussion.

In his presentation on 'Economics of information and pivotal roles of library and information systems and services' Dr. R K Chaddha (formerly Additional. Secretary, Parliament Library, and presently Research Dean, Malwanchal University, Indore) stressed that even when information providing sources had been multiplying steadily, library and information systems and services were the only and exclusive source to cater correct just-in-time (JIT) information for the advancement of the society. Dr. P R Goswami, (former Director, Library and

Information, Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, New Delhi), candidly explained how the inputs of an LIS unit could be transformed into productive outputs by aptly identifying and manipulating the operational resources. Dr. Ramesh Gaur (Dean and Director, Library & Information and Head Kala Nidhi Division, IGNCA) elaborately discussed the concept of marketing of information products and services. Prof. Asif Zameer (Dean, Marketing IMT, Gaziabad) elaborated the components of traditional marketing mix (4Ps, Product, Price, Place, Promotion) and the new concept of marketing mix with, addition of 3 more Ps viz. 'People', 'Process' and 'Physical' getups. Shri P R Ray (Managing Director, Ospak Cyfox Paper Co. (P) Ltd.) made an empiric presentation of the concept of 'Relationship Marketing'. Dr. Sailesh Yagnik (Former Librarian, MICA, Ahmedabad) stressed on designing and developing a process to prepare users' profile. Dr. Nihar Kanti Patra (University Librarian, Manipur University) discussed about the usual promotional mix used in marketing of products and services. Dr. Sabyasachi Dasgupta (Associate Professor, Globsyn Business School, Kolkata) highlighted various marketing techniques. Dr. V K Thomas (Former University Librarian, Visva Bharati University Library network) explained how outreach initiative was also a promotional measure for image building. Branding as a promotional measure was highlighted by Prof. Aditya Tripathy (Professor, DLIS, BHU). Dr. Arun Kumar Chakraborty (Formerly Director General, RRRLF, and presently Librarian, Bose Institute, Kolkata) stressed the need to innovate ideas to design the information products frequently to meet the changing demands and needs of the users. Prof. K P Singh (Professor DLIS, Delhi University) discussed different components of marketing such as customer, advertising, research innovation, branding, opportunities and solutions, etc. Role of public relations, advertisement and media planning in library and information systems and services was discussed by Shri Subhasis Mukherjee (Senior General Manager in a leading health care establishment). The need for public relations and building up relationship with the public was exhaustively discussed by Dr. Jitender Bhargava (formerly Executive Director, Air India). The issues and challenges of conflict management in work place were explained by Prof. Shashi Prabha Singh (Retired Professor, DLIS, Delhi University). Dr. Rama Patnaik, Librarian, IIM, Bangalore, discussed how to develop a feedback system to assess the customer satisfaction for the services they receive. Dr. T S Kumbar (Librarian, IIT, Gandhinagar) presented an overview of Next Generation Discovery Citation Index. Prof. Amitabha Chatterjee (former Professor and Head, DLIS, Javadpur University, Kolkata), while emphasizing that image and reputation of a library or information centre largely depended on the quality of service provided by a library or information centre, discussed in details the different aspects LIS related standards and how to adopt them. Dr. Geeta G Gadhavi (Associate Professor and Head,

DLIS, Gujarat University) impressed upon the participants the need for pursuing self analyzing exercises and negotiating imperatives for personality development and effective leadership quality.

The valedictory session was chaired by Prof. Krishnapada Majumder, Vice President, IASLIC, and subsequently by Prof. Amitabha Chatterjee, Editor, *IASLIC Newsletter*, as Prof. Majumder had to leave early for some urgent reason. Shri S B Banerjee, Course Director, gave a detailed description of different sessions of the course, and thanked the participants for choosing the course, and the galaxy of 19 resources persons for enriching the participants. He also thanked IASLIC General Secretary, EC members, especially Prof Pijuskanti Panigrahi, Editor, *IASLIC Bulletin*, and Smt. Banasree Roy, Joint Secretary, and the members of the technical team without whose help, the course could not have been conducted smoothly. Valedictory address was delivered by Prof. Narendra Lahkar who provided an overview of the state of art of the LIS profession and the library and information systems and services in the country. He also highlighted the need for improving the library and information services and the responsibilities of IASLIC in this regard. Prof. Amitabha Chatterjee, in his presidential address, pointed out the importance of the programme and urged upon the Education Division of IASLIC to organize the same programme again in future as it was of immense value to LIS professionals. Shri Pradip Kumar Sarkar, Joint Secretary, IASLIC, offered the vote of thanks.

Altogether 52 professionals - teachers, practitioners, research scholars and students - in the LIS field from almost all parts of the country thought it prudent to join this QIP. The course was of 3 credits (30 hours) duration spread on 10 days. For the purpose of issuing participation certificates, the participants were evaluated on the basis of a quality participation measuring process duly designed for the purpose. It may be mentioned that the programme was designed and conducted by Shri S B Banerjee, Course Director and Convener, Education Division, ISALIC, with active cooperation of Prof. Pijushkanti Panigrahi and Smt. Banasree Roy, and technical support of Shri Biswaranjan Manna, Editorial Assistant, *IASLIC Bulletin*; Shri Sujan Saha, Member, Information Division, IASLIC; and Smt. Samhati Soor, Member, Serials Division, IASLIC.

P C Shah Memorial Lecture

The third IASLIC - P C Shah Memorial Lecture was held on June 19, 2021 at 4.30 pm through online mode. Dr. Abdul Majid Baba, Consultant to Vice-Chancellor (University Library Affairs), Central University of Kashmir, and former University Librarian, University of Kashmir, Srinagar, delivered the lecture on the topic "Research and Publication Ethics to Maintain Academic Integrity". Prof. Narendra Lahkar, President of IASLIC and former Professor, Department of Library and Information Science, Gauhati University, Guwahati, presided over the programme. Shri Abhijit Kumar, General Secretary,

IASLIC, welcomed the speaker, chairperson and the participants who were linked with the programme through Google Meet. He recalled how the annual IASLIC - P C Shah Memorial Lecture was initiated in the year 2018 out of an endowment fund created from a donation received from the family members of late P C Shah, former Head, NICTAS, ATIRA, Ahmedabad. Shri Kumar also introduced the speaker and the chairperson.

Dr. Abdul Majid Baba started his lecture by paying homage to late P C Shah and remembering his successful service life in ATIRA and other organizations. Late P C Shah's academic mind, professionalism and research oriented activities prompted him to choose the lecture topic, Dr. Baba said. Dr. Baba mentioned that 'plagiarism', 'piracy', 'copyright infringement' were oft-heard words today and stressed that for transparency in research and scholarly works, publications, etc. moral ethics and honesty were very important. He categorized different types of plagiarism like 'clone', 'ctrl C', 'remix', 'recycle', 'hybrid', 'mashup', '404 error' which were commonly found in research papers, project reports, theses and dissertations. Lack of reading habit, education and learning in regional language, carelessness, finishing of research works at the eleventh hour were some common issues in India that led to academic dishonesty in research and publication, according to Dr. Baba. He also showed some ways to avoid plagiarism. Dr. Baba also focussed on the challenges and conflicting issues faced by researchers in the present era of information explosion. Mentioning about UGC Regulations for promotion of academic integrity and prevention of plagiarism which came up in 2018 to create awareness about responsible conduct in research and to develop systems for detection as well as prevention of plagiarism, Dr. Baba suggested that librarians of universities and colleges should create opportunities to organize awareness programmes, and short-term courses on research methodology.

After the lecture, Prof. Narendra Lahkar, Chairperson of the programme, invited comments and queries from the participants. Dr. Susanta Senapati, Principal Technical Officer, Knowledge Resource Centre (Library), CBRI, Roorkee, remarked that moral character had to be developed from childhood. Prof. Amitabha Chatterjee, Editor, *IASLIC Newsletter*, supplemented Dr. Baba's views saying that sometimes authors and research scholars cited more number of references although they had consulted only half or even one-third of the documents listed by them in the references.

In his concluding remarks, Prof. Lahkar thanked Dr. Baba for elaborately speaking on the important topic of plagiarism. He stressed on librarian's role to help the academic community in understanding the evil of plagiarism. Finally, Shri Pradip Kumar Sarkar, Joint Secretary, IASLIC, proposed a vote of thanks. Over eighty participants attended the programme. Shri Sujan Saha, Member, Information Service Division, IASLIC, extended technical support in conducting the programme.

CONFERENCES / SEMINARS / WORKSHOPS

National

Conference on Trends in LIS

An online National Conference on 'Emerging Trends in Computer Science, Library and Information Science, organized by the Department of Computer Science and Library and Information Science, in collaboration with IQAS, St. Joseph's First Grade College, Hunsur, Dist. Mysore, will be held on August 23, 2021. For details email to: *etcslisconference@gmail.com*.

Refresher Course in LIS

A UGS sponsored Refresher Course on 'Changing Trend in Library Services and LIS Education' is being organized by UGC Human Resource Development Centre, Dr. Harisingh Gaur Vishwavidayalaya, Sagar, during August 26 - September 9, 2021. For details email to: *hrdcsagar@gmail.com*

International

Conference on Koha

An International Conference on Koha, organized by Bengal Library Association, Kolkata, will be held during October 2 - 3, 2021. For details visit*: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1lzI-Tb5NJyCk4yyF0zRZf6fX_AW8PNai/view*

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

Walking Librarian

K P Radhamani, a 64-year-old woman, works as a librarian at Mothakkara in Kerala's Wayanad district. What makes her unique is that she walks 4 km everyday for home delivery of books. The "Walking Librarian", as she is fondly called, lives in Mothakkara, Vellamunda in Wayanad, which is dotted with lush green forests and hilly terrain. She delivers books on fiction, history, politics, travel and movies in a shopping bag, according to a story available on *edexlive.com* website. She works as the librarian at Prathiba Public Library in Mothakkara which boasts of around 11,000 books but after the flow of people to the library decreased owing to their commitments in farm work, domestic work and other livelihoods, Radhamani decided that she would take the books to them. She keeps a regular register of the books being delivered and manages according to the guidelines of the Library Council of Kerala. In a shopping bag, the frail woman with the passion to deliver books, carries 25-50 books and gives two books to a family and takes them back after eight days. The registration fee to join the library is ₹ 25 and the monthly fee is ₹ 5. Radhamani feels that by delivering books to people with various reading tastes, she herself is getting hooked to these books. She recalled, "I used to narrate stories to my father when I was a child and used to read anything which I could get my hands on including the paper

which was used to cover clothes or provisions and there is no life for me without letters. After getting this job with the library, I became an avid and voracious reader taking books from all sections and increasing my knowledge." Wayanad being a backward district with a huge population of tribals, Radhamani has delivered books at the doorsteps of many tribal homes and kindled the passion for reading among their children and women. She recollected how the tribal children used to call her after finishing reading the books she had delivered within a few days and waited for her next visit. In the shadow of Covid, the number of books being delivered in a month has come down to around 350 from 500. She has also doubled up as a tourist guide as several tourists flock to the hilly terrain. For being a guide, she has devoured books related to travel, history and society of Wayanad so that she can properly guide the tourists. Radhamani, who studied only upto the 10th standard, said that some books suggested by her readers have remained imprinted in her mind for life. An example is one of the bestsellers in Malayalam literature, "Aadujeevitham" by noted writer Benyamin. As she said, "The character Najeeb in that book will always be inside me and will always give one determination and high spirits as how he scripted his own return from an alien land from a remote desert in Saudi Arabia." The books being delivered by Radhamani are of use to several aspirants for civil service examinations. The Walking Librarian who started in this profession in 2012 is now earning ₹ 3800 a month, which is a paltry sum given the living indices. For full story visit: *https://www.edexlive.com/news/2021/apr/23/this-librarian-in-wayanad-walks-over-4-km-a-day-to-deliver-books-straigntto-peoples-doorsteps-20007.html*

DL to Preserve Culture of Chhattisgarh

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel has asked the state culture department to prepare a digital library to preserve and showcase the rich and glorious culture of the state, an official said recently, according to a PTI report available on *in.news.yahoo.com* website. In his address during a virtual review meeting, Baghel said that a digital library would not only establish Chhattisgarh's identity on international platform, but it would also make the future generations aware about the state's splendid culture, the official said. All the important information about folk music, folk dance, folk literature along with artists and art forms of Chhattisgarh should be compiled in the digital library with the help of subject experts, the Chief Minister said. Young artists should be encouraged to promote and preserve the state's cultural heritage through various schemes such as Folk Artists Promotion scheme, he said, adding that upcoming artists and troupes should be given the opportunity to perform at government's cultural programmes, along with the established artists. For full report visit: *https://in.news.yahoo.com/baghel-asks-officials-prepare-digital-080436221.html*

Students Build Library Network

"I want to study. My parents are labourers, and it is tough. I want a better job," said Simran Kaur. A class seven student, Simran is a regular visitor to the student-led mobile community library in the village of Barkidandi in Nanakmatta, which is an important Sikh pilgrimage site in the district of Udham Singh Nagar in Uttarakhand. As in the rest of the country, the corona virus pandemic and the ensuing national lockdown adversely affected the education of children like Simran, who come from low-income, working-class backgrounds. In response to their problems, an informal network of community libraries in the area, an initiative of the students of Nanakmatta Public School, sprang up according to a story by Fathima Nizaruddin available on *scroll.in* website. Kamlesh Atwal, one of the founding members of this English medium private school in Uttarakhand, explained that it became difficult for students to access library books during the lockdown. The school took the decision to allow student volunteers to take the books home to their villages, in order to start the community libraries. The volunteers were known as "library leaders." The main inspiration came from similar library movements across Uttarakhand, in areas as far-flung as Rampur and Pithoragarh. The first mobile library began on September 9, 2020, at the height of the lockdown. Riya Chand, a Class 10 student at Nanakmatta Public School, was one of the key volunteers behind this initiative. In fact, the library leaders at this school are all around Riya's age group, generally students in class eight, nine, or ten, who bring the books to the libraries for each two-hour session. Riya said that her school provided the books from its own library. No textbooks are circulated, just Hindi storybooks - since that is what the children particularly love - with a few English books as well. For the library leaders, finding a place to set up the actual library, where children and other interested readers could meet on a regular basis, was difficult. But the children persisted in their efforts and were finally granted access to a locked government school. Still, it was always going to be a temporary space. Finding a suitable spot for each of the libraries was always the most difficult task, with those in charge of community spaces being reluctant to allow public gatherings, arguing that they could be accused of violating Covid protocols. The community libraries in Nanakmatta do not have any permanent physical structures. Based on daily conversations to update one another on timings, the library convenes on a particular day. The children meet at a designated spot in each village at a fixed time every afternoon. In order to sustain the effort and to see to it that the books are going to the audiences that need them the most, they are rotated between the libraries on a regular basis. Regular meetings are held at Nanakmatta Public School in order to assess how best to do this. Apart from books from the school library, the community libraries also receive books from initiatives like Books For All, taken by an NGO named Guzarish, publishers like Navarun, and individual authors like Dewen Mewari, Madhu Kankariya and Shekhar Joshi. The school receives support from the Teach for India programme. The majority of the students who attend the library sessions are from low-income

families who study in government schools or schools run by private charities. A few are as young as five. Some of the youngest participants come with siblings - usually sisters - who have been given the responsibility of taking care of them for the day. For full story visit: *https://scroll.in/article/989442/how-schoolchildren-built-a-library-network-for-students-without-access-to-books-during-the-lockdown*

Makeover of Warangal Libraries

After years of neglect, Warangal's central and regional libraries are set to get a makeover. The Greater Warangal Municipal Corporation (GWMC) has taken up a project, which involves fixing the roofs of the buildings, replacing age-old furniture and providing basic infrastructure, at an estimated cost of ₹ 6.5 crore to give the book-houses a facelift under the Smart City Mission, says a report in *The New Indian Express*. According to sources, there are two major libraries in the district - Warangal (Urban) District Central Library, established at the Public Garden in 1961, and the Government Regional Library, established opposite the Warangal Central Prison in 1964. Despite having several small and regional book-houses under their jurisdiction, both the libraries have been in a pathetic condition due to the apathy of authorities concerned. When *The New Indian Express* went around and interacted with a few sources, it was learnt that several small libraries in the district did not even have proper buildings to function from, while those which had were either in a dilapidated condition or were facing shortage of furniture. As a result, hundreds of hardcover, leather-bound and other books are either partially damaged or permanently destroyed. It may be mentioned here that the central and regional libraries usually witness a daily footfall of 500 to 600 readers, with half of them being students who visit the libraries to read newspapers or to pick up books for competitive examinations. Though each library houses at least 70,000 books, the authorities had not been adding new arrivals to the collections, discouraging the readers from visiting the book-houses. Speaking to *The New Indian Express*, the librarian of Government Regional Library, M Alivelu, said that though the readers were previously welcomed by broken furniture and dusty books, the situation has been improving slowly, thanks to the initiatives of the GWMC authorities." For full report visit: *https://www.new indianexpress.com/states/telangana/2021/mar/22/greater-warangal-municipal-corporation-to-breathe-life-into-libraries-2279806.html*

Street Library in a Fridge

Students have been stuck at home throughout the past year and a large portion of this year too. They have had no friends to meet, no school to go to and no one to play with. This became the time to do something constructive and many people across the country came up with initiatives to re-introduce the digital generation to books — there have been book-reading sessions, discussions and street libraries set up at various parts of the country. But Kalidas Haldar of Kolkata has made reading 'cooler'. Literally, Kalidas, his wife Kumkum and their son Kingshuk have set up a street library — Patuli Street Library — inside a refrigerator in front of a local grocery store, says a story by Prajanma Das available on *edexlive.com* website. Yes, their first bookshelf was a double door, discarded refrigerator. This street library will let you borrow a book for a month — all you have to do is write down your name, phone number and the name of the book. Kalidas will only gently remind you before it's your time to return the book. He aims to set up 50 such libraries in various parts of the City of Joy. Kalidas is an English teacher at the Metropolitan Institution, Bowbazar in North Kolkata, who lives in Baishnabghata Patuli Township right off the city's southern fringe. Having seen the kind of screen addiction children are ending up with, he wanted to inculcate the love of reading into a generation that is more interested in consuming content virtually. And Kingshuk wanted to help. "My son had won around ₹ 15,000 from competitions in school and he offered the entire sum to me to kickstart the initiative," said Kalidas. "Students have been the worst sufferers past year. Schools have been closed and they are glued to screens. Most State Board students come from humble backgrounds and the family probably has only one smartphone. While they are supposed to study with that, they are more interested in playing games or watching TikTok videos — I have seen this first-hand while conducting online classes. There are numerous sources of distraction these days. Books can be a great source of emotional support but often, kids don't get that. I felt that if I could introduce them to the books that I grew up reading, it would be great," he added. But he needed a place to, as he puts it, "serve the students of the locality". "Finding a stall apt for this was an issue. I approached the grocery store right opposite my apartment. I wanted to put up a rack of books in his shop. I offered to pay him a token amount but he said that he would provide the space for free," he said and added, "I installed a rack of books inside and kept my double door fridge outside the shop. I began this on February 21, International Mother Language Day, with the books I had and also bought a set of 300 children's books from College Street. I had 600 books to start with but could accommodate only 500 on the shelves and in the fridge. So, I kept rotating the collection." Setting up a library would not have served the purpose if people did not know about it. Kalidas went door-to-door to inform people about the library and also organized a cultural event. "Around 80 kids with their parents turned up. That inspired me more. I realized that if I want the kids to grow an interest in books, I need to make them come to life. While I was pondering on how to make it work, I got a call from Sukti Roy, a retired teacher who conducts storytelling sessions and who has also translated books for children, requesting to conduct a session. I also got in touch with a young singer who composes songs from poems of celebrated poets like Jibanananda Das," said Kalidas, talking about the different motivators he found. He conducted interactive art and reading sessions throughout the winter and spring mornings to raise awareness about reading. For full story visit:

https://www.edexlive.com/happening/2021/apr/27/reading-made-cool-how-this-kolkata-teacher-is-running-a-street-library-out-of-a-refrigerator-20085.html

TECHNOLOGY NEWS

Twitter's 'Unmention' Feature

Twitter seems to be working on a lot of interesting features to enhance the user's experience. The latest feature that the micro-blogging site is reportedly working on is an "unmention" feature. As the name suggests, the feature would let users untag or leave a conversation where they have been wrongly tagged. Twitter privacy designer Dominic Camozzi provided a glimpse of the new feature that he is working on, says a story by Ankita Chakravarti on *indiatoday.in* website. Sharing the screenshot of the feature, Dominic wrote, "Sometimes you want to talk, and sometimes you just ... don't. Check out these early concepts that could help control unwanted attention on Twitter. Feedback, especially at this beginning stage, is invited (and wanted)! Unmention yourself. I want to make it easier to untag yourself from a Tweet or conversation you don't want to be involved in. Just pick "Unmention yourself from this conversation" from the more info menu and the link to your profile will be removed." So this basically means that you can remove your name from a tweet where you have been tagged. Interestingly, if somebody who you don't follow mentions you in a tweet, you will get a notification. If you decide to unmention yourself, this will stop the person from mentioning you ever again in the future. In addition to this, you can also restrict certain accounts from mentioning you and pause your mentions for a day or a week. Dominic further added that users would start receiving notifications when they were mentioned too many times. They can review the tweets and change settings to stop the situation from escalating further. The feature that is being tested would help in stopping harassment on Twitter. Users will be able to choose who mentions them and will also be able to remove their tag from a tweet that is either abusive or has nothing to do with the user. Now there is one thing that remains unclear. If Twitter decides to launch this feature, will it be available to all the users or will it be limited to the Twitter Blue subscription? Only Twitter can reveal what it plans to do with this feature. A lot of features like the Undo button is only available to the Blue subscribers. In India, the subscription pack is priced at ₹ 267 per month. However, the feature is yet to be rolled out in the country. For original story visit: *https://www.indiatoday.in/techno logy/news/story/twitter-may-soon-rollout-unmention-feature-to-let-users-leave-a-conversation-1814899-2021-06-15*

Vulnerability in Windows

Microsoft has released security updates to address a vulnerability in Windows print spooler dubbed "PrintNightmare," recommending that users "install these updates immediately", says a story by Wade Tyler Millward available on *www.crn.com* website. The vulnerability - officially dubbed "CVE-2021-34527" - is found in how print spooler improperly performs privileged file operations, according to a Microsoft post. An attacker could use the vulnerability to install programs, change data and create new accounts with full user rights, among other actions. The vulnerability existed before the June 8 security update, according to Microsoft. Print spooler is an executable file that manages the printing process. All versions of Windows are vulnerable and domain controllers are affected if print spooler service is enabled. Point and Print can be exploited through the vulnerability as well. Supported versions of Windows without a security update made available recently will "be updated shortly after July 6." Security updates are now available for Windows versions including Server 2019, Server 2016, Server 2012 and versions of Windows 7 and Windows 10. The updates also solve a separate vulnerability dubbed CVE-2021-1675 identified in June. Microsoft described this vulnerability - identified on June 30 by the CERT Coordination Center nonprofit - as "similar but distinct" from PrintNightmare. For full story visit: *https://www. crn.com/news/security/microsoft-patches-printnightmare-vulnerability-in-windows-urges-immediate-install*

SPECIAL FEATURE

Nests of Books!

If you are on a holiday trip to Kerala and after visiting Thiruvanthapuram, the state capital, and the majestic Kovalam beach, you have time to visit the countryside, you may like to drive down to a place called Perumkulam, a village with a population of a little over 19,000 and literacy rate of 83 per cent. But why should you go there ? You can get the answer when you reach that village from Thiruvanthapuram in about 30 minutes or so. As you approach the village you will come across a nest-like structure - small house shaped, sloped-roof glass fitted box - on a stilt by the roadside overlooking a lush tapioca farm. You may also find school children leisurely sifting through books nearby. Being inquisitive, if you try to peep into the nest looking structure, you will discover that it is filled with books of various sizes and even a stack of newspapers. If you look above the nest you will find a board, with thermocol letters on coconut palm leaves, welcoming you at the 'Pusthaka Gramam' (book village). This is not all. As you enter the village, you will find 'Pustaka Koodu' (i.e. nest of books), as it is named in Malayalam, - eleven of them - almost at every important location and people enjoying reading books taken from the nest.

So, how did this all begin?

It was in 1948, when Mahatma Gandhi was shot dead and people world over were mourning his death, a few youths of Perumkulam wanted to do so by giving something back to the society. Among them was a guy named Koozhaikaatuveetil Krishna Pillai who, along with a few others, went on a book-collection drive and

collected around 100 books. They set those up in a small room, owned by the family of Krishna Pillai, so that people could read. That is how Bappuji Smaraka Vayanashala (Bappuji Memorial Library) came into existence. The library saw its good as well as bad days - grand events, publications, years of being shut, revival, shift of venue and so on - until February 2016 when it once again got rebuilt with generous contributions from the well-wishers. Even before Bhilar in Maharashtra was declared Village of Books (See June 2017 issue of this newsletter), the Perumkulam library set up its first nest of books in January 2017 at Radio Junction in the village. Initially, the organizers of the library were sceptic and unsure about its possible use and even feared that the nest might be shattered. But to their delight no such things happened. They then placed a register inside the nest so that those who borrow books from the nest could enter their names and the titles of the books they take out. The entries in the register were encouraging. Books had not only been heavily used, but some even have been replaced by new books. The organizers felt their efforts rewarding.

In a few months time i.e. in May 2017 when Bhilar was declared as India's first Village of Books, the idea of developing their own village as a village of books caught the fancy of the organizers of Bappuji Library and they started strategically placing such nests of books in different parts of their village - almost all near bus stops which have attached waiting sheds with seats. Each of these nests has 30 to 50 books, mostly children literature, besides some newspapers. The books are free for all and people can either read the books on the roadside or take one home, while replacing that with another. The nest of book has been inspired by an international initiative called Little Free Library, which "inspires a love of reading, builds community, and sparks creativity by fostering neighbourhood book exchange around the world". As the Bappuji Smarak Vayanashala is affiliated with the Kerala State Library Council, they get funding to supply books and build nests to keep the books. Local people also sponsored construction of some nests. Appreciating the initiative, famous Malayalam writer M T Vasudevan Nair, a patron of the library, took to social media on June 19 last year to declare Perumkulam as Kerala's first 'Village of Books'.

Encouraged by the social media posting of Vasudevan Nair, a campaign for getting official recognition of 'Village of Books' status for Perumkulam was started with an official request to the State Government in November 2020. Based on the recommendation of the State Library Council and inputs from the Taluk Library Council (Kottarakkara), the request was approved and Perumkulam was declared as Kerala's first 'Village of Books' by none other than Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan on June 19 this year coinciding with National Reading Day. Interestingly, taking a cue from the initiative, Kerala's Higher-Secondary Education Departments has installed such nests of books in around 5,000 government schools across the state.

It is indeed a good sign that the local library and local people have come forward in this small Kerala village to turn their village into a village of books. Of course, high literacy rate in the village might have been a positive factor behind such effort. We really need concerted efforts from more such villages to turn their villages into villages of books in order to raise the reading habit among the children.

[Sources: *https://indianexpress.com/article/books-and-literature/how-perumkulam-became-keralas-first-village-of-books-7409878/, https://www.thehindubusinessline. com/specials/india-file/did-you-notice-the-return-of-libraries/article26114223.ece, https://www.thenewsminute. com/article/perumkulam-kerala-s-first-village-books-has-interesting-history-book-love-128716, https://pinklungi.com /2020/08/19/this-place-in-kerala-is-called-the-village-of-books/, https://digittaly.com/society/perumkulam-keralas-village-of-books-2/, https://edtimes.in/perumkulam-keralas-village-of-books-is-a-bibliophiles-heaven/, https://www.thehindu.com/life-and-style/travel/keralas-first-book-village-chief-minister-of-kerala-announced-reading-day-perumkulam-kollam-pn-panciker/article34909270.ece, https://www.thehindu.com/society/a-library-in-keralas-perumkulam-has-added-public-book-shelves-and-becoming-a-village-of-books/article31933423.ece*]

OBITUARY

Prof. S Parthasarathy passes away

Prof. Srirangapattanam Parthasarathy, popularly known as S Parthasarathy, the Grand Old Man of library and information profession in India, passed away on April 12, 2021 at the age 104. Born on August 23, 1917, Prof. Parthasarathi graduated in Economics from Madras University and obtained P G Diploma in Library Science from Madras University in 1941, where Dr. Ranganathan was his mentor. He attended a research course under the guidance of J H Shera at Graduate Library School, University of Chicago, USA, under Rockefeller Foundation Fellowship, during 1950 - 1951. He started his career as librarian of Hindu High School, Madras, in 1941 and worked there till 1944. He worked as Senior Technical Assistant, Chief Inspectorate of Ministry of Explosives, Kirkee, Pune (1944 - 1946); Senior Technical Assistant, Delhi University Library (1946 - 1952); Lecturer in Library Science, Delhi University (1951 - 1953); Junior Documentation Officer, INSDOC (1952 - 1956); Senior Documentation Officer, INSDOC (1956 - 1961); Head, INSDOC (1961 - 1963); Assistant Director, INSDOC (1963 - 1969); and Scientist-in-charge, INSDOC (1969 - 1977). He also served as UNESCO Trainer on Documentation (1956 - 1963) and a faculty member of Documentation training course of INSDOC (1964 - 1977). He was responsible for introducing several innovative services and programmes at INSDOC,

including starting of *INSDOC List of Current Scientific Literature* and compilation of *Union Catalogue of Scientific Serials*. After his retirement in 1977, he worked as honorary professor at DRTC, Bangalore, for some time and also worked on various national and international projects.

Prof. Parthasarathi was associated with many organizations in various capacities. He was a member of UGC Library Committee headed by Dr. Ranganathan. He was associated with formulation of plans for development of information systems in different sectors, such as Metallurgical Information System for National Metallurgical Laboratory, Jamshedpur; Steel Information System for Steel Authority of India; Patent Information System for India Patent Office; and NISSAT. He also played an important role in the formation of documentation sub-committee of Indian Standards Institution (now known as Bureau of Indian Standards). He also served as UNESCO Senior Scientific Information Expert and a member of the International Advisory Committee for Documentation of UNESCO for 6 years, out of which he was the Vice- President for two years. He was a council member of now defunct FID and a member of FID Committee on Developing Countries. He also served as an expert/consultant with several international organizations including UNIDO and an expert member on Documentation at the Industrial Development Centre for Arab States, Cairo. He was one of the Founder Trustees of Ranganathan Centre for Information Studies, Chennai, and a Trustee Member of Sarada Ranganathan Endowment for Library Science for a long time.

Prof. Parthasarathy was a great human being who had a simple lifestyle and good food habits and was active in professional activities till his death. He was also an avid leader who regularly visited different libraries in Chennai, including Madras University Library. Even at late age he used to attended professional conferences and seminars in most cases travelling by train or bus. His agility can be gauged from the fact that on his 100th birthday he went to Odisa and climbed more than 50 steps to reach the Shanti Stupa located at Dhauligiri near Bhubaneswar. He even participated in long distance run and was an unbeatable chess player. He once demonstrated the sharpness of his mind by beating a young player in chess. In recognition of his services, he received several awards and citations. A festschrift volume entitled 'Library and Information Systems: From Alexandrian Heritage to Social Networking' was brought out in his honour in 2009.

Prof. Partyasarathy was an honorary member of IASLIC and actively participated in many seminars and conferences organized by it. He was Conference President of All India IASLIC Conference twice in 1985 and 2001 held in Bangalore and Thiruvananthapuram respectively. Prof. Parthasarathy was felicitated during IASLIC National Seminar held at Pondicherry University in 2012. IASLIC organized a condolence meeting in online mode on July 28, 2021, where rich tributes were paid to the departed soul.

BOOK POST

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