IASLIC NEWSLETTER
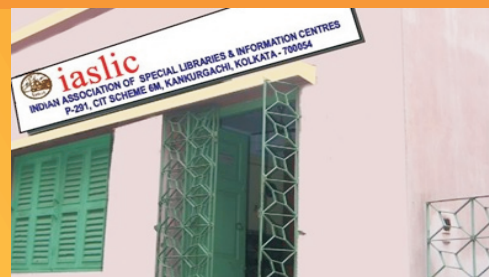
Indian Association for Special Libraries and Information Centres

JANUARY, 2019

A Monthly Newsletter Published by IASLIC

Quote of the Month

"*An original idea. That can't be too hard. The library must be full of them*"

- Stephen Fry,
English Actor

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

Workshop on Plagiarism Management

A Workshop on 'Plagiarism and Reference Management' will be held at Guwahati College, Guwahati, on January 3, 2019. For details visit: *http://www.guwahaticollege. Org.in/pdf/workshop_final_blue_HC.pdf*

Workshop on Application of TQM

The Central Library of MIT Academy of Engineering, Alandi, Pune, is organizing a National Workshop on 'Application of TQM in Library and Information Centers in Digital Era, with reference to NBA/NAAC' during January 3 - 5, 2019. For details visit: *https://storage.ning.com/topology/rest/1.0/file/get/276164713?profile=original*

Workshop on Plagiarism Detection

Department of Library, N V K S D College of Education, Attoor, Kanniyakumari District, jointly with SALIS (Tirunelveli Chapter), is organizing a National Workshop on 'Plagiarism Detection: A Quality Index to Research Integrity' on January 5, 2019. For details visit: *https://st3.ning.com/topology/rest/1.0/file/get/235870663?profile=original*

Seminar on Impact of e-Resources

A National Seminar on 'Impact of Electronic Resources in Academics' is being organized by Sri Venkateswara University Library, Tirupati, on January 19, 2019. For details email to: *surendrasvul@gmail.com*

Workshop on MOOCs

National Workshop on 'Learning Initiatives of MOOCs on SWAYAM and Online Research Tools' is being organized by IQAC and Department of Library, N V K S D College of Education, Attoor, Kanniyakumari District, on January 19, 2019. For details visit: *http://www.nvksd.edu.in/education/new.php?id=2*

Conferences on Web Based Library Services

A National Conference on 'Web based Library and Information Services in Academic Libraries' will be held on January 22, 2019 at M D Sisoda Science College, Shindskeda, Dhule. For details visit: *http://www.ssvpsacs.ac.in*

Programme on Scientific Writing

The Learning Resource Centre, Jain University (Deemed-to-be University), JGI Knowledge Campus, Bangalore, in collaboration with the Digital Information Research Laboratory (DIRF), Chennai, is conducting a National Level Faculty Development Programme on 'Scientific Writing in Research Publishing' on January 25, 2018 at JGI Knowledge Campus, Bangalore. For details visit: *https://www.jainuniversity.ac.in/fdp-2019-scientific-writing-in-research-publishing.php*

Seminar on Knowledge Organization

The Department of Library & Information Science, Jadavpur University, Kolkata, is

IASLIC wishes all its members a very prosperous New Year 2019

organizing a National Seminar on 'Recent Trends in Knowledge Organization' during February 8 - 9, 2019. For details visit: *http://www.jaduniv.edu.in/upload_files/scroll_info/1539234587.pdf*

Seminar on Scholarly Publishing

A National Seminar on 'Scholarly Publishing, Writing Research Papers, Citation, Plagiarism and Copyright' is being organized by the Department of Library, Thiruvalluvar College, Papanasam, during February 8 - 9, 2019. For details email to *thicolib@gmail.com*

Gauhati Varsity DLIS Jubilee Celebration

The Concluding Programme of the Golden Jubilee Celebration of the Department of Library and Information Science, Gauhati University, Guwahati, will be held on February 9, 2019. The programme will include a Panel Discussion, Alumni Meet and Book Release. For details visit: *https://www.gauhati.ac.in/arts/library-and-information-science*

Seminar on Library as Skill Development Centre

S B E S College of Science, Aurangabad, is organizing a National Seminar on 'Library as a Knowledge and Skill Development Centre during February 21 - 22, 2019. For details email to: *nlksdc2019@gmail.com* or *dalvedaya@gmail.com*

Conference on Innovation in Libraries

The 2nd LIS Academy Conference on 'Innovations in Libraries' will be held during March 7 - 9, 2019 at Visvesvaraya Technological University, Belagavi. For details visit: *http://iil.lisacademy.org/*

Conference on Technology for Libraries

Biju Patnaik Central Library, NIT Rourkela, is organizing a National Conference on 'Advanced Automation Technologies for Next-Gen Libraries' (ATNL - 2019) during May 20 - 24, 2019. For details visit: *https://elpesnitr.wordpress.com/*

Workshop on Koha and DSpace

Biju Patnaik Central Library, NIT Rourkela, is also organizing a Pre-Conference Advance Workshop on Koha and DSpace during May 20 - 22, 2019 during ATNL - 2019. For details visit: *https://elpesnitr.wordpress.com/workshop-2/*

International

Conference on Challenges in LIS

The Department of Library and Information Science, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh, is organizing an International Conference on 'Challenges in Library and Information Services: Strategies and Tools' during February 21 - 23, 2019. For details visit: *http://clis2019.info/*

IFLA Library Publishing Group Meeting

The Midterm Meeting of IFLA Special Interest Group (SIG) on Library Publishing will be held during February 28 - March 1, 2019 at Dublin Business School, Dublin, Ireland. For details visit: *https://librarypublishing.org/cfp-ifla-2019-midterm-meeting/*

Seminar on Marrakesh Treaty

The Celia Library, IFLA Libraries Serving Persons with Print Disabilities, and Finnish Library Association are jointly organizing a Seminar on 'The Marrakesh Treaty in Action: Implementing the treaty and more ideas for accessible digital reading' on March 12, 2019 at Helsinki Central Library Oodi, Helsinki, Finland. For details email to: *kirsi.ylanne@celia.fi*

Multi-Conference on Informatics

10th International Multi-Conference on Complexity, Informatics and Cybernetics (IMCIC 2019), will be held during March 12 - 15, 2019, in Orlando, Florida, USA, jointly with the 10th International Conference on Education, Training and Informatics (ICETI 2019) and the 10th International Conference on Society and Information Technologies (ICSIT 2019). For details visit: *http://www.2019iiisconf.org/cfp-spring2019.asp*

Conference on e-Society

The 2019 edition of International Conference on e-Society will be held in Utrecht, The Netherlands, during April 11 - 13, 2019. For details visit: *http://esociety-conf.org/.*

Conference on Information Management

1st International Conference on 'Information and Knowledge Management' (i-IKM) is scheduled to be held during April 25 - 27, 2019 at International Training Complex, Bangladesh Public Administration Training Centre, Dhaka, Bangladesh. The theme of the conference is 'Next Generation Information and Knowledge Dissemination to Realize the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development'. For details visit: *http://iikm.ewubd.edu/*

Web Archiving Conference

The National and University Library in Zagreb (NSK) are hosting the 2019 International Internet Preservation Consortium General Assembly (GA) and Web Archiving Conference (WAC). The General Assembly (#iipcGA19) will be held in the Westin Hotel, Zagreb, on June 5, 2019, followed by the Web Archiving Conference (#iipcWAC19) during June 6 - 7, 2019. For details visit: *http://netpreserve.org/ga2019/*

Conference on Evidence Based Library Practice

The 10th International Evidence Based Library and Information Practice Conference will be held at University of Strathclyde, Glasgow, Scotland, during June 17 - 19, 2019. The theme of the conference is 'Using evidence in times of uncertainty'. Pre-conference workshops will be held on June 16, 2019. For details visit: *https://eblip10.org/*

World Library & Information Congress

The 85th World Library and Information Congress of IFLA will be held in Athens, Greece, during August 24 - 30, 2019. The theme of the congress is 'Libraries: Dialogue for Change'. For details visit: *https://2019.ifla.org/*

IFLA Acquisition Section's Call for Papers

The Acquisition and Collection Development Section of IFLA has sought proposals for papers to be presented at the IFLA World Library and Information Congress in Athens, Greece, to be held during August 24 - 30, 2019. This open programme is co-sponsored by the IFLA's Digital Humanities - Digital Scholarship Special Interest Group. For details visit: *https://2019.ifla.org/cfp-calls/acquisition-collection-dvlp-digital-humanities/*

Semantics Conference

SEMANTiCS 2019: 15th International Conference on 'Semantic Systems' will be held at Karlsruhe, Germany, during September 9 - 12, 2019. The theme of the conference is 'The Power of Artificial Intelligence and Knowledge Graphs'. For details visit: *https://2019.semantics.cc/*

Digital Preservation Conference

The 16th International Conference on 'Digital Preservation' (iPRES 2019) will be held in Amsterdam during September 16 - 20, 2019. For details visit: *https://ipres2019.org/*

Doubling Core Metadata Conference

Doubling Core Metadata Initiative Annual Conference, hosted by the Korean National Library in Seoul, will be held during September 23 - 26, 2019. The theme of the conference is 'Innovation in Metadata Design, Implementation & Best Practice'. For details visit: *http://www.dublincore.org/news/2018/2018_12-21-dc-2019-announced/*

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

New Delhi World Book Fair

The New Delhi World Book, organized by National Book Trust, New Delhi, will be held during January 3 - 13, 2019 at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi. The Guest of Honour Country of the fair will be Sharjah. For details visit: *http://www.newdelhiworldbookfair.gov.in/#*

Library sans Librarian

A library without a librarian, set up in an open area under a tree by the side of the road, where passersby peacefully read books and skimmed through newspapers became a highlight of Kalolsavam (Kerala State School Arts Festival) held recently, says a story by Anantha Narayanan in *The Times of India* . A group of girl students came up with open library idea to promote reading habit among the public on the sidelines of the festival. They are National Service Scheme volunteers of Government Mohammaden's Girls' Higher Secondary School in Alappuzha, one of the festival venues. "The initiative is part of Akshara Deepam project of State Education Department to promote literacy. NSS is promoting open libraries across the state and Mohammaden's Girls' Higher Secondary School is the first school to set up one in the region. We thought the library should be launched on fest day as more people will know about it", said

Thananiya MS, a class XII student. Students themselves built a wooden shelf that housed around 60 books and newspapers which were accessible to everyone right outside their school. The books included novels, short stories, and general knowledge books. Both vernacular and English dailies were available too. Now, students are aiming to improve the infrastructure. For more details visit: *https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/kochi/got-time-head-to-the-open-library/articleshow/66997892.cms*

Library Cess not transferred to Karnataka DPL

The Mysuru City Corporation (MCC) may be thinking of levying yet another cess. But one of the cesses it is already collecting - the library cess - is not being put into much use as the money is still pending in MCC coffers. The MCC owes a whopping Rs. 17 crore to the Department of Public Libraries (DPL), according to *Star of Mysore* report available on *dailyhunt* website. While the MCC is leading the group of non-remitters of library cess, other local bodies in Mysuru district owe Rs. 60 lakh and 268 Gram Panchayats have to pay Rs. 7 crore to the DPL. According to Karnataka Public Libraries Act, urban local bodies have to levy a cess of 6% on property tax, which they are then required to hand over to the DPL. However, the local bodies including the MCC have not remitted most of the funds they have collected since years. Actually, the library cess is used by the Department for the development of libraries, including building construction, clearing of vendors' dues, telephone bills and stationery costs. Due to this, the DPL is already starved of funds and most of the money received by the State Government in the budget allocation goes towards the staff salaries and miscellaneous expenditure. "City libraries depend on money collected as library cess from property tax for expenditure on newspapers, periodicals, rent, furniture and even telephone bills. And the MCC has not paid the cess collected to the DPL. Many letters and reminders have been sent to the MCC, but the civic body has not cared to give us our share of money," Chief Librarian of City Central Library B Manjunath, who is also the Deputy Director, Department of Libraries, Mysuru, told *Star of Mysore*. Department officials say that the MCC has been keeping the money with them since years. "Whenever we officially ask for the pending money, the MCC gives us just Rs. 50,000 to Rs. 60,000. It is, however silent on the Rs. 17 crore. Even the State-level Library Department Directors and the State Chief Secretary have directed MCC to remit the pending amount. Still, the MCC is sitting on our money," said library officials. Not only the MCC, but other local bodies too have not remitted the library cess to the DPL. Eight local bodies in Mysuru have to pay Rs. 60 lakh and the 268 Gram Panchayats in the district have to pay Rs. 7 crore. Among them, Nanjangud Gram Panchayat has to pay Rs. 10 lakh, Hunsur Gram Panchayat - Rs. 29 lakh. "Even the City Libraries Authority has to pay lakhs of rupees to the Library Department and we actually do not have the record of the exact amount that is pending as the Authority has not submitted the information on Demand, Collection, and Balance (DCB)," said officials. For

original report visit: *https://m.dailyhunt.in/news/india/ english/star+of+mysore-epaper-smysore/mcc+ owes+rs+17+crore+to+public+libraries+department- newsid-102973095*

Remains of Roman Library Found in Germany

When the Romans expanded across Europe 2,000 years ago, they made inroads into almost every corner of the continent, fighting as far away as Scotland and sending its coins to what today is Estonia. But Germany posed a particular challenge. In the year 9 of our modern calendar system, the Romans suffered an embarrassing defeat in the Battle of the Teutoburg Forest near the modern day city of Hanover. They never recovered from it and were permanently pushed back to the western side of the Rhine River, which separates Germany from south to north, 50 miles from Teutoburg. Centuries later, marauders from Germany finally brought an end to the western half of the Roman Empire. Yet the Romans were quite active on the western side of the Rhine and left behind a vast number of architectural masterpieces. Archaeologists still keep discovering remnants of that part of German history. And one of the most astonishing buildings from that era is the country's oldest-known public library, according to a story by Rick Noak published in *The Washington Post.* Built about 150 years after the Battle of the Teutoburg Forest, its walls recently reemerged after centuries of darkness during the construction of a new community center next to the city of Cologne's famous cathedral. At first, when the walls were discovered last year, researchers assumed that they had come across a community hall dating to the Roman era. But this summer, a more extensive analysis found that the building was most likely used to store up to 20,000 scrolls of parchment. (The estimate would put the Cologne library in the same category as the vast Library of Celsus, which was built in Turkey at about the same time). The room that researchers believe was used as a library was 65 feet long and 30 feet wide, with a 30-foot-high ceiling, according to estimates. But what really captured the researchers' attention were the roughly 30-inch-deep wall recesses, which bore striking similarities with the setup of other rooms that were used as libraries during the Roman era. So far, Roman libraries have mostly been found in Egypt or Italy. The Cologne find may be the first such discovery in the Roman Empire's northwestern regions, which at its peak spanned France, Britain and western Germany. For more details visit: *https://www.washingtonpost.com/ world/2018/08/06/long-lost-roman-library-reemerges- germany -after-years-darkness/?noredirect= on&utm_term=.758fb87f7447*

Largest Arabic Audio Library

Dubai Crown Prince Hamdan Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum has recently launched the largest Arabic audio library in the world, says an IANS report published in *The Times of India*. The Dubai Audio Library, which targets seven million visually impaired people in the Arab world, was an initiative undertaken by the Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) of Dubai, in collaboration with the website *Bookshare.org*. The launch of the initiative

coincided with International Volunteers Day celebrated on December 5 last. Mattar Al Tayer, Director-General and Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of the RTA, attended the inauguration of the library along with Abdullah Al Basti, Secretary-General of the Executive Council of Dubai. The Crown Prince marked the launch by uploading the first book to the Dubai Audio Library, Zayed Diwan, a collection of 87 poems, written by Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President, Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai. The RTA was seeking to provide 300,000 books in Arabic. More than 10,000 volunteers will convert Arabic books into digital format and edit them before uploading them to the website. For original report visit: *https://timesofindia. indiatimes.com/life-style/books/features/dubai-crown- prince-launches-worlds-largest-arabic-audio- library/articleshow/67010672.cms*

130 Public Libraries in UK Closed

Almost 130 public libraries have closed during 2017-18 in Britain while an extra 3,000 volunteers have been brought in to run remaining services, as the decade's austerity pressures see local authorities continuing to apply swinging cuts to budgets, says a report by Sian Cain published in *The Guardian*. The annual survey of British libraries by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (Cipfa) has revealed a similar picture each year since 2010, with the number of branches and paid staff falling every year. Over the last year, spending on libraries by local authorities fell by £30m to £741m. There was a net loss of 127 public libraries in England, Wales and Scotland, while 712 full-time employees lost or left their jobs and volunteer numbers increased by 3,000, to 51,394. "Community-run" library branches have become the norm in the UK as councils ask volunteers to take the service off their books. In 2010, estimates from Public Libraries News suggest that there were only around 10 libraries in the hands of volunteers; by 2017, the figure had risen to around 500. Cipfa calculations show that 10,000 new volunteers have joined Britain's library service over the last three years, increasing from 41,402 in 2014-15 to 51,394 in 2017-18. For full report visit: *https://www.the guardian.com/ books/2018/dec/07/nearly-130-public-libraries-closed- across-britain-in-the-last-year*

Little Free Library at Trichy

After initiatives like the "wall of happiness" and open gym, the Trichy City Corporation will launch a 'Little Free Library', an initiative aimed at nurturing reading habit and exchange of books among locals, says a report in *The Times of India*. The civic body will establish a roadside facility for the public to sit and spend time reading books on a land identified along Officers' Colony road near the Trichy General Hospital. The facility will have at least 13 benches for visitors to spend time reading books and 2.3m wide walking tracks. Corporation officials said that shelves would be placed in the open library for residents to deposit the books available in excess. "The open library-cum-park concept in residential localities will help residents connect with each

other. Preliminary work has begun for the open library on Officers' Colony Road," said N Ravichandran, Commissioner, Trichy Corporation. Officials said that the facility would be fenced and protective infrastructure for the books to stay intact under all-weather conditions would be provided. Work on the project, at an outlay of Rs 25 lakh, is all set to commence very soon, the officials added. Based on the feedback from the public similar such facility might be replicated in other viable parts of the city. For more details visit: *https://times ofindia.indiatimes.com/city/trichy/opening-soon-a-little-roadside-library-for-bookworms/articleshow/ 64500611.cms*

More OA Books from Project MUSE

Nearly 300 open access (OA) books are now available from Project MUSE, the highly-acclaimed online collection of humanities and social science scholarship, on a newly designed platform that represents a major step forward in OA publishing in these fields, according to a post on *www.infodocket.com* website. The books will be delivered in a highly-discoverable and adaptable format using user-friendly HTML5, rather than static PDFs, and will include titles from Johns Hopkins University Press, Cornell University Press, Duke University Press, University of Hawai'i Press, University of Michigan Press, Syracuse University Press, The MIT Press, and Temple University Press. A collection of almost 600 OA books in PDF format, that were already available on MUSE, have been greatly enhanced by the new "HTML5 OA" titles, bringing the total of OA books to over 800. MUSE plans to add more HTML5 OA books each year. For more details visit: *https://www.infodocket.com/ 2018/09/20/project-muse-300-html5-open-access-books-now-available-on-the-redesigned-muse-platform/*

House Donated for Women's Library

At a time, where even after 70 years of Independence, the women in our country continue to fight for their freedom, justice and rights, an 88-year-old former freedom fighter and a retired government school teacher from Gudiyattam, K Natarajan, has donated a house worth more than Rs 1 crore to set up a women's library, says a post on *www.dtnext.in* website. The library was recently inaugurated by Tamil Nadu Commercial Taxes Minister K C Veermani. The octogenarian resides in the Pichanur area of the town. As he has no children, he was living with relatives. Natarajan wanted to donate the house where he had earlier resided in, to enlighten and educate the local people. "The move came about when he broached the subject to his friend, who was a member of the Gudiyattam Library's readers circle, and soon things started moving when district library officer K Anandan accepted the idea," an official, who requested anonymity, said. Appreciating Natarajan's initiative, Anandan said, "It is rare to meet such an altruistic person nowadays, especially someone who wants to donate a building for a library without anticipating any returns." Officials undertook some minor renovation and repair work, repainted the building olive green to ensure that it stood

out from the surrounding buildings. The son of freedom fighter K S Kaliappan who was jailed for two years for participating in Mahatma Gandhi's Salt Sathyagraha, Natarajan, also participated in the 1942 Quit India agitation, but was let off without being arrested by the British for being young. The eldest of 12 children, Natarajan's only condition was that the facility be named after his father K S Kaliappan. For more details visit: *https://www.dtnext.in/News/TamilNadu/2018/07/290336 42/1081859/Tyagis-house-worth-Rs-1-crore-to-become-library.vpf*

How Libraries Help Rural Women

Despite the ups and downs in India's march to attain its Sustainable Development Goals for gender equality and women's empowerment, there are some truly heart-warming stories of the new surge for gender equality coming from rural India, according to a story by Usha Rai published in *The Asian Age.* Rural Education and Development (Read) India, through its Community Library and Resource Centres (CLRCs) in 107 villages across 12 states, quite clearly leads in the empowerment race. Started in 2007, its programmes are supported by the government as well as several business houses as their corporate social responsibility initiatives. Read India works largely with rural communities low in social indices like health, literacy, skills and earning capacity and propels them to take control of their lives. "Empowering rural communities is critical to alleviating global poverty," says Geeta Malhotra, its country head. Read has 42 permanent CLRCs and women feel safe coming to them with their children and sometimes with their mothers-in-law. Since the community provides the space for the centres they also feel a sense of ownership. Each CLRC has 2,000 to 3,000 books in the language of the region whether it is Hindi, Urdu, Bengali or Marathi. Some 24,000 women are getting literate. There are pre-school classes for the 0 to 6 year olds; computer and digital literacy classes for young people and skill training for 6,100 women who are eager to supplement family incomes or empower themselves. Many of them have stepped out of their homes for the first time and are enjoying the freedom and growing sense of self-worth. Skills imparted range from tailoring and knitting to beauty culture, teacher training for nursery schools, care giving and working in hospitals as hospital assistants, carpentry and weaving. Products made by women have market linkages and they are earning anything from Rs. 2,000 to Rs. 6,000 depending on the time they can give. Now with training in financial literacy and business communication skills, they are turning towards entrepreneurship. For full story visit: *http://www.asianage.com/life/more-features/020218/libraries-resource-centres-inspire-rural-women-on-road-to-prosperity.html*

Robots to Carry Books in New Finnish Library

What do you give the world's most literate country for its 100th birthday? For Finland's politicians and public, the answer was simple: a vast, state-of-the-art library, a new "living room for the nation", says a story by AFP published in *The Asian Age*. Twenty years in the planning,

Helsinki's central library officially opened on December 5 at the end of a year of festivities marking the centenary of Finland's independence after breaking with Russia in 1917 following six centuries under Swedish rule. It is a huge, flowing structure of wood and glass sitting on a prime spot in the city centre, directly opposite the Finnish Parliament. But whereas the parliament building is an austere and imposing hunk of granite, the new library was designed by Finnish firm ALA Architects as a welcoming, undulating structure, clad in 160 kilometres' worth (99 miles) of Finnish spruce, drawing people inside with a "warm hug". Named Oodi -- "ode" in Finnish -- it is intended as a paean to knowledge, learning and equality in what was ranked the world's most literate country by a 2016 report based on official statistics. While books feature heavily -- 100,000 of them -- the cutting-edge facility also boasts studios for music and video production, a cinema, and workshops containing 3D printers and laser cutters - all free of charge for the public. It will also house an EU-funded visitor centre, offering information on the 28-member bloc's work and its impact on people's daily lives. "Oodi gives a new modern idea of what it means to be a library," said Tommi Laitio, Helsinki's Executive Director of Culture and Leisure. "It is a house of literature but it's also a house of technology, it's a house of music, it's a house of cinema, it's a house of the European Union. And I think all of these come together to this idea of hope and progress," Laitio said. One sign of such progress is the building's fleet of book-carrying robots -- small grey wagons which navigate themselves in and out of lifts, avoiding people and furniture, in order to bring returned books up from the basement and drop them off at the correct bookcase. There, a human member of staff will place the books on the shelf. Oodi's planners believe the robot librarians are the first instance in the world of self-driving technology being used in this way inside a public library. The robots will become a familiar sight to the library's expected 10,000 visitors a day. For full story visit: *http://www.asianage.Com/life/more-features/031218/finlands-ode-to-a-new-era-in-libraries.html*

Parliament Digital Library Website

Lok Sabha Speaker Sumitra Mahajan has recently launched Parliament Digital Library website, according to a UNI report. 'As an initiative towards e-Parliament, a website of 'Parliament Digital Library' has been developed at *eparlib.nic.in*,' Lok Sabha Secretariat said in a statement. The website was formally launched on December 11, 2019 by the Speaker, the statement said. It contains several parliamentary documents, including Lok Sabha debates and various Parliamentary Committee Reports since 1952. The portal also has historic legislative debates of the Indian Legislative Council, Central Legislative Assembly, Council of State, Constituent Assembly and Provisional Parliament. The portal is user-friendly and acts as a search engine. For the original report visit: *http://www.uniindia.com/mahajan-launches-parliament-digital-library-website/india/news/1435450.html*

e-Library of Rare Books

The Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute (BORI), which houses one of South Asia's largest and most invaluable agglomeration of rare manuscripts, opened its treasure vault digitally by launching an e-library of ancient religious and historical works recently, says a report by Shoumojit Banerjee in *The Hindu*. Nearly 1,000 rare books and manuscripts in Sanskrit and its related languages are presently available for readers worldwide to savour in this first phase of digitization. The institute, named after legendary Indologist Ramkrishna Gopal Bhandarkar, was set up in 1917 and has in its possession nearly two-and-a-half-lakh rare books and manuscripts, some of them in an extremely brittle state. "The rationale behind the e-library is to preserve at least some of these books. Hence, we chose to digitize 20,000 among the rarest-of-the rare books and four to five thousand will be available for readers to read them online for free," said noted Indologist Prof. Shrikant Bahulkar. For original report visit: *https://www.thehindu.Com/news/national/bori-launches-e-library-of-rare-books/article25783222.ece*

Impact of Home Libraries on Human Mind

Research has already suggested that opening a book may help improve brain function, reduce stress, and even make us more empathetic, says a post by Brigit Katz on *www.smithsonianmag.com* website quoting Alison Flood of *The Guardian*. Now, a team led by Joanna Sikora of the Australian National University, is looking into the benefits of growing up around a book-filled environment. The researchers' expansive new study suggests that homes with ample libraries can arm children with skills that persist into adulthood. The study, published recently in *Social Science Research*, assessed data from 160,000 adults from 31 countries, including the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, Australia, Turkey, Japan and Chile. Participants filled out surveys with the Programme for the International Assessment of Competencies, which measures proficiency in three categories: literacy, numeracy (using mathematical concepts in everyday life) and information communication technology, (using digital technology to communicate with other people, and to gather and analyze information). Respondents, who ranged in age from 25 to 65, were asked to estimate how many books were in their house when they were 16 years old. The research team was interested in this question because home library size can be a good indicator of what the study authors term "book-oriented socialization." Participants were able to select from a given range of books that included everything from "10 or less" to "more than 500." The surveys, which were taken between 2011 and 2015, showed that the average number of books in participants' childhood homes was 115, but that number varied widely from country to country. The average library size in Norway was 212 books, for instance; in Turkey, it was 27.

Across the board, however, it seemed that more books in the home was linked to higher proficiency in the areas tested by the survey. The effects were most marked when it came to literacy. Growing up with few books in the home resulted in below average literacy levels. Being surrounded by 80 books boosted the levels to average, and literacy continued to improve until libraries reached about 350 books, at which point the literacy rates levelled off. The researchers observed similar trends when it came to numeracy; the effects were not as pronounced with information communication technology tests, but skills did improve with increased numbers of books. For more details visit: *https://www.smithsonianmag. Com/smart-news/growing-surrounded-books-may-bolster-skills-later-life-180970523/*

TECHNOLOGY NEWS

Machine That Can Finish Your Sentence

Completing someone else's thought is not an easy trick for Artificial Intelligence (AI). But new systems are starting to crack the code of natural language, says a report in *The New York Times*. In last August, researchers from the Allen Institute for Artificial Intelligence, a lab based in Seattle, unveiled an English test for computers. It examined whether machines could complete sentences like this one:

On stage, a woman takes a seat at the piano. She
 a) sits on a bench as her sister plays with the doll.
 b) smiles with someone as the music plays.
 c) is in the crowd, watching the dancers.
 d) nervously sets her fingers on the keys.

For you, that would be an easy question. But for a computer, it was pretty hard. While humans answered more than 88 per cent of the test questions correctly, the lab's AI systems hovered around 60 per cent. Among experts - those who know just how difficult it is to build systems that understand natural language - that was an impressive number. Then, two months later, a team of Google researchers unveiled a system called Bert. Its improved technology answered those questions just as well as humans did - and it was not even designed to take the test.

Bert's arrival punctuated a significant development in artificial intelligence. Over the last several months, researchers have shown that computer systems can learn the vagaries of language in general ways and then apply what they have learned to a variety of specific tasks. Built in quick succession by several independent research organizations, including Google and the Allen Institute, these systems could improve technology as diverse as digital assistants like Alexa and Google Home as well as software that automatically analyzes documents inside law firms, hospitals, banks and other businesses. "Each time we build new ways of doing something close to human level, it allows us to automate or augment human labor," said Jeremy Howard, the founder of Fast.ai, an independent lab based in San Francisco that is among those at the forefront of this research. "This can make life easier for a lawyer or a paralegal. But it can also help with medicine."

It may even lead to technology that can - finally - carry on a decent conversation. But there is a downside: On social media services like Twitter, this new research could also lead to more convincing bots designed to fool us into thinking they are human, Mr. Howard said. Researchers have already shown that rapidly improving AI techniques can facilitate the creation of fake images that look real. As these kinds of technologies move into the language field as well, Mr. Howard said, we may need to be more skeptical than ever about what we encounter online. These new language systems learn by analyzing millions of sentences written by humans. A system built by OpenAI, a lab based in San Francisco, analyzed thousands of self-published books, including romance novels, science fiction and more. Google's Bert analyzed these same books plus the length and breadth of Wikipedia. Each system learned a particular skill by analyzing all that text. OpenAI's technology learned to guess the next word in a sentence. Bert learned to guess missing words anywhere in a sentence. But in mastering these specific tasks, they also learned about how language is pieced together.

If Bert can guess the missing words in millions of sentences (such as "the man walked into a store and bought a ____ of milk"), it can also understand many of the fundamental relationships between words in the English language, said Jacob Devlin, the Google researcher who oversaw the creation of Bert. (Bert is short for Bidirectional Encoder Representations from Transformers). The system can apply this knowledge to other tasks. If researchers provide Bert with a bunch of questions and their answers, it learns to answer other questions on its own. Then, if they feed it news headlines that describe the same event, it learns to recognize when two sentences are similar. Usually, machines can recognize only an exact match.

Bert can handle the "common sense" test from the Allen Institute. It can also handle a reading comprehension test where it answers questions about encyclopedia articles. What is oxygen? What is precipitation? In another test, it can judge the sentiment of a movie review. Is the review positive or negative? This kind of technology is "a step toward a lot of still-faraway goals in AI, like technologies that can summarize and synthesize big, messy collections of information to help people make important decisions," said Sam Bowman, a professor at New York University who specializes in natural language research.

In the weeks after the release of OpenAI's system, outside researchers applied it to conversation. An independent group of researchers used OpenAI's technology to create a system that leads a competition to build the best chatbot that was organized by several top labs, including the Facebook AI Lab. And now, Google has "open sourced" its Bert system, so others can apply it to additional tasks. Mr. Devlin and his colleagues have already trained it in 102 languages. For original report visit: *https://www.nytimes.com*

PERSONALIA

Dr. Ashwini Anand Vaishnav, former Professor and Head, Department of Library and Information Science, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University, Aurangabad, has been awarded Senior Fellowship by Indian Council of Social Science Research for the period of two years (2018-2020). Dr. Vaishnav is the only Professor in the field of LIS from Maharashtra to get this prestigious fellowship. She was earlier awarded UGC Emeritus Fellowship for the years 2016-18.

OBITUARY

Former IASLIC President Passes Away

Prof. Sibabrata Ghosh, popularly known as Prof. S B Ghosh, former President of IASLIC, passed away on November 14, 2018. An active library and information professional and a renowned teacher of LIS, Prof Ghosh passed the Certificate Examination in Library Science conducted by the Bengal Library Association in 1958, and obtained the Diploma in Librarianship in 1961 from University of Calcutta. In 1971, he passed the Associateship in Documentation examination of the Indian National Scientific Documentation Center (INSDOC now NISCAIR). He obtained the PhD degree from Jadavpur University, Kolkata. His first professional job was with the Indian Meteorological Department (IHD) as Scientific Observer-in-Charge. He joined the Geological Survey of India (GSI) Library in Kolkata in 1963. After passing the Associateship examination from INSDOC, he joined the same organization. Besides his other assignments, he was associated with the training course of INSDOC. He joined Indira Gandhi National Open University in 1998 as Professor and Head, Faculty of Library and Information Science, and retired from there in 2007. He also served as a visiting faculty in several universities. During his stay in Kolkata he was actively associated with both IASLIC and Bengal Library Association. He was a member of IASLIC Council for several terms (1976-77, 1982-91, 1998-99, and 2002-2005). He was Vice-President during 1998-2003, and Secretary of Education Division during 1978-1980. As Secretary of Education Division of IASLIC, he was associated with the training programmes sponsored by NISSAT. The second programme on Indexing Systems was organized by him in Kolkata during December 4, 1978 - February 2, 1979. He served as President of IASLIC during 2006-2007. He also served as a Vice-President of Indian Association of Teachers in Library and Information Science and as a Council Member of the Indian Library Association. He also acted as the Secretary General of 49th FID Congress and General Assembly, 1998, held in New Delhi. Prof. Ghosh also served as a Standing Committee Member of IFLA/Section on Education and Training (SET) and IFLA/Regional Section on Asia and Oceania and a Program Committee member of Dublin Core Metadata Initiative (DCMI). He served as a member of the committee constituted for the development of Guidelines for LIS education by IFLA/SET which was published in 2012. He was also a member of the MSD 05 Documentation and Information Committee of the Bureau of Indian Standards. He also edited *Annals of Library Science and Documentation* for some time. IGNOU honoured him with Best Researcher Award in 2004, while IATLIS honoured him with Best Teacher Award. IASLIC deeply mourns his death. A condolence meeting has been arranged at IASLIC office on January 10, 2019 to pay respect to the departed soul.

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Indian Association of Special Libraries
& Information Centres (IASLIC)
P-291, CIT Scheme No. 6M,
Kankurgachi, Kolkata 700 054

Phone: (033) 2362 9651
Email: iaslic.india@gmail.com
Website: http://www.iaslic1955.org.in