



IASLIC NEWSLETTER

Indian Association for Special
Libraries and Information Centres



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Quote of the Month

*"Librarians are tour-guides
for all of knowledge."*

— Patrick Ness,
British-American author

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

66th Foundation Day of IASLIC Celebrated

The 66th Foundation Day of IASLIC was celebrated on September 3, 2020 in virtual mode through YouTube link. The Foundation Day Lecture on 'The Culture of Books' was delivered by Shri Kanchan Gupta, Chairman, RRRLF. The programme was chaired by Prof. Narendra Lahkar, President of IASLIC. Welcoming the speaker and the audience, Shri Abhijit Kumar, Honorary General Secretary, IASLIC, mentioned about the activities of IASLIC and how foundation lecture was introduced in 2011. In his introductory address, Prof. Narendra Lahkar gave a historical overview of IASLIC and its gradual development over the last 66 years. Prof. Lahkar also recalled the contributions of founding members as well as other library professionals at whose inspiration and initiative IASLIC was established in Kolkata (then Calcutta) on September 3, 1955. He said that though IASLIC started as an association of special libraries, it now dealt with issues relating to other types of libraries too. Shri Kanchan Gupta, expressed the hope that with the cooperation of IASLIC, it will be possible for RRRLF to rejuvenate public library system in the country. Referring to some meetings to celebrate Librarians' Day that he had attended, Shri Gupta said that none of the speakers mentioned the term 'book' in their speeches; they spoke about library development, library infrastructure, need for IT in library and so on, but not about books which were the soul of any library. Unless we could assure that there were books in the library nobody would go to the library, he opined. Shri Gupta traced the history of libraries established in India, China and Rome during ancient days and mentioned how Egypt had rebuilt the destroyed Alexandria Library with the help of UNESCO. He also shared his experiences as Director of Indian Culture Centre at Cairo for three years. He said that libraries in India were set up by Royal dynasties, Maharajas, Zamindars only for classes and not for masses. During British rule some well-known public libraries were established in many parts of the country. After independence, great efforts were made to set up public libraries and at present there were 46000 public libraries in the country, he said and added that RRRLF was compiling a directory of these libraries. He also shared his experience about the publishing industry and stressed on the comparison between 'number of books published' and 'number of books sold' which reflected the culture of reading. He recalled that earlier 'books' was a common topic of discussion in our daily conversation at home, at the college and at coffee shops and people saved money to buy books. But the present generation had lost interest in books and reading and was only devoted to Internet, he lamented. He said that we should collectively think how to bring back interest in books and inculcate reading habit among the people. He said that India was a land of ideas and innovations where Vedas, Upanisads, Ramayana, Mahabharata were created. Without culture of reading and culture of books a society, rather a civilization, could not exist, he concluded. Finally, Shri Pradip Kumar Sarkar, Joint Secretary, IASLIC, proposed the vote of thanks.

CONFERENCES / SEMINARS / WORKSHOPS

National

Webinar on Information Security

The Department of Library & Information Science and Fr. Moses Library of Rajgiri College of Social Sciences (Autonomous), Kochi, is organizing a National Webinar Series on 'Information Security and Libraries' during October 8 - 10, 2020. For details email to: frmoseslibrary@gmail.com

INFLIBNET Webinars

INFLIBNET Centre, Gandhinagar, is organizing the following webinars during October 2020: (1) Reference Management Tools: Mendeley (October 16); (2) Reference Management Tool: Zotero (October 28). For details visit: <https://hrd.inflibnet.ac.in/webinar2020.php>

Workshop on Website Design

An online Workshop on 'Website Design and Development' is being organized by LIS Link during October 19 - 25, 2020. For details visit: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeeG5oPtUVzsM79dP-OKOkI5kY3qj6EYTORzRirt95Xi952CQ/viewform>

International

Conference on Scientometrics

The 1st Conference on Science Modelling and Mapping (COSCIMM 2021) will be held during April 7 - 9, 2021 in Budapest, Hungary. The theme of the conference is 'New directions in scientometrics mixing approaches from different fields'. For details visit: <https://akcongress.com/coscimm/>

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

Punjab Librarian's Name on Wall of Fame

Amritsar-based Dr. Prabhjot Kaur has become the first librarian from the Punjab whose name has been engraved on the Wall of Fame (individual category) by the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) located at The Hague, Netherlands, says a report by G S Paul in *The Tribune*. "It is a dream come true to share the Wall of Fame with renowned world librarians. Till today, only 10 Indian librarians could earn this distinction. I am the only one representing Punjab on the global platform," she said. IFLA invites inspirational ideas, efforts and vision from enthusiastic librarians from across the world for enhancing knowledge of the community and the country. The selected ideas further help create a strong and united library field, powering literate globally, and the creator of the idea earns the distinction. Dr. Prabhjot has recently been appointed the chief librarian at Musafir Memorial Central State Library, Patiala, in addition to holding the charge of Amritsar District Library. Having more than two-and-a-half decade of experience in academic and public libraries, Dr. Prabhjot had submitted an innovative proposal as to how despite administrative and financial

constraints, public libraries in Punjab could be utilised to be transformed into centralised 'e-information' spots, which could cater to the public on multiple modes. "Since digital India is the new slogan, I had submitted a plan that explained how public libraries, besides books and periodicals, could offer e-information services so that a person who drops in could have access to the services of various government departments digitally, such as furnishing civic formalities and paying bills and taxes. Here, the National Informatics Centre (NIC) could provide a web network that connects all government offices with public libraries. This idea was recognised by the IFLA panel," she said. About public libraries in Punjab, she said that although a draft of the Punjab Public Library and Information Services Bill-2011, detailing public library development plan and budget estimates, was prepared, nothing had come out of it till date. In Punjab, there must be libraries in 14 districts, but due to the lack of planning and vision, these could never prosper," she said. For full report visit: <https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/amritsar/city-librarian-finds-place-on-wall-of-fame-at-the-hague-90944>

Freedom from Ignorance

The children of the remote Bhandarshol village in Baharagora block of the East Singhbhum district in Jharkhand celebrated freedom from ignorance on the 74th Independence Day, when the village got its first library, according to a story by Antara Bose in *The Telegraph*. The library, which started with a mere 100 books donated by various Samaritans in and around Jamshedpur, was named after Galwan martyr Ganesh Hansda. The library, which is within a village building, was inaugurated by Hansda's elder brother Dinesh. "Children in remote areas face problems in getting access to books. This village library named after Ganesh will cater to many children in nearby villages. I am happy that the library is named after Ganesh and that it will be able to ignite the quest for knowledge in many," said Dinesh Hansda, who also hoisted the tricolour. The library will comprise of daily newspapers, magazines, motivational books, and literature along with course materials for intermediate exams and graduation. Nischay Foundation in Jamshedpur supported the formation of the library by collecting the books. A library committee was also formed on the spot where around four members were entrusted with the responsibility of the library. The members aim to make it a full-fledged library for school and college-going students and for those who aim to appear for competitive examinations. The residents of the village also aim to start two more libraries in the other two villages of the panchayat. For full report visit: <https://www.telegraphindia.com/jharkhand/remote-east-singhbhum-village-gets-library-on-independence-day/cid/1789265>

Gift of Knowledge

Members of a family with roots in Krishnagar have come forward to build a modern textbook-cum-resource library as a separate wing at the 164-year-old Krishnagar Public Library in Nadia, West Bengal, says a report by Subhasis Chaudhuri in *The Telegraph*. The descendants of Naresh Nandini Sarkar, who have

their ancestral home on RN Tagore Road in Aminbazar, raised ₹ 50 lakh from among the family members to complete the project. The Sarkars wanted to inaugurate the wing on September 26 to mark the 200th birth anniversary of Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar, a colossus in education and social reforms. Construction of the facility, coming up on the rooftop of the existing library building, began on July 1. When complete, it will include an air-conditioned hall of over 860sqft and equipped with over 600 books on a wide range of subjects, with Wi-Fi, computers, scanners, printers and other gadgets that readers and researchers require. “We cannot imagine a better day than the 200th birth anniversary of Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar,” said Kanchan Sarkar, one of the family members, who teaches sociology at the University of British Columbia at Okanagan (UBC-Okanagan) in Canada. The idea to give something back to their hometown came when family members who live in the US and Canada got together in Cleveland (Ohio), US, last year. Eventually, they agreed with the suggestion of the eldest family member, Anjali Sarkar, a cardiologist in San Diego, to build a textbook-cum-resource library. They submitted a written proposal to the managing committee of the Krishnanagar Public Library which was approved in February this year. “We came up with many ideas at the get-together at my sister Sanchita's home in Cleveland, but agreed to build a library wing proposed by our paternal aunt (Anjali). We also decided that the library wing will be dedicated to our grandmother Naresh Nandini Sarkar and her sons Shyam Ranjan and Biswa Ranjan Sarkar,” said Kanchan Sarkar. Sarkar said that they wanted to support researchers who often find it tough to access contemporary or expensive books in a small town like Krishnanagar. “Researchers have no choice but to travel to libraries in Calcutta. That's why we will offer a wide collection of text and resource books for researchers in Krishnanagar,” the UBC-Okanagan faculty member said. The Sarkars will donate books on history, culture, politics, sociology, economics, environment, gender, elementary science, religion, constitution and law, art, music, painting, regional studies, library science, and women's studies. For full report visit: <https://www.telegraphindia.com/west-bengal/family-with-roots-in-krishnanagar-raise-money-amongst-themselves-to-gift-a-library-to-the-town/cid/1787368>

New WIPO Database

The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) has launched WIPO Lex-Judgments, a new database providing free-of-charge access to leading judicial decisions related to IP law from around the world, according to a WIPO press release. WIPO-Lex Judgments contributes to a greater overall understanding of how courts are handling these issues, by making available judgments - selectively curated by the relevant authorities in participating member states - that establish precedent or offer a persuasive interpretation of IP law in their jurisdiction. At launch, WIPO Lex-Judgments contained over 400 documents from 10 countries, viz., Australia, Brazil, Chile, China, Costa Rica, Jamaica, Mexico, Peru, Republic of Korea

and Spain. The WIPO Lex-Judgments interface is available in English, Arabic, Chinese, French, Russian and Spanish, and enhances global access to the text of foreign IP judgments through the availability of automatic machine translation tools, including WIPO Translate. For full text of the press release, visit: https://www.wipo.int/pressroom/en/articles/2020/article_0022.html?utm_source=WIPO+Newsletters&utm_campaign=2f08585bbb-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2020_09_21_10_51&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_bcb3de19b4-2f08585bbb-256601101

WB PLs to Open for Maintenance

The West Bengal government has ordered all state-owned libraries to open their establishments at least once every fortnight, the decision coming in the wake of reports that rare old books and centuries-old manuscripts on toddy palm leaves were getting damaged without maintenance, says a report by Subhasish Chaudhury in *The Telegraph*. All the 2,480 libraries in the state of which 13 are government-run, 2,460 government-sponsored and seven state-aided have been closed ever since the COVID-induced lockdown was imposed in March. Several libraries have rare collections like Vaishnav Padabali, Chandimangal and books on ayurveda, philosophy, logic, grammar, poems, verses on epics. “Nabadwip Public Library has 450 manuscripts, while Krishnanagar Public Library's count is around 150. Lalgola M N Academy Library, Kandi Ramendra Sunder Tribedi Library and Murshidabad District Library have good collections of old manuscripts. These libraries have a rich collection of old books suffering from lack of maintenance,” a senior librarian in Hooghly said. Sanjit Dutta, a retired librarian in Krishnanagar, said that regular cleaning was a must to reduce insects, abrasion and acid degradation. “Most libraries are on public thoroughfares that lead to rapid accumulation of dust and dirt in books. This requires books to be cleaned with soft cloth. Vacuum cleaners are useful too. Formalin and pesticides need to be sprayed to kill insects,” he said. Krishnanagar Public Library, inaugurated in 1856, is a treasure trove of old books and manuscripts that, employees say, need regular cleaning against dust and insects. “The library has a special archive of about 150 old and invaluable books. An employee of the library said that the library would continue to stay out of bounds for readers because of existing COVID protocols. The order to open libraries to maintain books and old manuscripts has been issued recently, but many fear that the long closure since March might have adversely affected the collections. For full report visit: <https://www.telegraphindia.com/west-bengal/open-state-owned-libraries-for-dusting-bengal-government/cid/1791818>

TN Public Libraries Reopen

Government of Tamil Nadu has granted permission for opening lending, reference and own book reading sections of public libraries (except part-time) w.e.f. September 1 for certain activities. It has also approved a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) in this regard, says a report in *The Hindu*. Persons above

65 years of age, persons with co-morbidities, pregnant women and children below the age of 15 years are not allowed to use the library. According to a G.O. issued in this regard, the three sections alone shall be permitted to function in Connemara Public Library, Anna Centenary Library and district central libraries. In branch and village libraries, the lending section alone shall be permitted to function. "All libraries except branch libraries and village libraries shall function from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. on all working days," the G.O. stated. Branch and village libraries would function in their usual working hours, said a G.O. issued by Chief Secretary K Shanmugam. The wearing of face masks would be compulsory and physical distancing norms were to be followed. Thermal screening of all readers and staff, including contractual staff, shall be done on their arrival, it said. "Those with temperature above 37.2 degree Celsius may be restricted from entering the library," it said. For details visit: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/tamil-nadu/public-libraries-to-open-from-september-1/article32460200.ece>

Rebirth of a Library in Arunachal

A district long affected by militancy in Arunachal Pradesh is celebrating the rebirth of an 'analog' library even as the world embraces the digital era, says a report by Rahul Karmakar in *The Hindu*. Longding, bordering Nagaland, is among the three districts of the Frontier State where encounters with various factions of the National Socialist Council of Nagaland are routine. The other two are Changlang and Tirap, from which Longding was carved out in March 2012. Local organisations have revived a demand for the creation of Patkai Autonomous Council comprising the three districts. But the current buzz in Longding, the headquarters of the district dominated by the Wancho community, has been about an abandoned government building that has been transformed to revive the library movement in the area. "Our district has no college and none of the eight schools offer commerce courses. Only two schools in the headquarters teach science. It is difficult to get academic literature, newspapers and magazines, and the Internet service is too weak to access digital libraries," said Chanphua Wangsu, a 28-year-old social activist from Longkhaw village near Longding town. "The only library in the headquarters has been virtually defunct since the 1990s. So most college students and civil service aspirants, who returned home after the lockdown, had nowhere to go for academic pursuits," he told *The Hindu*. Shri Wangsu, who has been providing career counselling and free coaching classes for Economics to higher secondary students at home since 2017, felt the void and approached Longding's Deputy Commissioner, Cheshta Yadav. She offered him the town's Crafts Training Centre, a few hundred metres from her office, in disuse since the mid-1990s. Shri Wangsu and his students then took turns to clear the wild bushes around the centre, and repair, paint and decorate the rooms with the help of donations. The 15 feet by 7-feet reading hall with a library room and a toilet opened in July. "Apart from my own collection of books, papers and magazines, there are more than 100 academic

books and journals collected for the library. The Deputy Commissioner and other officers also provided some reading materials," Shri Wangsu said, adding that civil service aspirants were making full use of the library. "The district administration and students who returned post the lockdown joined hands for the initiative. Students, otherwise, seldom return, largely due to the lack of educational opportunities and conducive atmosphere," Ms. Yadav said. For full report visit: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/an-analog-library-in-arunachal-pradesh-gets-a-new-avatar/article32255058.ece>

Jobless Artizan helps set up Library

Sanjina Khatun, a Class XI student of Nabasan Tustu Charan High School in Falta, is from a family of zari artisans from a village over 50 km away from Kolkata. She wants to study English in college and dreams of then working in an office in the city. But the possibility of her continuing studies was in question when both her parents stopped getting work as the lockdown that started in March went on, says a story by Dipanjan Sinha available on *thewire.in* website. Sanjina's school was shut from end of March and tuition became unaffordable. Like many students of Ashina village, comprising mostly of zari artisans, tailors and farmers, who cannot afford computers or mobile phones for online classes and even depend on schools for their books, Sanjina's education had all but stopped. Her parents were aware that students in the city were pacing ahead with online tuitions and classes but there was little that they could do. The artisans were continuously coming back home after losing their jobs and there was little or no work for anyone. According to the West Bengal government's data, 1.3 million migrant workers employed in other states have returned to the state between March and end of June. But activists claim that the number is much higher. It was in this crisis that the concept of a village library was floated by Razzak S K, a zari artisan who lost his job. And since July, Ashina Gramin Library, an initiative of these migrant workers, has changed the situation for students like Sanjina in the village. All it needed was one member from the village volunteering a room, a group dedicating some hours to plan and take care of the place and help from voluntary organizations which have been active since the time the lockdown plunged a huge population into a steep economic crisis. Razzak was in touch with one such voluntary group when he lost work in Hyderabad and was trying to come back to West Bengal. "When we reached home, the group started sending us ration. It really helped but we discussed among ourselves and decided that the education of our children was a really urgent need right now. So we asked them to start sending us school text and guide books instead," he says. The library is now a place of hope for people in the village. Students from neighbouring villages have started visiting too. The library now has 200 members, says Rahila Khatun, a Class XII student who has volunteered a room in her house for the library. For full report visit: <https://thewire.in/education/west-bengal-village-library-school-students-online-classes>

Library in every Haryana Village soon

The Haryana government says it wants to ensure that the students from villages don't have to travel to cities to prepare for competitive exams. To enable this, the government wants to open modern libraries in each village modelled after coaching centres, Haryana Deputy Chief Minister Dushyant Chautala said recently, according to a story available on *ndtv.com* website. All village panchayats have been asked to provide a room or two in their respective villages for the construction of a library by the state government, he said. The libraries will have computers for online education of students and all books related to competitive exams. The cost of making the libraries in village *chaupal* or wherever the panchayat provides the room will be borne by the government, Shri Chautala said. The Deputy Chief Minister said that such a project was needed for a long time for better education standards in rural areas and that he had been pushing for it since he became an MP and now Deputy Chief Minister. He said that as an MP, he had undertaken the construction of modern libraries in primary schools of his constituency and now as Deputy Chief Minister, he had initiated the same for Karsindhu village in Uchana constituency and also in Jind. For full story visit: <https://www.ndtv.com/india-news/haryana-plans-libraries-in-every-village-with-computers-exam-guides-2276767>

Sentenced for Stealing Rare Books

A former archivist and a bookstore owner who were accused of stealing about 300 rare books and other artifacts from Pittsburgh's central library items that would cost more than \$8 million to replace have been each sentenced to several years of house arrest, prosecutors said, says a report by Michael Levenson in *The New York Times*. The former archivist, Gregory Priore, who oversaw a special collection of rare books at the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, walked out of the building with books sometimes in plain sight and sold them to the local bookstore owner, John Schulman, in a scheme that lasted nearly 20 years, the authorities said. Patrick Dowd, board chair of the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, said the thefts "will forever raise doubts about the security of all future charitable donations, particularly to the Carnegie Library." The stolen items included a 1787 first-edition book signed by Thomas Jefferson, a rare copy of "The Journal of Major George Washington" and a version of Isaac Newton's "Principia," among the most influential books in science, said to be worth \$900,000, the authorities said. Judge Alexander P Bicket of the Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas sentenced Mr. Schulman, 56, to four years of house arrest and 12 years of probation, the Allegheny County District Attorney's Office said. The judge also ordered Mr. Schulman to pay \$55,000 in restitution. Mr. Priore, 63, was sentenced to three years of house arrest and 12 years of probation. Judge Bicket indicated that if it were not for concerns about incarcerating nonviolent offenders during the coronavirus pandemic, the sentences

would have been "significantly more impactful," according to Mike Manko, a spokesman for the district attorney's office. For full report visit: <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/06/20/us/carnegie-library-theft-schulman-priore.html>

Library to Spread Knowledge of Indian Culture

Lawyer Puspanathan Sellam has been extremely busy since last October, the time he first started setting up a public library in Seremban's Sri Mariamman Temple located at Jalan Dr. Muthu, Rasah in Malaysia, according to a story by Sheela Chandran available on *www.thestar.com* website. He has been spending most of his weekends at the library, cataloguing over 1,000 books and shelving them according to genre and author. "It's been a painstaking process to meticulously categorize books and magazines on Hinduism and Indian culture, both in English and Tamil. "Thankfully, I have Maheswary Palaniyandi, a retired librarian from the National Library of Malaysia, to help me with the arduous task. She's been doing a fantastic job" said Puspanathan, 67, in a phone interview recently. The affable man was inspired to set up the library because he felt the need to disseminate knowledge on Hinduism and Indian culture to the local Indian community. "Our library houses books in Tamil and English. The availability of these books is a step forward in ensuring the continuity of such knowledge and culture," explained Puspanathan, who also serves as the temple's trustee and secretary. The library opened its doors to the public in May, after the easing of restrictions under the movement control order. Puspanathan and Maheswary have neatly arranged the books on six racks. There is also some literature on Buddhism, Jainism, Sikhism. Puspanathan also plans to install a digital flat screen display in the library. "We must keep abreast of the ever-changing world of information technology to be relevant to the times and the needs of people, especially the younger generation. With this added facility, I hope the youth will be drawn to the library and develop their knowledge of Indian culture and religion," concluded Puspanathan. For full story visit: <https://www.thestar.com.my/lifestyle/people/2020/07/13/malaysian-lawyer-sets-up-a-library-in-a-hindu-temple-to-spread-religious-and-cultural-knowledge>

Disinfection Tunnels in Anna Library

The School Education Department of Tamil Nadu has set up two hi-tech disinfection tunnels at the Anna Centenary Library that reopened recently, says a *The Times of India* report. In April, disinfection tunnels were set up across the state by district administrations and were eventually panned by the Department of Public Health for their unscientific approach. The ones at Anna library, however, do not involve any chemical spraying on the human body. The one kept at the main entrance is integrated with an infra-red thermometer and an automatic hand sanitizer and works on the principle of ionisation, say officials. The officials also claimed that such tunnels are in use in countries such as South Korea and Japan. "The ionisers emit negative ions, which latch on to positive ions such as dust, pollen, fungal spores and most importantly, airborne bacteria and viruses. The

increased weight of the bonded molecules makes them fall to the ground, thus reducing the risk of viruses,” said G Priyanka, project head at Brigantia Technologies which installed the tunnel. A herbal steam tunnel installed at another entrance automatically emits a steam when a person walks through the tunnel. “As many as 18 herbs, based on the suggestions of doctors and professors at Arignar Anna Government Hospital of Indian Medicine at Arumbakkam, are used and there are no chemicals added,” said an official. Each of the tunnel costs above Rs 3 lakh. Temperatures of visitors are manually checked again as well. For original report visit: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/chennai/anna-library-gets-two-chemical-free-disinfection-tunnels/articleshowprint/77986131.cms>

Mysore City Central Library Inaugurated

The District Minister S T Somashekar recently inaugurated the new city central library at People's Park in Nazarbada, Mysuru, says a *The Times of India* report. The two-storey library building constructed near the KSRTC bus stand has come up on an area at a cost of ₹ 5.3 crore. The building constructed by Karnataka Rural Infrastructure Development Limited (KRIDL) houses around 36,000 books. The library has separate sections for visually challenged and specially abled persons, women, senior citizens and children. While the ground floor houses computer section, circulation, reference sections, and a separate section for students preparing for competitive examinations, the first floor has administrative office, conference hall and chambers for the staff. Education Minister S Suresh Kumar inaugurated the digital library and mayor Tasneem inaugurated the book exhibition. Speaking on the occasion, Karnataka Department of Libraries Deputy Director B Manjunath said that the department had planned to build a landscape and garden in front of the building and grow medicinal and herbal plants. “A two-wheeler parking centre, a pathway, stone benches, rain water harvesting, and an elevator will be initiated in the library building in the coming days,” he said. For original report visit: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/mysuru/minister-inaugurates-city-central-library/articleshowprint/78192652.cms>

TECHNOLOGY NEWS

WhatsApp Glitch Removed

A glitch in WhatsApp had accidentally exposed the phone numbers of some users on Google but now the company has resolved the issue. A day after researcher Athul Jayaram unearthed the bug that leaked many phone numbers due to a click to chat feature on WhatsApp, the company fixed the issue says a story by Ankita Chakravarti available on www.indiatoday.in website. As per the researcher, WhatsApp's click to chat feature, which had exposed the numbers of users, allows users to create a link through which users can get in touch with them directly. Jayaram claims that WhatsApp doesn't encrypt the phone number so when you share the link, you also

accidentally expose the phone number in plain text. However, in a statement issued by the company, WhatsApp has said that the feature was created for users to connect better. “Our Click to Chat feature, which lets users create a URL with their phone number so that anyone can easily message them, is used widely by small and microbusinesses around the world to connect with their customers. While we appreciate this researcher's report and value the time that he took to share it with us, it did not qualify for a bounty since it merely contained a search engine index of URLs that WhatsApp users chose to make public. All WhatsApp users, including businesses, can block unwanted messages with the tap of a button,” a WhatsApp spokesperson said. The Click to Chat feature lets users create a link using wa.me/ which can be shared with friends or businesses so that people can converse directly with them without saving the phone number. As per the researcher, if you have created a link through Click to Chat and shared it on social media platforms, it also shares the number online. Whoever has access to the link, will also get the phone number. He said due to this glitch, several cybercriminals and fraudsters could target users whose numbers are exposed to Google. But now that is not the case anymore, as WhatsApp jumped to action after the vulnerability was uncovered. Jayaram, who discovered the bug in WhatsApp, has also confirmed that WhatsApp has removed leaked links from <http://api.whatsapp.com> in the Google search engine. As per him, 400000 WhatsApp numbers that were exposed due to click to chat features have been removed from the Google search engine. For full story visit: <https://www.indiatoday.in/technology/news/story/whatsapp-settles-issue-that-leaked-users-phone-numbers-on-google-1687494-2020-06-10>

Google Chrome's Lazy Loading Feature

Google Chrome has made its lazy-loading feature even more efficient than what it was when first rolled out last year. Lazy loading feature allows you to save data as it loads images on the site only when you are about to view them, says a story by Tanishka Sodhi available on gadgets.ndtv.com website. The distance-from-viewpoint threshold has now been reduced to 1250px from 3000px for fast connections (e.g. 4G), and to 2500px from 4000px on slower connections (e.g. 3G). Google Engineering Manager Addy Osmani wrote on his blog about the change, saying that the new thresholds will offer much better data-savings now. The changes have been back ported to users of recent versions of Google Chrome (79-85), so that they can avail of the latest update. Instead of loading all images as soon as you open a webpage, Google Chrome lazy loading loads the content only when you scroll and have it in view. Until you scroll down, the image will not load. This saves data, and also saves on delays in the initial website start ups. It is recommended to Web developers to avoid setting lazy-loading for images visible in the first viewport, and to add it for the positions below. The tweak will behave closer to what is offered by JavaScript lazy-loading libraries like [lazysizes](https://github.com/uzf/lazysizes), which save even more data. However, Google Chrome's lazy-loading images guarantee that the content will be loaded when the user

has scrolled down to them, and they will not have to wait. Google Chrome has supported lazy-loading images since Chrome 76 was rolled out a year ago. Google Chrome will now also support the lazy loading of iframe content. For full story visit: <https://gadgets.ndtv.com/apps/news/google-chrome-lazy-loading-v79-85-data-saving-tweak-2270307>

WhatsApp's Multi-device Feature

Instant messaging app WhatsApp has been known to be developing a multi-device feature that will allow its users to use the same account on various devices at a time without being dependent on the main device for a couple of months, according to a post on gadgetsnow.com website. Now, as per a latest report by WABetaInfo, the online channel that tracks the upcoming changes and features on the Facebook-owned app, the multi-device feature is in the final stage of being rolled out to the Android beta users of the app. "The next plan of WhatsApp is to give to beta testers the possibility to use this feature," said the report. The report also mentions that while some features about the multiple devices option are still not ready, critical ones such as the option to sync the chat history, muting your chats, starring/delivering messages, etc. may be ready to be rolled out. The report even provides a screenshot that shows the screen to 'Linked Devices' that has a dedicated section for 'Multi-device Beta.' Enabling this will allow other linked devices to access the WhatsApp account without a connection on the primary device. It must be noted that once they enable this feature all their devices will show the same chats and will be synced. For full post visit: <https://www.gadgetsnow.com/articleshowprint/78227139.cms>

SPECIAL FEATURE

Moving Tram-Library!

If you want to enjoy a tram journey in India, you have to visit the city of joy - Kolkata - since tramways, started in British era, still exists only in this city, tramways in other two cities of the country, viz. Chennai and Mumbai, having been closed down in 1954 and 1960 respectively. The city is also the home to Asia's largest second-hand book market, the iconic College Street, which is popularly known as 'Boi Para' (i.e. the locality of books). Blending the charm of the duo, Kolkata has now a new wonder - a first-of-a-kind moving tram-library - which started its journey on September 24 last i.e. on the eve of the 200th Birth Anniversary of Pandit Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar, the great educationist and social reformer of 19th century.

Possibly the first such library in the world, this new avatar of library is named 'Kolkata Tram Library'. It is a single-coach air-conditioned tramcar, specially modified and decorated to create library like ambience with space for library collection as well as reader-commuters. It has 'Kolkata Tram Library' signboard in the front and also by the side of its entrance so that the book-loving commuters can spot it easily. Besides the driver, the car has two conductors - one to help the commuters and sell the

tickets and the other to look after the library. The tram-library makes four trips every day for a stretch of 4.5 kilometres between Esplanade in central Kolkata to Shyambazar in the north. There is also arrangement for sanitization of the tramcar before and after each shift for the safety of the passengers. The fare for one-way journey is only ₹ 20 and no additional charge for using the library.

Inside the library, one can find not only recreational books, but also books that serve as guides for competitive examinations like IAS, IPS, WBCS, GRE and GMT; not only physical books but also e-books to meet the requirements of the readers with varied interests. There is also a separate section for magazines. According to the officials of West Bengal Transport Corporation, this library is whose dream project, the collection will be updated regularly depending on the needs of the commuters. The tram-library also provides the commuters free access to Wi-Fi so that they can enjoy e-books. Interestingly, free pens were distributed to all passengers during the inaugural week.

Rajanvir Singh Kapur, Managing Director of West Bengal Transport Corporation, who flagged off the inaugural run of Tram-Library, termed the project as a dream come true. "It is a beautiful and small addition to Kolkata's literary landscape," he commented. Incidentally, the trams appeared in the streets of Kolkata in 1873, which were initially drawn by horses, then by steam locomotives for a short while and finally powered by electricity in 1902. Kolkata trams are the oldest running electric trams in Asia. With the introduction of Tram-Library, this transport system of the city has now added a new feather in its cap.

Pramod Sharma, the first passenger who boarded the tram at Chandni Chowk on the day of inauguration of tram-library, was quite ecstatic about his experience and said: "It (Tram-Library) is an excellent initiative. I will give 100 out of 100 to the WBTC for the decoration, infrastructure and service of the Tram-Library." The reaction of a member of Calcutta Tram Users Association, Anurag Mitra, is also noteworthy: "WBTC has introduced India's first Tram-Library to attract students and bibliophiles. This has enhanced Kolkata's pride. We urge WBTC to make arrangements so that passengers can also buy books from Tram-Library,"

Besides the bookworm's haven 'Boi Para', the route of the Tram-Library is dotted with a large number of old and renowned educational institutions, such as University of Calcutta, Presidency University, Sanskrit College and University, Hindu School, Hare School, Bethune College, Vidyasagar College and Scottish Church College. From the tram-library one can also catch a glimpse of the heritage building of the Star Theatre and the house where Swami Vivekananda was born. Obviously, the collection of the Tram-Library is likely to attract the student communities of those great institutions.

Providing the required books or magazines to the commuting readers is not the only aim of the Tram-Library. Some more

surprises are in offing. There is plan to organize book reading sessions, book-releasing functions and literary festivals on board the Tram-Library from time to time so that more people are attracted to use the library. The first tram literature festival is slated for November. There is no doubt that bibliophiles in Kolkata now have a unique place for reading that is an amalgamation of heritage and literature. So, the next time when you plan a trip to Kolkata, definitely take a ride on this mind-boggling Tram-Library to soak your soul in the aura of the old alleys, along with the magical aroma of books.

[Sources: <https://curlytales.com/kolkata-gets-it-first-ever-library-inside-a-tram-that-will-run-from-shyambazar-to-esplanade/>, <http://www.millenniumpost.in/kolkata/first-ever-tram-library-trundles-out-419253?infinitescroll=1>, <https://www.deccanherald.com/national/east-and-northeast/indias-first-tram-library-to-be-launched-in-kolkata-891888.html>, <https://indianexpress.com/article/cities/kolkata/kolkatas-first-library-on-tram-unveiled-with-free-wi-fi-and-book-events-as-add-ons-6609980/>, <https://mumbaimirror.indiatimes.com/news/india/kolkata-to-get-its-first-tram-library/articleshows/78294599.cms>]

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. TRIPATHI (Aditya) et al, *Eds.* Recent Trends in Libraries in Networked Environment: Challenges and Opportunities for Librarianship in 21st Century. 2019. Ess Ess Publications, New Delhi. ₹1000. ISBN: 9789387698024
(The book aims to acquaint the reader with basic concerns and prominent issues in the field of library and information science in the networked environment)

Foreign

1. ATKINSON (Jeremy), *Ed.* Technology, Change and the Academic Library: Case Studies, Trends and Reflections. 2020. Chandos Publications, Oxford. ISBN: 9780128228074
(The book systematically reflects on technological innovation, the successes, failures and lessons learned, the nature, process and culture of change, and key aspects including impacts of such innovation on library staff and users, roles and responsibilities, and skills and capabilities)
2. BALES (Stephen) and BUDZISE-WEAVER (Tina). Transformative Library and Information Work: Profiles in Social Justice. 2020. Chandos Publications, Oxford. ISBN: 9780081030110
(The book collects approximately thirty brief case studies of information related organizations, initiatives, and/or projects that focus on social justice related activities)

PERSONALIA

Dr. Jatindra Nath Satpathi, former President of IASLIC; former Senior Library and Information Officer, National Institute of Homeopathy, Kolkata; and former Librarian, S N Bose National Centre for Basic Sciences, Kolkata; has been honoured with Lifetime Achievement Award 2019 by Medical Library Association of India in recognition of his significant contribution for the development of medical librarianship in the country. The award was handed over to him by the Vice-Chancellor of Manav Rachana International Institute of Research and Studies (MRIIRS), Faridabad, during the inaugural session of the National Convention of Medical Library Association of India (MLAI19) held during March 2 - 4, 2020 at MRIIRA.

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BOOK POST

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