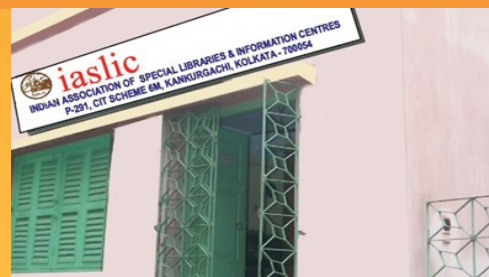




IASLIC NEWSLETTER

Indian Association for Special
Libraries and Information Centres



JUNE 2019

A Monthly Newsletter Published by IASLIC

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Quote of the Month

“Libraries are reservoirs of strength, grace and wit, reminders of order, calm and continuity, lakes of mental energy.”

— Germaine Greer

Australian writer and
Public intellectual

Appeal to Readers

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

Email: chatterjeeamitabha@yahoo.co.in

IASLIC ACTIVITIES

IASLIC 32nd All India Conference, 2019

December 3 - 5, 2019

Organized by

Cochin University of Science and Technology, Kochi

Main Theme - Future of Library and Information Profession in India.

SIG 1 - Digital Archiving.

SIG 2 - Performance Appraisal of Libraries / Information Centers.

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For Call for Papers see May 2019 issue of IASLIC Newsletter or visit:

<http://www.iaslic1955.org.in/fckeditor/userfiles/file/Call%20for%20Papers%202019.pdf>

Election Notification

(Ref No. 4/12/2020-22/1)

The honourable members of IASLIC are hereby informed that the Triennial Election of the association for the term 2020-2022 will be held this year and the results will be announced at the Annual General Meeting to be held during 32nd All India Conference of IASLIC at Cochin University of Science and Technology, Kochi, December 3 - 5, 2019.

The members interested to contest may please submit their nominations, in prescribed forms to be made available in due course, in accordance with the following rules of election as incorporated in the Memorandum of Association of IASLIC:

“All valid Institutional and Individual members of the Association, whose names are in the membership register of the Association before 1st January of the election year and who have paid their annual subscription by 30th June of the election year are eligible to propose, stand and vote in the election to any elective office of the Association as per Clause IX and X of the Regulations of the Association” [Clause XVII (a)].

Dated, Kolkata -54,
The 24th May 2019

Sd/- Bimalchandra Chatterjee
Election Officer

Study Circle Meeting on Health Hazards in Libraries

The 334th IASLIC Study Circle Meeting was held on April 12, 2019 in the Seminar Room of the Central Library, Rabindra Bharati University, Kolkata. The speaker at the meeting was Dr. Mala Aditya, Librarian, Lalbaba College, Belur, Howrah, who delivered a lecture on the topic "Health hazards and Safety Measures in the Library". The meeting was presided over by Prof. Nirmalya Narayan Chakraborty, Dean, Faculty of Arts, Rabindra Bharati University.

Dr. Aditya, described various hazards - physical, chemical, biological, ergonomical and psychological - in the library, besides the common hazards caused by fire and electricity, which may pose risk to the readers as well as library staff. She also expressed her concern about the air quality in the library which was often ignored. Use of insecticides and lack of proper ventilation, often made the air harmful for human health, she said. Noise caused by air conditioning systems was also an issue of concern in urban libraries, she added. Dr. Aditya stressed that library furniture should be of ideal height that supports the right posture of the library users and that every user should be made aware of such right posture. Movement at regular intervals was essential in a long monotonous job, failing which spinal cord and nerve problems like low back pain, carpal tunnel syndrome, etc. were inevitable. Library users should also know the right way to lift heavy books. After discussing the various physical hazards and respective remedies categorically, Dr. Aditya described the psychological hazards in a library. Loneliness, working in a stressed condition, library budget constraints, dealing with dissatisfied patrons, etc. might cause psychological problems among the library professionals, she observed. Unless the hazards were identified and controlled, it was not possible to achieve the objective of better service, she concluded.

In the question-answer session, Dr. Nitai Raychoudhury, Jt. Secretary, IASLIC, enriched the audience with his personal experience of finding two poisonous snakes in the library book stack. Moles were also a problem in some libraries, he added. Dr. Sudip Ranjan Hatua, HOD, DLIS, Rabindra Bharati University and Convener, Study Circle Division, said that it was paradoxical that when important guests came to an organization, the authority of that organization insisted that they should visit the library first, but at the time of sanctioning funds for the library unfortunately the library got the least priority. The lecture based on practical scenario in libraries was very much enjoyed by the audience.

In his concluding remarks, Prof. Nirmalya Narayan Chakraborty stressed on taking timely remedial measures to control the library hazards. He also called upon the library users and library professionals to have a collective

voice against any foul practice. No authority could ignore a collective voice of library users and library professionals, he observed.

The meeting was attended by a good number of library and information professionals and LIS students. The meeting ended with a vote of thanks proposed by Shri Partha Sarathi Das, ALIO, National Library, Kolkata, and a member of Study Circle Division, IASLIC.

List of New Members

Life Members

1. Mr. Abhijit Chakraborty, Hooghly, West Bengal
2. Ms. Paramita Sen, Habra, North 24 Parganas, West Bengal
3. Ms. Parna Ghosh, Alipurduar, West Bengal
4. Mr. Mohan Singh Yadav, Gazipur, Uttar Pradesh
5. Ms. Barnali Roychoudhury, Kolkata
6. Mr. Sourav Debnath, Trichy, Tamilnadu
7. Dr. (Ms) Rashmi Kumbart, Gandhinagar, Gujarat
8. Mr. Smritimoy Ghosh, Bolpur, Birbhun, West Bengal
9. Dr. Sk. Md. Ajimuddin, Ranaghat, West Bengal
10. Ms. Susmita Basu Sarkar, Khardah, North 24 Parganas, West Bengal
11. Dr. Sudip Banerjee, Kolkata
12. Mr. Asish Maity, Purba Medinipur, West Bengal
13. Mr. Rohit Singh, Pilani, Rajasthan
14. Mr. Animesh Singha, Kolkata
15. Mr. Debabrata Maity, Purba Medinipur, West Bengal
16. Ms. Simran Kaur, Chandigarh
17. Dr. Jignesh Chatrabhuj Bhai Makwana, Anand, Gujarat
18. Mr. Chandan Datta, Purba Bardhaman, West Bengal
19. Mr. Laltu Aich, North 24 Parganas, West Bengal
20. Dr. Nanaji Shewala, Pune
21. Mr. Chandan Datta, Purba Bardhaman, West Bengal
22. Mr. Mizanoor Islam, North 24 Parganas, West Bengal
23. Mr. Rabishankar Giri, Kolkata

Ordinary Members

1. Ms. Swarnali Debnath, Kolkata
2. Mr. Soumen Ghosh, North 24 Parganas, West Bengal
3. Ms. Antara Chakranorty, Bolpur, Birbhun, West Bengal
4. Mr. Sandip Das, Nadia, West Bengal
5. Mr. Sujan Saha, Hooghly, West Bengal
6. Mr. Basobendu Haldar, North 24 Parganas, West Bengal
7. Mr. Sagender Singh Parmar, Gandhinagar
8. Mr. Kazi Kajal Hossen, South 24 Parganas, West Bengal
9. Dr. T. Elanchezhian, Chennai

Institutional Members

1. The Principal, Garware College of Commerce, Pune
2. The Librarian, S R Engineering College, Warangal, Telengana
3. The Head, Central Library, Rajiv Gandhi Proudyogiki Viswavidyalaya, Bhopal
4. The University Librarian, Dravidian University, Kuppam, Andhra Pradesh
5. The Assistant Librarian, Thalassery Campus Library, Kannur University, Palayad, Kerala
6. M/S Panima Subscription Agency, New Delhi

CONFERENCES / SEMINARS / WORKSHOPS

National**Conference on Innovations in Libraries**

The 2nd LIS Academy Conference on 'Innovations in Libraries' will be held during at Visvesvaraya Technological University, Belagavi, Karnataka, during June 6 - 8, 2019. For details visit: <http://ii.lisacademy.org>

Conference on Library Technologies

The Health Science Library Association (HSLA) is organizing its National Conference on June 9, 2019 at the Central Library, Pandit Dindayal Upadhyay Medical College, Rajkot. The theme of HSLACON 2019 is 'Emerging Trends and Technologies in Library and Information Science'. For details visit: <https://hslacon2019.blogspot.com/>

Workshop on Library Automation

The South Campus Library of the University of Delhi is organizing the 2nd National Workshop on 'Library Automation & Digitization' during June 17 - 21, 2019. For details email to: librarian@south.du.ac.in

Workshop on Metadata Management

INFLIBNET Centre, Gandhinagar, is organizing a National Workshop on 'Metadata Management and Open Source Discovery Systems for Libraries' during June 24 - 29, 2019. For details visit: <https://hrd.inflibnet.ac.in/>

NACLIN 2019

The 22nd National Convention on Knowledge, Library and Information Networking (NACLIN) 2019, is being organized by DELNET during September 18 - 20, 2019 at Hotel Shourya Garh, Udaipur, Rajasthan. For details visit: <http://www.naclin.org/>

KLA Workshop on Koha: Brief Report

A National Workshop on Koha was organized by Kerala Library Association during May 11 - 12, 2019 at the Computer Centre, University of Kerala,

Thiruvanthapuram. The main objective of the workshop was to enable the participants to instal and customize Koha open source library management software, and to manage various housekeeping operations of their libraries with the help of Koha. It also served as a forum for the LI professionals working with Koha in different libraries to exchange information and deliberate on the common problems faced in Koha. Accordingly, the following practical sessions were conducted during the workshop: Ubuntu Linux package management using APT, installation of Koha, introduction to Koha staff client, Koha Administration, Cataloguing, Circulation, Generation of various customized reports, Label printing, customization of homepage, etc. .

The workshop was inaugurated on May 11, 2019 by Shri N Parameswaran, Former Deputy Librarian-in-Charge of Kerala University Library. The inaugural session was presided over by Dr. Vijayakumar K P, President, Kerala Library Association (KLA) and former Head of the Department of Library and Information Science (DLIS), University of Kerala. Dr. P K Suresh Kumar, General Secretary, Kerala Library Association, welcomed the guests and the participants. In his presidential address, Shri Parameswaran highlighted the importance of open source library management system, especially Koha, in various types of libraries. He was instrumental in initiating the Koha installation in Asian School of Business Management when he was in charge of its Library and Information Division. Dr. A Gopikuttan, former Professor and Head, DLIS, University of Kerala, and Shri N Sukumaran Nair, Former State Librarian, Kerala State Central Library, were felicitated on the occasion. The inaugural session ended with the vote of thanks proposed by Shri S L Faisal, Librarian, Kendriya Vidyalaya, Pattom, Thiruvananthapuram.

Forty participants from all over the country attended the workshop. The practical sessions were handled by Shri Vimal Kumar Vazhappally, Technical Assistant, M G University Library, who is one of the eminent resource persons of national repute of Koha. Shri A Abdunnasar, Librarian IIST, Thiruvananthapuram, and Shri G Sujith provided hands-on training to the participants.

The valedictory session held on May 12, 2019 was presided over by Dr. P K Suresh Kumar, General Secretary, KLA, while Shri A Abdunnasar, Office Secretary, KLA, welcomed all. Shri Vimal Kumar Vazhappally, was felicitated on the occasion. Dr. Vijayakumar distributed the certificates to the participants and the resource persons and also proposed the vote of thanks.

International**Workshop on Digital Archiving**

Kala Nidhi Division of Indira Gandhi National Centre for

the Arts (IGNCA), Ministry of Culture, GOI, in collaboration with University of North TEXAS, USA, and IMASI Foundation, Imphal, is organizing an International Workshop on 'Digital Archiving' during June 10 - 12, 2019 at IGNCA. For details visit: www.ignca.gov.in

Symposium on Data Representation Techniques

DRTC/ISI - Metadata Research Centre, Drexel University, USA, joint Symposium on 'Data Representation and Organization Techniques' will be held at DRTC, Bangalore, during July 2 - 4, 2019. For details visit: <https://drtc.isibang.ac.in/dro/>

New Librarians' Symposium

The New Librarians' Symposium (NLS9) will be held during July 5 - 7, 2019 in Adelaide, Australia. For details visit: <http://nls9.com.au/>

Dublin Core Conference

The Dublin Core Metadata Initiative (DCMI) Annual International Conference will be hosted by the National Library of Korea, Seoul, during September, 23 - 26, 2019. For details visit: <http://www.dublincore.org/conferences/2019/cfp/>

Conference on Children Librarianship

The 6th International Conference on 'Children & Young Adults Librarianship (ICCYAL 2019)' will be held in Davao City, the Philippines, during October 22 - 25, 2019. For details visit: <http://web.nlp.gov.Ph/nlp/?q=node/10190>

Conference on Open Science

The Annual Conference and Workshops of the International Council for Scientific and Technical Information (ICSTI) will be held at Shanghai Library/Institute of Scientific & Technical Information of Shanghai, China, during September 23 - 26, 2019. The theme of the conference is 'Open Science and Open Innovation'. For details visit: <http://www.icsti.org/spip.php?article544>

Symposium on ETD

The 22nd International Symposium on 'Electronic Theses and Dissertations (ETD 2019)' will be held at Universidade Portucalense Infante D Henrique (UPT), Porto, Portugal, during November 6 - 8, 2019. For details visit: <http://etd2019.upt.pt>

Semantic Web Conference

The 11th Semantic Web in Libraries Conference (SWIB19) will be held during November 25 - 27, 2019 in Hamburg, Germany. For details visit: <http://swib.org/swib19>

Digital Humanities Conference

The 7th Estonian Digital Humanities Conference will be held during December 4 - 6, 2019 at the National Library of Estonia, Tallinn, Estonia. The theme of the conference is 'Use of Digital Cultural Heritage in Research and Education'. For details visit: conference@dh.org.ee

Conference on Information Systems

The 2nd International Conference on 'Information Systems & Management Science' (ISMS) 2019 is being organized by Tripura University, Agartala, in collaboration with International Association of Academicians (IAASSE), USA, during December 6 - 7, 2019. For details visit: <http://www.isms2019.iaasse.org/>

Conference on Information Literacy

The 7th European Conference on Information Literacy (ECIL) will be held during September 21 - 24, 2020 at Bamberg, Germany. For details visit: <http://ecil2020.ilconf.org/>

IFLA WLIC 2022 in Auckland

The International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) and the New Zealand National Committee have announced that the IFLA World Library and Information Congress (WLIC) will take place in Auckland during August 13 - 19, 2022. For details visit: <https://www.ifla.org/node/92121>

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

Best Student Research Paper Contest

Libri, a renowned journal in the field of LIS, has issued a call for "Best Student Research Paper of 2019" contest. LIS students who are currently enrolled for a Master's or Ph D programme, or who have completed their Master's or Ph D programme during the 24 months preceding the closing date of the contest can submit articles. There is no stated theme. Research papers should address one of the significant issues facing today's librarians and information professionals. Case studies, best practices, and pure research papers are all welcome. The other details are: Length - approx. 5,000 to 7,000 words (excluding the abstract and list of references); Language - English; Paper Submission Deadline - June 30, 2019. The winning article will be published in Issue-4 of 2019. The author of the winning article will be honoured with a cash award of € 500 and a complimentary subscription to *Libri* for 2020. Manuscripts should be submitted to <http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/libri>

Book Returned after 53 Years

A New Jersey man says he has returned an overdue library book 53 years after he first borrowed the book, says an Associated Press report published in *The Hindustan*

Times. Fair Lawn resident Harry Krame says he checked out “The Family Book of Verse” by Lewis Gannet from his school library when he was 13 and Lyndon Johnson was president of USA. The now 65-year-old Krame found the book recently while cleaning out his basement and felt guilty about keeping it overdue for all those years. Memorial Middle School Vice-Principal Dominick Tarquinio says a late fee at today's rate would be about \$2,000, but says the district will let it slide. School librarian Susan Murray says she plans to use the book for a display to teach students about returning books. For full report visit: <https://www.hindustantimes.com/world-news/us-man-returns-overdue-book-to-school-library-53-years-late/story-V8UxczyoHTykHLq3BKVxSN.html>

Digitized Library on Islam

A digitised library of over 30,000 books and manuscripts on Islam and its history, including the 16th century Al Withriyya, has been opened at Markaz, a national Islamic university at Kozhikode in Kerala, says a *The Hindu* report. The library, set up using the latest advances in library and information science, brings together several centuries of Islamic scholarship. The titles are categorized into 10 - history of Islam, the Quran and its interpretations, Hadees (deeds and words of Prophet Muhammad), Islamic jurisprudence, lexicons, Arabic literature, and Islamic mysticism. The facility is said to be the first digitally renovated Islamic library in the State. A unique collection of Islamic manuscripts and centuries-old printed works are also available in the library. The manuscripts include Al Withriyya, written by Iraqi scholar Muhammad Ibnu Abu Bakr, in the 16th century. It is a poetic narrative on the Prophet Muhammad. The work was funded by the alumni Saquafis - those who graduated in Islamic theology from Markaz - in the years 1985-1995 and 2009. Kanthapuram A P Aboobacker Musliyar, the Chancellor of Markaz, declared the library open recently. He said Markaz was installing advanced technologies in the area of learning in order to mould talented scholars. He noted that Markaz's Islamic library contained a wide variety of books related to classical Islamic science and modern religious studies. For original report visit: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/kozhikode/digitise-d-manuscript-library-opens-at-markaz/article25645206.ece>

Project to Re-stock Flood-hit Libraries

The Krithi International Book Fair and Knowledge Festival has launched a project to re-stock Kerala's flood-hit libraries. As part of the project, second-hand books and Krithi book coupons, bought and donated by individuals and institutions, amounting to ₹ 50 lakh in total, will be given to public libraries affected by the August 2018 floods. To enable this, the State Library Council has

prepared a list of the flood-hit libraries with the help of the district councils. Based on the requirements of the libraries, Krithi will publish a list that will help both individuals and institutions donate books in the form of coupons bought at the festival. However, books that are not included in the list can also be donated for the project, said S. Ramesan, general convener, Krithi festival. Collection boxes will be kept at co-operative institutions across 70 taluks in the State. The lists of institutions, where the public can drop off books in the boxes, libraries that require books will be published on the festival website www.krithibookfest.com and social media. Krithi will use the funds collected through donations to buy coupons and distribute them among the flood-hit libraries. For more details visit: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Kochi/flood-hit-libraries-to-get-a-hand-of-help-from-krithi/article26156877.ece>

Book Donation Boxes at Shopping Malls

What do you do when your shelves are overflowing with books you no longer need? Or there's no space to wedge in another book? Join the initiative of the Department of Public Libraries, Karnataka, and drop them off at select malls and shopping complexes. Late last year, the department conducted a Pustaka Dana Abhiyana (programme for donation of books) requesting people to drop off books at select malls and shopping complexes in Bengaluru, Udupi, and Chitradurga. Within a week, they received 10,224 books. Encouraged by the response, officials are planning similar initiatives in the future, says a report by Tanu Kulkarni in *The Hindu*. Bulk of the donations included literary fiction and preparatory textbooks to help students prepare for competitive examination. Some of the more well-known non-fiction offerings included Devanur Mahadeva's *Edege Bidda Akshara*, U.R. Ananthamurthy's *Yugapallata*, among others. They are now lining the shelves of public libraries. Book stores and writers, too, donated generously for this campaign. Satish Kumar S Hosamani, Director of Public Libraries, said they also received around 5,000 magazines, which the department decided not to keep as they were dated. “The drive also aimed at raising awareness about libraries in the State. Once people donate books to them, we are hoping that they make a visit to the closest libraries to their homes as well,” he said. Officials are planning to provide free library membership to those who donate more than a hundred books. The public library in Udupi received the maximum number of donations, and is now the proud owner of 2,400 books. Chitradurga and Bengaluru North public libraries received 1,792 and 1,135 books respectively. Though the campaign was aimed at citizens, it evoked the interest of several non-governmental organizations and the Rotary Club, which is planning to donate nearly 25,000 books. For details

visit:<https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/bangalore/over-10000-donated-books-line-public-libraries/article26188114.ece>

Libraries for the People by the People

With a great heave, a young man pushes the ancient, three-wheeled rickshaw down a ramp and it splutters to a start. The driver, Sutino “Kinong” Hadi, laughs as he putters his tiny Bemo in a loop outside a preschool in Tanah Abang, in central Jakarta. It's all the signal the children need; around 20 flood out to envelope the car, pulling at hangings, clambering into the front seat. It's an exciting time: their library has arrived. Kinong is one of thousands of Indonesians who have opened their own library in their own communities. Estimates suggest there are thousands of such libraries in Indonesia, started by ordinary people with great initiative to address the lack of books in their area and funded by occasional donations, says a report by Sian Cain in *The Guardian*. There is the Perahu Pustaka, a library boat that sails around West Sulawesi. There are libraries on the back of vegetable carts, shelves lugged around by horses in Serang and in West Papua. Across Banten, a 200-strong motorbike gang called the Komunitas Motor Literasi (Moli), brings books to homes from a box attached to their vehicles, delivered with the ease of a takeaway. All of them are run by inventive, ambitious, ordinary people much like Kinong, 59, who left school before he turned 10. Since 2013, he has parked his Bemo near schools in Tanah Abang, and let kids settle in to enjoy a book. He only sometimes allows them to take it home, with a stern promise to return it. “I've lost a lot of books that way,” he laughs. With 17,000 islands and a geography that almost spans the distance from London to Tehran, Indonesia has struggled to promote reading across the country. For every 100 students, just one quarter leaves school meeting minimum standards of literacy and numeracy. Only 30% of villages have a library; some of the smallest only stock copies of the Quran. The government has attempted several initiatives, including a rule that children must read a book that isn't a textbook at school for 15 minutes each morning; and on the 17th day of each month, individuals can post books, wherever they want in the country, for free. But the persistent myth that Indonesians aren't interested in reading still pervades; last September, Jakarta governor, Anies Baswedan, told the Jakarta Post: “We are challenged to improve our reading interest, particularly in an era where people are far more interested in reading WhatsApp [chats] than in reading books ... People nowadays prefer to skim rather than read.” For full report visit: <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/mar/19/indonesia-library-rickshaw-books>

Rare Stolen Bible Recovered after 20 Years

A 1615 Geneva Bible stolen two decades ago from the Carnegie Library in Pittsburgh in a long-running theft scheme has been recovered from a Dutch museum, the F B I announced recently, says a report by Karen Zraick in *The New York Times*. The Bible was among hundreds of rare books, maps and other items, worth about \$8 million in total, that the authorities have said were stolen by the archivist in charge of the collection over nearly 20 years. Prosecutors say the archivist, Gregory Priore, 62, sometimes walked out of the building with the items in plain sight. He then sold the works to a prominent book dealer, John Schulman, 55, whose shop was a block away and who had appeared as an expert appraiser on the television show “Antiques Roadshow,” according to an affidavit. The two men were charged last year with numerous counts of theft, conspiracy and other charges, and await trial. Robert G Del Greco Jr., a lawyer for Mr. Schulman, said his client maintained his innocence, but declined to comment otherwise. For original report visit: https://www.nytimes.com/2019/04/27/us/geneva-bible.html?rref=collection%2Ftimestopic%2FLibraries%20and%20Librarians&action=click&contentCollection=timestopics®ion=stream&module=stream_unit&version=latest&contentPlacement=7&pgtype=collection

Hunt for Books Plundered by Nazis

The hunt for the millions of books stolen by the Nazis during World War II has been pursued quietly and diligently for decades, but it has been largely ignored, even as the search for lost art drew headlines, says a report by Milton Esterow in *The New York Times*. The plundered volumes seldom carried the same glamour as the looted paintings, which were often masterpieces worth millions of dollars. But recently, with little fanfare, the search for the books has intensified, driven by researchers in America and Europe who have developed a road map of sorts to track the stolen books, many of which are still hiding in plain sight on library shelves throughout Europe. Their work has been aided by newly opened archives, the Internet, and the growing number of European librarians who have made such searches a priority, researchers say. “People have looked away for so long,” said Anders Rydell, author of “The Book Thieves: The Nazi Looting of Europe's Libraries and the Race to Return a Literary Inheritance,” “but I don't think they can anymore.” For full report visit: https://www.nytimes.com/2019/01/14/arts/nazi-loot-on-library-shelves.html?rref=collection%2Ftimestopic%2FLibraries%20and%20Librarians&action=click&contentCollection=timestopics®ion=stream&module=stream_unit&version=latest&contentPlacement=16&pgtype=collection

How to Check Book Borne Bedbugs?

The officials of Lincoln Library in Nebraska, USA, say that librarians have been inspecting each item checked back into the eight branches, committed to keeping out any bedbugs, says a recent *The Associate Press* report. The library system discovered bedbugs in some books in 2014, amid a national rash of bedbug reports from a variety of places, including theatres and thrift stores, college dorms and apartment buildings, hotel rooms and surgical centres. The bedbug committee worked with state experts to come up with detection procedures and a training programme for all library employees who perform the checks when items are returned. They flip through pages, look down the book spines and loosen the tight spaces that bedbugs like. Librarians sometimes find food stains and the occasional \$100 bill. A piece of bacon was once found being used as a bookmark. Certified bedbug detection dogs sniff through the aisles of each branch every three months. Once or twice a month staffers at the Bennett Martin Library find evidence of bedbugs in returned items. "We've had everything from one dead bug or a few smears, to opening things up and seeing three bugs run across the page," a librarian on inspection duty, Scott Clark, told the *Lincoln Journal Star*. The solution? The books or other items are kept in a freezer at zero degrees (minus 17.8 Celsius) for four days, long enough to kill the bugs and any eggs. And the person who checked them out is notified and asked that any other library items be returned in plastic bags to be checked. People notified about bedbugs hitching rides in the items are surprised and sometimes defensive. One woman notified about problems with a recipe book she took back in November paid more than \$100 for a pest company to check her house. It found nothing, and she's filed a claim with the city, asking for reimbursement. For full report visit: <https://nebraska.tv/news/local/librarians-pore-over-books-to-keep-out-the-bedbugs>

DNA Hunt from Old Books

It was in the archives of the Archbishop of York that Matthew Collins had an epiphany: He was surrounded by millions of animal skins. Another person might say they were surrounded by books and manuscripts written on parchment, which is made from skins, usually of cows and sheep. Collins, however, had been trying to make sense of animal-bone fragments from archaeological digs, and he began to think about the advantages of studying animal skins, already cut into rectangles and arranged neatly on a shelf. Archaeologists consider themselves lucky to get a few dozen samples, and here were millions of skins just sitting there. "Just an obscene number," Collins told me, his voice still giddy at the possibilities in their DNA, says Sarah Zhang in her report published in *The Atlantic*. In recent years, archaeologists

and historians have awakened to the potential of ancient DNA extracted from human bones and teeth. DNA evidence has enriched and complicated stories of prehistoric human migrations. It has provided tantalizing clues to epidemics such as the black death. It has identified the remains of King Richard III, found under a parking lot. But Collins isn't just interested in human remains. He's interested in the things these humans made; the animals they bred, slaughtered, and ate; and the economies they created. That's why he was studying DNA from the bones of livestock and why his lab is now at the forefront of studying DNA from objects such as parchment, birch-bark tar, and beeswax. These objects can fill in gaps in the written record, revealing new aspects of historical production and trade. How much beeswax came from North Africa, for example? Or how did cattle plague make its way through Europe? With ample genetic data, you might reconstruct a more complete picture of life hundreds of years in the past. For full report visit: <https://www.theatlantic.com/science/archive/2019/02/dna-books-artifacts/582814/>

TECHNOLOGY NEWS

Chrome Extension to Reduce Eye Strain

LUMES 20-20-20 is a Google Chrome extension that can help to reduce eye strain and boost productivity by prompting you to take regular breaks from the screen, says a post on *nextbigwhat.com* website. The default settings are 20 minutes work with 20 seconds rest based on the 20-20-20 rule recommended by eye doctors. But what is the 20-20-20 rule? It's quite simple, really. The 20-20-20 rule recommends that people using digital devices should look at something 20 feet away for 20 seconds, every 20 minutes. The hard part? Remembering to look away. For original post visit: <https://nextbigwhat.com/reduce-eye-strain-20/>

Speech-to-Speech Translation System

Google has announced its first direct speech-to-speech translation system called "Translatotron" that can convert verbal communication from one language to another while maintaining the speaker's voice and tempo, says a report in *The Economic Times* quoting IANS. "Translatotron" is based on a sequence-to-sequence network which takes source spectrograms - a visual representation of frequencies - as input and generates spectrograms of the translated content in the target language, Ye Jia and Ron Weiss, software engineers at Google Artificial Intelligence (AI) wrote in a blog post recently. The model makes use of two other separately trained components - a neural vocoder that converts output spectrograms to time-

domain waveforms and a speaker encoder that can be used to maintain the character of the source speaker's voice in the synthesised translated speech. For now, the results of Google's demonstration of the translation system lag behind a conventional cascade system, but the search engine giant said it has "demonstrated the feasibility of the end-to-end direct speech-to-speech translation". "By incorporating a speaker encoder network, 'Translatotron' is also able to retain the original speaker's vocal characteristics in the translated speech, which makes the translated speech sound more natural and less jarring," Jia and Weiss said. The company said that "Translatotron" is the first end-to-end model that can directly translate speech from one language into another. "We hope that this work can serve as a starting point for future research on end-to-end speech-to-speech translation systems," the blog-post noted. Lately, Google has been working aggressively on its translation systems. Adding more languages to its real-time translation feature, earlier in 2018, the company introduced accents in Google Translate with a variety of languages in region-based pronunciations. In February, Google extended the "Interpreter" mode on its Assistant to Home speakers and other third-party devices to help users have real-time conversations with compatible devices and translate them into 26 listed languages. For original report visit: <https://cio.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/enterprise-services-and-applications/google-develops-speech-to-speech-translation-system/69357156>

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Foreign

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(Provides directions which can help transform any public library into a sustainable organization - not just environmentally sustainable, but economically and socially sustainable as well)

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