IASLIC NEWSLETTER
Indian Association for Special Libraries and Information Centres

March 2020

A Monthly Newsletter Published by IASLIC

Quote of the Month

"No place affords a more striking conviction of the vanity of human hopes than a public library"

— *Samuel Johnson, Renowned* **English literary figure of 18th Century**

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

32nd IASLIC All India Conference: Brief Report

The 32nd All India Conference of IASLIC was held at Cochin University of Science and Technology (CUSAT), Kochi, during December 3 - 5, 2019. The theme of the conference was 'Future of Library and Information Profession in India'. The inaugural session began with a beautiful invocation by Mrs. Aparna Varma of CUSAT. Dr. Beena C, Organising Secretary and University Librarian I/C of CUSAT, welcomed the august gathering, including Dr. K N Madhoosudanan, Vice-chancellor, CUSAT; Prof. C R Karisiddappa, Conference President; IASLIC functionaries, eminent guests and invited speakers; retired professionals and the delegates. In his brief introductory remarks, Shri Sajal Kanti Goswami, Hony. General Secretary, IASLIC, outlined the activities of IASLIC. Dr. Madhoosudanan formally inaugurated the event by lighting the ceremonial lamp. In his inaugural address, he pointed out that digital revolution had influenced all walks of life and also highly influenced the activities of libraries. He stressed on the importance of professional bodies in equipping professionals to meet the challenge. Prof. Madhoosudanan also released the conference souvenir volume. Prof. Karisiddappa, who chaired the inaugural session, released the volume containing the abstracts of the papers accepted for presentation at the conference. In his address, Prof. Karisiddappa introduced the theme and sub themes of the conference and stressed that an amalgamation of traditional library and virtual library was the need of the hour. This was followed by presentation of different Awards of IASLIC. Prof. A K Mukherjee IASLIC Lifetime Achievement Award for Retired Librarian for the year 2015 was conferred on Shri S M Kulkarni, former Librarian, Anthropological Survey of India, Kolkata, while that for the year 2017 was conferred on Dr. P R Goswami, former Director (Library & Information), Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, New Delhi. Prof. Aditya Tripathi, Professor, DLIS, BHU, was awarded IASLIC-Ranganathan Medal for best article, 2017. The inaugural session ended with a vote of thanks proposed by Shri Anil Radhakrishnan, Joint Organizing Secretary and Asst Librarian, CUSAT.

The inaugural session was followed by plenary session chaired by Dr. P R Goswami. In this session, Prof. A R D Prasad, former Head, DRTC, Bangalore, delivered the plenary address on 'Research Data Management: Role of Library and Information Professionals'. He spoke about importance of reusability of data. He also warned that there was nothing called privacy on the Internet. He elaborated on the role of librarians in advocacy of open data, data curation and building of data repositories.

Altogether 26 papers, out of 37 papers accepted for presentation, including six invited papers, were presented by the respective authors/co-authors in seven technical sessions chaired by Dr. Humayoon Kabir, Prof. A R D Prasad, Prof. Devika Madalli, Dr. Abdul Majid Baba, Prof. Sanjay Kumar Singh and Shri Wilson K Cherukulath and Prof. Narendra Lahkar respectively. Besides the technical sessions, two tutorial sessions were conducted on Technical Writing by Prof. Amitabha Chatterjee, former Professor, DLIS, Jadavpur University, Kolkata, and Editor, IASLIC Newsletter; and on E-Resource Management by Dr. Sunita Barve, Senior Technical Officer, Knowledge Resource Centre, National Chemical Laboratory, Pune.

IASLIC-P C Shah Memorial Lecture 2019 was also organized on December 3, 2019, at the conference venue. The theme of the lecture, which was delivered by Dr. M D Baby, Dean, DLIS, Rajgiri College of Social Sciences, Kochi, was 'Remodelling of Library Services: An opportunity for the library profession'. The event was chaired by Shri S B Banerjee, former Deputy Manager (Information), Hindustan Paper Corporation. Dr. Baby elaborately dealt with the need and strategy of remodelling of library services and stressed on the commitment on the part of librarians towards the profession.

The meeting of the Governing Body of IASLIC was held on December 3, 2019, while the annual general meeting was held on December 4, 2019. The results of IASLIC Triennial Election for the period 2020 - 2022 were declared at the annual general meeting.

The Concluding-cum-Valedictory session was held on December 5, 2019. Dr. Veerankutty Chelatayakkot, Joint Organising Secretary of the conference, welcomed the dignitaries, delegate and other members of the audience. Prof. P G Sankaran, Pro-Vice-chancellor, CUSAT, delivered the valedictory address. Dr. P R Goswami, Director of the thematic sessions, shared his experiences about conducting the technical sessions. Prof. C R Karisidappa, President of the Conference and Prof. K Ajitha, Registrar, CUSAT, who was the special guest, also addressed the audience. Ms. Indrani Bhattacharyya, Rapporteur General of the conference, presented a brief report of the deliberations during the conference and presented the draft recommendations, which were adopted subject to modifications suggested by some members. Prof. Narendra Lahkar, Vice-President (Zone 5) of IASLIC, on behalf of the IASLIC, thanked the CUSAT in general and the Organising Secretary Dr. Beena C and other staff members of the library for organizing the conference successfully. Shri Anil Radhakrishnan, Joint Organizing Secretary and Asst Librarian, CUSAT, proposed a vote of thanks on behalf of the organizers. The conference drew enthusiastic response from library and information professionals (LIS) across the country and witnessed representations from LIS professionals from Kashmir to Cochin and from Assam to Gujarat, which made it truly national in nature.

22nd Ranganathan Lecture: A Report

The 22nd IASLIC - Ranganathan Lecture 2015 was held at IASLIC Seminar Hall on February 6, 2020. Prof. (Dr.) Ratna Bandyopadhyay, Former UGC-Emeritus Fellow, University of Calcutta, Kolkata, delivered the lecture on *'Library Services for Social Development: Rediscovering Ranganathan'.* The event was chaired by Shri Ram Krishna Saha, Former Chief Librarian, Jadavpur University, Kolkata. Dr. Nitai Roychoudhury, Joint Secretary, IASLIC welcomed the gathering and introduced the Speaker and the Chairman. Prof. Bandyopadhyay and Shri Saha were felicitated with bouquet and shawl by Ms. Moumita Ash, Librarian, IASLIC and Ms. Banasree Roy, Joint Secretary, IASLIC respectively.

Prof. Bandyopadhyay commenced her speech quoting Prof.

Amartya Sen who equated 'development' with 'freedom'. She explained the concept of social development with regard to 'Inclusive' and 'Sustainable' development. She emphasized the significance of library services which were capable of accelerating the overall development of the society. In this regard, she mentioned that while the Government of India emphasized development of all the sections of the society, UNESCO prioritized human development. She also mentioned that Abdul Waheed Khan marked the present society as a 'knowledge society' and A P J Abdul Kalam was of the view that 'knowledge is a primary production'. Besides, IFLA guidelines on social development stated that one should make 'information accessible to all'. In this context, Prof. Bandyopadhyay pointed out that Ranganathan too had similar views on social development as he mentioned 'information for all'. The word 'all' includes divyangans, women, patients, prisoners and other unreached. Similarly, UNESCO and National Knowledge Commission too emphasized on inclusive development. This signified the parity between Ranganathan's views and the views of the modern world, she said. Moreover, the statements and guidelines provided by the present research groups like OCLC, NML and experts like James R Rettig were nothing but the extensions of the profound concept of five laws of library science enunciated by Ranganathan. Prof. Bandyopadhyay also profusely quoted from Ranganathan's seminal work 'The Five Laws of Library Science' to prove that most of the opinions provided by eminent educationists of today were similar to Ranganathan's views presented in different words. She further talked about the significance of information literacy, digital citizenship, embedded librarianship, makerspace movement and human library in the present era which had been already mentioned by Ranganathan earlier in his works. Finally, she referred to a survey conducted on visually impaired students where it was found that they are more dependent on NGO libraries rather than university libraries and other academic libraries. This signified that the NGO libraries were more concerned with the differently able students in comparison to the academic libraries. In this context, Prof. Bandyopadhyay stressed on the crucial responsibilities of the library professionals in coordinating all the activities of the library with the help of modern technologies for a better information service to the society.

Prof. Amitabha Chatterjee, Former Professor, DLIS, Jadavpur University, Kolkata, and Editor, IASLIC Newsletter, presented a memento to the speaker. Sri R K Saha thanked Prof. Bandyopadhyay for delivering her enriching speech. He also reflected upon some of his past memories and referred to the library services provided during those days. He opined that all efforts to render the best service by the professionals go in vain due to digital divide, lack of proper community services like unstable supply of electricity, infrastructural limitations, etc. He was presented Prof. A K Mukherjee IASLIC Lifetime Achievement Award for Retired Librarian, 2016 by Shri Jagamohan Das, Treasurer, IASLIC.

The programme ended with the vote of thanks proposed by Shri Pradip Sarkar, Joint Secretary, IASLIC. It was an informative

session where twenty-two library professionals attended the lecture and enriched themselves.

CONFERENCES / SEMINARS / WORKSHOPS

National

Seminar on Citation Analysis

A National Seminar on 'Citation Analysis and Research Ethics' is being organized by the Department of Library, National College (Autonomous), Tiruchirappalli, on March 7, 2020. For details visit: *http://www.nct.ac.in/images/news/pdf/pdf_177.pdf*

Training on Open Source Software

AICTE and Visvesvaraya Technological University - Belagavi are jointly organizing a Short Term Training Programme on 'Open Source Software for Information Retrieval Systems in Technical Institutions' during March 9 - 13, 2020 at VTU, Centre for Post Graduate Studies, Bengaluru Region. For details visit: *http://www.vtu.ac.in*

Conference on Digital Scholarship

The Department of Library and Information Science, Central University of Tamil Nadu, Thiruvarur, is organizing a National Conference on 'Digital Scholarship (NCDS2020)', during March 12 - 13, 2020. For details visit: *https://ncds2020. blogspot.com*

Conference on Modern Libraries

A National Conference on 'Relevance of Modern Libraries in the Development of Religion, Culture and Research' is being organized by Department of Library and Information Science, Mohanlal Sukhadia University, Udaipur, during March 20 - 21, 2020. For details visit: *https://www.mlsu.ac.in/notifications-details-6328*

Kerala College Librarians' Conference

The College Librarians' Association, Kerala (KCLA), in collaboration with St. Joseph's College for Women, Alappuzha, is organizing KCLA National Conference on the theme 'Technology Integration in Education, Research and Libraries (TERL 2020)' during April 2 - 4, 2020 at the said college. For details visit: *http://kcla.co.in/index.php/kclacon2020/*

Workshop on Research Support Services

A National Workshop on 'Advances in Research Support Services in Academic Libraries' will be held at Thapar Institute of Engineering & Technology, Patiala, during April 17 -18, 2020. For details visit: *http://www.thapar.edu/*

Workshop on Publishing Research

The Knowledge Centre (Library), The Automotive Research Association of India, Pune, in collaboration with Taylor & Francis Group, is organizing a Workshop on 'Publishing Research in Books and Journals' on April 22, 2020. For details email to: *training.pga@araiindia.com*

International

World Library and Information Congress

The World Library and Information Congress (WLIC) and 86th IFLA General Conference and Assembly will be held in Dublin, Ireland during August 15 - 21, 2020 (Please see August 2019 issue of this newsletter). The general theme of the conference will be 'Inspire, Engage, Enable, Connect'. The themes for discussion in meetings of different sections/special interest groups/committees/professional units of IFLA before, during and after the congress have been announced, which are mentioned below.

- *Library and Research Services for Parliaments Section:* The theme for 36th Pre-Conference to be hosted by the Oireachtas (Irish Parliament), Dublin, during August 12 - 13, 2020, is 'The parliamentary life of information: how library and research services provide value for parliaments, members and citizens'.

- *Environment, Sustainability and Libraries Special Interest Group (ENSULIB)* and *Preservation and Conservation (P&C) Section:* The theme for joint satellite meeting to be held in Boole Library, University College of Cork, Ireland, during August 12 - 13, 2020, is *'Environmentally inspiring and engaging buildings, research, education and library services'*.

- *Local History and Genealogy Section* and *Asia and Oceania Section:* The theme for the joint satellite meeting to be held at the National Library of Scotland, Edinburgh, during August 12 -13, 2020 is *'Challenges and opportunities for genealogy, local history and regional memory fields in libraries and other memory institutions in a highly mobile society'*.

- *Public Libraries Section:* Open Session will consist of short presentations on public library's response to changing roles and a workshop to explore the changing roles of libraries and skills of staff needed to meet these new roles.

- *Information Technology Section* and *Knowledge Management Section:* The theme for joint session is *'Future of the library and library systems: outsourcing, cloud, and new tech impact of user communities'*.

- *Health and Biosciences Libraries Section* and *Evidence for Global and Disaster Health Special Interest Group:* The theme for joint satellite meeting is *'Health literacy: libraries and communities working together for health & wellbeing'*.

- *Information Technology Section* and *Reference & Information Services Section:* The theme for joint satellite meeting to be held on August 12, 2020 at the National University of Ireland, Galway, is *'Artificial intelligence in discovery and user experience'*.

- *Information Technology Section* and *Health and Biosciences Libraries Section:* The theme for joint session is *'Enabling open science, open access, and artificial intelligence to advance and support healthcare*

practice and scientific discovery'.

- *Cataloguing Section:* The theme for open session is *'Metadata quality issues and policies'.*

- *Government Libraries Section:* The theme for open session is '*Evidence based policy'.*

- *Audiovisual and Multimedia Section* and *Metropolitan Libraries Section:* The theme for joint open session is *'Inspire, enable, engage and connect: video and multimedia productions by and for libraries and library users'.*

- *Academic and Research Libraries Section* and *Statistics and Evaluation Section:* The theme for joint session is *'Alignment with research: providing, communicating and assessing the value of research support'.*

- *Women, Information and Libraries SIG, Access to Information Network - Africa (ATINA) SIG,* and *Evidence for Global and Disaster Health (E4G) SIG:* The theme for joint open session is *'Climate change: supporting communities, users, collections and spaces in the era of climate uncertainty'.*

- *Public Libraries Section, Metropolitan Libraries Section, Literacy and Reading Section* and *Libraries for Children and Young Adults Section:* The theme for joint satellite meeting to be held during August 12 - 13, 2020 at Said Business School, Oxford, UK, is *'Reading journeys: exploring the journeys into and through reading for children and adults'.*

- *Library Theory and Research Section, Social Science Libraries Section and IFLA Journal:* The theme for joint satellite meeting to be held at the Library of the Trinity College, Dublin, during August 13 - 14, 2020, is *'International research in LIS: challenges and opportunities'.*

- *Committee on Standards:* The theme for open session is *'IFLA standards and professional practices in conversation'.*

- *Government Information and Official Publications Section (GIOPS):* The theme for open session is *'Navigating the government information and official publications landscape: authority, reproducibility and accessibility'.*

- *Library Buildings and Equipment Section (LBES)* and *Environment, Sustainability and Libraries Special Interest Group (ENSULIB):* The theme for open session is *'Something old - something new: transforming an existing building into a new library'.*

- *Asia and Oceania Section:* The theme for open session is *'Sharing our stories: libraries in Asia and Oceania supporting the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)*'.

- *Asia and Oceania Section:* Next Library 2020 satellite meeting to be held at the State Library of Queensland in Brisbane, Australia, during October 11 - 13, 2020, will feature ignite talks and interactive sessions.

- *Knowledge Management Section* and *Digital Humanities/Digital Scholarship Special Interest Group:* The theme for joint satellite meeting to be held on August 14, 2020, at Trinity College, Dublin, is *'Human-centred knowledge management: connecting, inspiring & engaging'.*

- *Social Sciences Libraries Section* and *Science & Technology Section:* The theme for joint session is *'Open science: roles for libraries to promote collaboration, access and advance public understanding'.*

- *Local History and Genealogy Section, Indigenous Matters Section* and *Rare Books and Special Collections Section:* The theme for joint open session is *'Local history and genealogy collection - classification, preservation, sharing, and access practices of local, regional, and international libraries and institutions'.*

- *Serials and Other Continuing Resources Section:* The theme for open session is *'Worldwide open access mandates and policies'.*

- *News Media Section, Digital Humanities / Digital Scholarship Special Interest Group, Freedom of Access to Information and Freedom of Expression (FAIFE) Advisory Committee,* and *Copyright and other Legal Matters (CLM) Advisory Committee:* The theme for open session is *'How fake news impacts and engages the library mission and services'.*

- *Academic and Research Libraries Section:* The theme for hot topic session is *'How academic librarians and libraries position themselves to lead change on their campuses and the broader communities they serve'.*

- *Religions: Libraries and Dialogue Special Interest Group:* The theme for its proposed session is *'How to get engaged and connect libraries in the interreligious dialogue?'*

- *Bibliography Section:* The theme for open session is *'smarter bibliographies: connecting and engaging national bibliographies with new platforms'*

- *Art Libraries Section:* The theme for satellite meeting is *'Of what is past, and passing, and to come: art library networks in transition'.*

- *Art Libraries Section:* The theme for open session is *'Rethinking the concepts of art libraries, in view of changing cultural heritage paradigms: collection building, facilitating access, reaching new audiences'.*

- *Management of Library Associations Section:* The theme for open session is *'Big dreams, real impact: creating a practical approach to the SDGs'.*

- *Africa Section:* The theme for open forum is *'Working together: building strong information structures for sustainable society'.*

- *Acquisition and Collection Development Section:* The theme for its session is *'Collection development in the era*

of open access: impacts of open access business models and open access resources on library collection development'.

- *Preservation and Conservation Section* and *Information Technology Section:* The theme for joint open session is *'Preserving complex digital objects in libraries'*.

- *Law Libraries Section* **and** *Copyright and other Legal Matters (CLM) Advisory Committee:* The theme for joint open session is *'Libraries and public rights to the law: international perspectives on barriers to free legal information'*.

- *Evidence for Global and Disaster Health (E4GDH) Special Interest Group:* The theme for open session is *'Engage, enable and connect in global and disaster health: increasing access to multi-language evidence'*.

- *LIS Education in Developing Countries Special Interest Group* and *Information Literacy Section:* The theme for joint open session is *'Information literacy in LIS programs in the developing countries'*.

- *Knowledge Management Section* and *Subject Analysis and Access Section:* The theme for joint open session is *'Subject access and artificial intelligence: enhancing competencies and safeguarding ethics'*.

- *Library Services to People with Special Needs Section:* The theme for its session is *'How library services, programs, projects, and activities support refugees, immigrants, migrants and asylum seekers'*.

- *Library Publishing Special Interest Group:* The theme for open session is *'Library publishing: catalyst for change'*.

   For more details visit IFLA website: https://www.ifla.org/

Conference of e-Knowledge Resources

M S P Mandal's Shri Shivaji College, Parbhani, is organizing an International Conference on 'Innovations and Transformation in Knowledge Resources in Electronic Era (ICITKREE)', on March 6, 2020. For details visit: *http://shrishivajicollege.org/icitkree-2020*

RDA Plenary Meeting

The 15th Plenary Meeting of the Research Data Alliance (RDA) on the theme 'Data for Real-World Impact', will take place during March 18 - 20, 2020, in Melbourne, Australia. For details visit: *https://www.rd-alliance.org/plenaries/rda-15th-plenary-meeting-australia*

Conference on Big Data

The 5th International Conference on 'Recent Trends in Big Data and IoT' is being organized by St. Joseph's Institute of Technology, Chennai, during April 7 - 9, 2020. For details visit: *http://icrtbi2020.stjosephstechnology.ac.in*

Museum Libraries Conference

Museum Libraries in Modern Society Conference will be held during April 21 - 23, 2020 at the Moscow Kremlin Museums.

For details visit: *https://www.kreml.ru/en-Us/research/conferences-and-seminars/khraniteli-knizhnykh-sobraniy/*

Short-Term Course on Open Source LMS

The Central Library, Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur, is going to organize an International Short-Term Course on 'Open Source Software for Library Management (OSSLM 2020)' during May 11 - 16, 2020. For details visit: *http://www.library.iitkgp.ac.in/pages/osslm20.html*

IFLA Metropolitan Libraries Conference

IFLA Metropolitan Libraries Conference (MetLib 2020) will be held at De Bibliotheek Neude, Utrecht, Netherlands, during May 24 - 29, 2020. For details visit: *https://www.bibliotheekutrecht.nl/metlib2020.html*

Eurasian Academic Libraries Conference

The Nazarbayev University Library, Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan, and the Association of University Libraries in the Republic of Kazakhstan, are jointly organizing the 9th Eurasian Academic Libraries Conference on the theme 'Alive to Changes: Engage. Embrace. Ensure' during June 16 - 19, 2020. For details visit: *https://nu.kz.libguides.com/EALC-2020*

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

International Paper Contest

The Special Interest Group on International Information Issues (SIG-III) of the Association for Information Science & Technology (ASIS&T) has invited research papers for the 20th International Paper Contest (IPC) for library and information science (LIS) professionals in developing countries, for the 83rd Annual Meeting, which will take place in Pittsburgh, USA, during October 23 - 28, 2020. The theme of the Annual Meeting is 'Information for a Sustainable World: Addressing Society's Grand Challenges'. For more details visit: *https://www.asist.org/am20/*

IFLA WLIC Attendance Grant

The Standing Committee of the Academic and Research Libraries Section (SC-ARL) of IFLA, with generous sponsorship by Ex Libris and Sage, is offering three (3) Attendance Grants to the 2020 World Library and Information Congress to be held in Dublin, Ireland, to emerging professionals from an academic and research environment. For details visit: *https://www.ifla.org/node/92765*

IFLA Public Library of the Year Award

IFLA has invited applications for The "IFLA/Systematic Public Library of the Year - 2020", according to a post on IFLA website. The award is presented to a library anywhere in the world that best combines open, functional architecture with creative IT solutions and also takes into account both digital developments and local culture. To qualify in 2020, the library must be built between January 1, 2019 and December 31, 2019 or located in a building not previously used as a library. The award will be presented at the IFLA WLIC in Dublin and is

accompanied by a USD 5,000 prize. The Award is administered by IFLA's Public Libraries, Library Buildings and Equipment and Metropolitan Libraries Sections. Systematic is a sponsor of this award. Local government bodies responsible for new public libraries may apply till April 15, 2020 to be considered for this award. For more details visit: *https://www.ifla.org/node/92844*

Library set up for deprived Children

Gyan Vardhini, a social organisation of Assam, has recently launched a library initiative with the title "Project Educate All - Leave None Behind", says a report in *The Assam Tribune*. Under the initiative, the organisation has set up its first library at an orphanage, Ananda Ashram, in Guwahati, which aims to make reading books and story books accessible to deprived children and those residing in slums, orphanages and communities in remote locations. Volunteers of the organisation will conduct reading classes for children under the initiative. It also aims to set up 10 libraries across Guwahati within this year. For original report visit: *http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=feb1620/city057*

Library Cess not Transferred in AP District

Civic bodies including the Vijayawada Municipal Corporation (VMC) owe ₹39.84 crore in Library Cess to the Krishna Zilla Grandhalaya Samstha (ZGS) in Andhra Pradesh, says a report by T Appala Naidu published in *The Hindu*. The dues have been accumulating since the 2012-13 financial year, leaving libraries struggling for funds. VMC alone owes 62.72% (₹24.99 crore) of the total library cess that is to be paid by all the civic bodies for the period of 2012-13 till the end of this financial year. In a joint review meeting convened in Vijayawada by Krishna District Collector A Md. Imtiaz and Joint Collector-2 K Mohan Kumar recently, Mr. Imtiaz directed all the civic bodies to pay half of the pending dues to the ZGS by February-end. The other civic bodies that owe library cess to the ZGS are: Gudiwada Municipality (₹1.25 crore), Pedana Municipality (₹9.5 lakh), Nuzvid Municipality (₹52 lakh), Tiruvuru Municipality (₹25 lakh) and Jaggayyapeta Municipality (₹5.97 lakh). The Machilipatnam Municipal Corporation and Vuyyuru Nagar Panchayat, however, do not have any pending dues. Panchayats in the Vijayawada Revenue Division alone are yet to pay ₹8.17 crore towards library cess. The ZGS is also yet to get the library cess from panchayats in Machilipatnam Revenue Division (₹1.14 crore), Gudiwada Revenue Division (₹93.39 lakh) and Nuzvid Revenue Division (₹2.69 crore). For original report visit: *https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/andhra-pradesh/civic-bodies-owe-3984-crore-library-cess-to-krishna-zilla-grandhalaya-samstha/article30766224.ece*

Digitization of PLs in Karnataka

The Director of Public Libraries of Karnataka Satish Kumar Hosamani, recently said that digitization of 172 public libraries was on in Udupi, while 100 public libraries had already been digitized, says a post on *onlineyatri.com* website. According to him, there were now 30 district central libraries, 26 central city libraries and 176 libraries in talukas, gram panchayats and slum areas. The digitization of these libraries has been taken up in phases. Each digitized library was being provided with two desktops, two tabs and an Internet router, he informed. The aim was to improve the reading habit of the people at a time when many were hooked up to social media. Nearly 17,800 Kannada, English, Tamil and other books and even periodicals, NCERT, CBSE and ACSE books of classes 1 to 12 would be available in digitized libraries. For original post visit: *https://onlinetyari.com/latest-news-articles/digitalisation-of-172-public-libraries-on-i97631.html*

Goats Help Save Library

A herd of 500 goats helped save California's Ronald Reagan Library from a wildfire a few months back, after the voracious animals earlier this year ate flammable scrub surrounding the hilltop complex, says a Reuters report available on NDTV website. The hired goats munched through brush to create a fire break that slowed the blaze and let firefighters douse flames before they reached exhibits like an Air Force One jet and a piece of the Berlin Wall, a library spokeswoman said. "We were told by one of the fire fighters that they believe that fire break made their job easier," said Melissa Giller. "The brush only went so far, it didn't reach the library, because the goats ate it all". The complex near Simi Valley is the second big southern California institution in as many days to be protected from a rash of wildfires by fire-prevention work. Los Angeles' J Paul Getty Museum said its scrub clearance efforts slowed a blaze on its perimeter. Driven by gale-force winds, the so-called "Easy Fire" surrounded the Reagan Library, coming less than 50 feet from a hangar housing the Boeing 707 aircraft used by the former Republican president. The site houses papers and memorabilia from Ronald Reagan's 1981-1989 administrations, and the Cold War leader is buried there alongside his wife Nancy. For original report visit: *https://www.ndtv.com/world-news/how-goats-saved-californias-reagan-library-from-wildfire-2124930*

Library Founders Ostracised

An elderly tribal couple, lauded by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his "*Mann Ki Baat*" for opening a library in a deep forest area in Kerala, have been ostracised by their own community for "helping" in authoring of a book that allegedly showed it in poor light, says a PTI report available on NDTV website. P V Chinnathampi (77) and Maniyamma (62) of Edamalakudy hamlet deep inside the Idukki forests are running from pillar to post seeking help after they were ousted from their village by an "oorukoottam" (a meeting of the village). They along with teacher-writer P K Muraleedharan, who co-founded the library in Edamalakudy in 2012, met state Minister for SC/ST Welfare A K Balan in Thiruvanthapuram and sought his intervention and had been "assured" of all help. Shri

Muraleedharan and Shri Chinnathampi had first set up a small library at the latter's tea shop. The collection of books was shifted to a lower primary school nearby in 2017. Shri Chinnathampi and Maniyamma have been accused of helping Shri Muraleedharan in writing the book that allegedly showed the Muthuvan Tribal community in a poor light. Shri Muraleedharan said he wrote the book "Edamalakkudy: Oorum, porulum" in 2014 and none had any issues all these days. For full report visit: *https://www.ndtv.com/kerala-news/tribal-couple-ostracised-in-kerala-seeks-government-intervention-2137200*

Varsity setting up 350 Village Libraries

On the occasion of 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi and 60th anniversary of the National Service Scheme (NSS), Mumbai University (MU) affiliated colleges are all set to set up over 200 libraries in Maharashtra's villages, according to a report available on *www.mumbailive.com* website. Mumbai University had adopted some villages last year and will be setting up libraries in the zilla parishads or gram panchayats of the villages to increase accessibility for students. Moreover, a student or an NSS volunteer will visit these villages to ensure that the library is functioning smoothly. The aim of Mumbai University is to set up over 350 libraries by the end of this academic year covering over 31,000 titles. For original report visit: *https://www.mumbailive.com/en/education/mumbai-university-all-set-to-setup-200-libraries-in-maharashtra-village-40782*

Mobile Library serving AP Villages

A colourful van drives through a village in the morning and stops under a tamarind tree. Children and adults are flocking to it. Tables and desks are set up near the tree, and soon, everyone gets busy reading. This is a regular sight in villages of three mandals in Kurnool district of Andhra Pradesh, thanks to the Sanchara Grandhalayam, a mobile library set up by the Rural Development Trust (RDT), an NGO based in Anantapur, working for bettering the lives of rural communities for the last 50 years in the region, according to a story by Charan Teja available on *www.thenewsminute.com* website. With the aim to promote education, as many as 16 villages were selected from Kosigi, Mantralyam and Kowthala mandals based on different social indicators ranging from literacy rate to social evils like child marriages and superstitions. As part of the library outreach programme, RDT takes the mobile library to the 16 villages, one by one. These 16 libraries function like full-fledged public libraries and are managed by trained librarians from the villages. Each library has over 300 books, in addition to the regular newspapers and magazines. M Krishnaveni, Trainee Director for Education with RDT and also in-charge of the mobile library initiative, said, "Most of these villages have low literacy rate and many school dropouts. Koisigi has the lowest literacy rate of 36.2%. We thought promoting the culture of reading among the rural folks could initiate some change." RDT had first started the initiative in 2017 with eight libraries, and now had grown to 16. The NGO received immense support from the locals, who provided spaces in empty buildings or unused rooms to set up these libraries. "It took us one or two years to take the idea to the people. But now, people are slowly getting used to reading. School-going children actively participate. The youngsters use a lot of books for competitive exams." In July last year, RDT started the mobile van with as many as 3,700 books and 20 tablets and dozens of magazines in total. The collection includes a variety of books on fiction for children, science, mathematics, history, and magazines, in addition to spiritual books such as Ramayana and Bhagavad Gita. N Sowjanya, a librarian, makes sure every village has a Mobile Library Day for every two weeks. "We will reach the select village by 9 am, park the van near government schools to cater to school children. The van is also equipped with a TV, where videos on subjects such as science, history or mathematics will be played based on the request of the school management. The Mobile Library Day in the villages like Kolamanpeta, Halvi, Arlabanda and Badinahal, Rampuram ends with extra-curricular competitions in storytelling, painting and writing. For full story visit: *https://www.thenewsminute.com/article/books-wheels-how-van-promoting-literacy-andhras-kurnool-112065*

TECHNOLOGY NEWS

WhatsApp Security Vulnerabilities

WhatsApp is found to have disclosed as many as 12 vulnerabilities in 2019, significantly higher than the one or two security flaws it reported in the past few years, says a report by Jagmeet Singh available on *gadgets.ndtv.com* website. The latest discovery comes hot on the heels of the alleged hacking of Amazon founder and CEO Jeff Bezos' phone that was allegedly due to a WhatsApp loophole. The hacking raised eyebrows for the instant messaging app that was acquired by Facebook in February 2014. WhatsApp also last year faced a controversy in India when a vulnerability was used to allegedly enable snooping of human rights activists and journalists in the country through an Israeli spyware called Pegasus. According to the entries available on the US National Vulnerability Database (NVD), WhatsApp reported 12 vulnerabilities last year. A total of seven vulnerabilities of the total count were classed as "critical". The list of vulnerabilities disclosed by WhatsApp includes the CVE-2019-3568 bug that was marked critical and discovered within the VoIP (voice-over-Internet-protocol) stack of the app in May last year. It allowed hackers to remotely execute malicious code on smartphones. Similarly, another critical flaw that was tracked by CVE-2019-11933 is a part of the US database. It was described as a heap buffer overflow bug and impacted WhatsApp for Android prior to version 2.19.291. It

could enable attackers to execute malicious code or cause a denial of service. The database entries were first reported by *Financial Times*. Gadgets 360 was, however, able to independently verify their existence on the NVD site. For original report visit: *https://gadgets.ndtv.com/apps/news/ whatsapp-vulnerabilities-2019-critical-flaws-security- national-vulnerability-database-2171635*

PERSONALIA

Shri Pradip Kumar Bhattacharyya, a library professional of Central Library, University of Calcutta, Kolkata, has been awarded Ph D degree in Library and Information Science by University of Calcutta, for his thesis entitled 'Collection Development Policy of Law Libraries in Academic Institutions of West Bengal: A Study'. Dr. Bhattacharyya pursued his research work under the joint guidance of Dr. Arabinda Maiti, Professor, DLIS, University of Calcutta, and Dr. Biplab Chakrabarti, Professor, DLIS, University of Calcutta.

Shri Biswajit Saha has joined as Librarian in Kazi Nazrul University (KNU), Asansol, on January 17, 2020. Before joining KNU, Shri Saha was Sr. Assistant Librarian in Indian Institute of Management Calcutta. He is a life member of IASLIC.

OBITUARY

Prof. Ashok K Baradol, former Professor and Chairman, Department of Library and Information Science, Mangalore University, Mangalore, passed away on December 10, 2019**.** Born on December 1, 1949, at Managoli in Vijayapura district of Karnataka, Prof. Baradol obtained his M Lib Sc degree from Banaras Hindu University in 1973 and M A degree in Anthropology in 1976 from Karnataka University, Dharwad. He obtained two Ph D degrees in Anthropology in 1981 and Library and Information Science in 1989 respectively - both from Karnataka University. Prof. Baradol started his career as a Teaching Assistant in DLIS, Karnataka University, in 1972 and was appointed as Lecturer in the same department in 1976. He later served at the Gulbarga P G Centre of that university, which later became Gulbarga University, Gulbarga. He was appointed as Reader in the DLIS of Mangalore University in 1984 and become a Professor in the year 1994. He served the University in different capacities as Chairman of the DLIS; Dean, Faculty of Science and Technology (twice); Member of Senate; Member of Academic Council; and Member of Syndicate. After his retirement in 2011 he associated himself with Department of Library & Information Science, Karnataka State Akkamahadevi Women's University, Vijayapura, in 2013. An endowment lecture - Prof. A K Baradol Endowment Lecture in Library & Information Science - has been instituted in that department. IASLIC deeply mourns the sad demise of Prof. A K Baradol.

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