



# IASLIC NEWSLETTER

Indian Association for Special  
Libraries and Information Centres



MAY 2020

A Monthly Newsletter Published by IASLIC

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## Quote of the Month

*"What is more important in a library than anything else - than everything else - is the fact that it exists."*

— Archibald MacLeish,  
American poet and writer

## 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](mailto:chatterjeeamitabha@yahoo.co.in)

## IASLIC ACTIVITIES

### IASLIC 29th National Seminar

Venue: North Eastern Hill University, Shillong

Dates: October 27 – 29, 2020 (Tentative)

Theme: Library and Information Centres in Digital India:  
Present Scenario and Future Strategies \*

Themes for SIG Meetings:

S IG1: Skill Development for Modern Libraries\*

SIG 2: Research Data Management \*

(\*For sub-themes and facets see *IASLIC Newsletter* April 2020 issue or visit IASLIC website. The last date for submission of full papers is **July 31, 2020**)

## CONFERENCES / SEMINARS / WORKSHOPS

### National

#### INFLIBNET Training Programmes

INFLIBNET Centre, Gandhinagar, will organize the following workshops/training programmes during July - September 2020: SOUL 2.0 Installation and Operations (July 6 - 11); Ethical Issues and Use of Plagiarism Detection in Research (July 13 - 15); Advanced Training Programme on Bibliometrics and Research Output Analysis (July 20 - 25); E-Resources Access, Management and Usage Analysis (August 17 - 21); SOUL 2.0 Installation and Operations (August 31 - September 5); Research Data and Statistical Analysis Using R Programming (September 14 - 19). For more details visit: <https://hrd.inflibnet.ac.in/>

#### Conference on Academic Libraries

The Central Library of Malout Institute of Management and Information Technology, Malout, Punjab, is organizing a National Level Conference on the topic 'Current Trends in Academic Libraries' during September 7 - 8, 2020. For details visit: <https://mimitlibrary.ac.in/event/seminar-conferences/>

### International

#### Congress on Engineering and Information

The 10<sup>th</sup> International Congress on 'Engineering and Information' to be held in Fukuoka, Japan, has been rescheduled, in view of the situation created by COVID-19, to be held during October 6 - 8, 2020. For details visit: <http://www.iceai.org/>

#### Forum on Building New Age Libraries

The 10th Shanghai International Library Forum will be held during October 14 - 16, 2020 at Shanghai Library, Shanghai, China. The theme of the discussion is 'Building Libraries for a New

Age: Perseverance, Transformation and Disruption'. For details visit: <http://silf2020.library.sh.cn/en/>

### **Workshop on Information Management**

The 2020 International Workshop on Information Management (WSIM 2020) will be held in St. Petersburg, Russia, during October 16 - 18, 2020. For details visit: <http://wsim.org/>

### **Conference on Information Management**

The 14th International Conference on 'Education and Information Management' will be held in Istanbul during October 24 - 25, 2020. For details visit: <https://ifrds.com/conference/14th-iceim/>

### **Conference on Big Data**

An International Conference on 'Big Data' will be held during December 17 - 18, 2020 in Colombo, Sri Lanka. For details visit: <http://bigdataconference.globalacademicresearchinstitute.com/main/icbd>

### **ICDL 2019: Brief Report**

The International Conference on Digital Landscape (ICDL), organized at three years' interval by The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), New Delhi, is a premier international platform which facilitates exchange of knowledge on all aspects of digital libraries. The sixth edition of the event was held during November 6 - 8, 2019 with the theme 'Digital Transformation for an Agile Environment'. The conference mainly focussed on two facets of the digital landscape, viz., digital knowledge and library research, and digital transformation for sustainable development goals (SDGs). Mr. Sanjay Dhotre, Minister of State for Human Resource Development, Communications and Electronics & Information Technology, Government of India, inaugurated the conference, while Mr. Ajay Mathur, Director General, TERI, served as the conference chair.

The inaugural session of ICDL was held on November 6, 2019. At the outset, Mr. Nitin Desai, Chairman, TERI & Conference Patron, welcomed the invited speakers, delegates and guests. In his welcome address, Mr. Desai pointed out that the objective of ICDL was to create a consensus among policies, people, and technologies to enable effective knowledge management in synchronization with sustainable development goals set by the United Nations and stressed on collaboration among industry, academia, regulators, etc. for the same. In his special address, Mr. Amit Kumar, Sr. Director, TERI, stressed that the full potential of digitization could be achieved only through digital inclusion of the stakeholders, while Ms. Christine Mackenzie, President, IFLA, in her special address, pointed out that nothing was more important than providing access to the right information to the right people. In his keynote address, Mr. Nikhil Seth, Assistant Secretary General, United Nations, and Executive Director, UNITAR, talked about the potential and the limitations of digital learning. In his inaugural address, Mr. Dhole highlighted the success of Digital India initiative and emphasized on 'digital inclusion' which could truly blur the

division between the 'haves' and 'have-nots'. The vote of thanks was proposed by Dr. P K Bhattacharya, Fellow & Associate Director, TERI, and one of the Organizing Secretaries of the Conference.

The conference comprised of 27 conference break-away sessions, 5 plenary sessions, 19 thematic sessions and 3 workshops. There was a special session titled 'IFLA & Library Associations Meeting'. It was an interactive session, in which IFLA President Ms. Christine Mackenzie had a one-to-one interaction with the office-bearers of Indian professional library associations such as ILA, ASIALA, AMLA and IASLIC. The discussions centred round the main issues facing the library profession in India. Ms. Mackenzie offered her expert advice and assured IFLA'S support to professional activities and hoped that in coming years there would be increased interaction. The SLA Round Table Meeting was also held as an important event during ICDL 2019. Mr. Hal Kirkwood, President, SLA, USA, interacted with all the esteemed members of the SLA who gave a brief overview of their engagements in special libraries context. Prof. B D Kumbar, President, ILA; Dr. J N Satpathi, President, IASLIC; Dr. S S Dhaka, President, ASIALA, and Dr. Nabi Hasan, President-Elect 2019 of SLA Asian Chapter; were among the participants who attended IFLA & Library Associations Meeting and SLA Round Table Meeting.

The valedictory session of the conference was held on November 8, 2019. In his welcome address, Mr. Ajay Mathur, Director General, TERI, said ICDL 2019 was quite effective in creating a collaboration platform between creators and users of digital content. He suggested that digitization needed to be leveraged in knowledge management to enable sustainable development. Dr. Shantanu Ganguly, Fellow, TERI, and one of the Organizing Secretaries of the conference, presented ICDL 2019 recommendations highlighting the major thrust area as digital transformation and community. In his special address, Mr. Hal Kirkwood, Bodleian Business Librarian, Said Business School, University of Oxford & President, Special Library Association, emphasized on digital support system creation to ensure information access to all upto the grass-root level. In this context, he also mentioned about the importance of special libraries. Dr. Alka Suri, Director, DESIDOC, DRDO, in her special address, shared the objectives and success stories of DRDO. Mr. Sashi Sekhar Vempati, Chief Executive Officer, Prasar Bharati, Govt. of India, delivered the valedictory address. He mentioned how public broadcasting system like Prasar Bharati also acted like digital libraries and impacted social transformation. He opined that public broadcasting mandates perfectly overlapped with SDGs. Dr. P K Bhattacharya thanked the large number of institutions, organizations, and individuals for their support in the run-up to the ICDL 2019.

The total number of participants in the conference was 608 including 60 international speakers and delegates from 12 countries across the globe.

## MISCELLANEOUS

### Free Access Granted to OpenWHO

The World Health Organization (WHO) is granting free access to 'OpenWHO', a multilingual learning platform that will allow individuals to learn about pressing health issues such as the coronavirus, or COVID-19, says a post by Richard Elouahsoussi on [www.morocoworldnews.com](http://www.morocoworldnews.com) website. WHO announced free access to the platform on its official website and social media. The international organization mobilized OpenWHO to raise awareness about COVID-19 and other health issues and to improve the response to health emergencies by enabling the transmission of life-saving knowledge to frontline responders. OpenWHO provides fast, free, and credible knowledge regarding the outbreak and effective response mechanisms. OpenWHO offers various courses about the coronavirus, risk communication, Ebola, infection prevention and others. The platform is accessible on computers and mobile phones with off-line downloads and peer discussion boards available. The platform also presents live briefings about ongoing health emergencies. OpenWHO is available in various languages including English, French, and Arabic. Amid lockdowns and curfews in countries around the world, OpenWHO allows individuals to learn about the epidemic from home during quarantine. WHO works to communicate credible information and measures during the coronavirus pandemic, collaborating with countries around the world to combat fake news. One measure taken in pursuit of this goal is a WHO WhatsApp service providing information and advice about the COVID-19 pandemic. Health experts offer credible information to users, serving to protect mental health amid the coronavirus crisis. Since the outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic, WHO has supported countries by sharing information and healthy practices in addition to offering resources at national and international levels. The UN and the WHO launched the COVID-19 Global Humanitarian Response Plan on March 25 to combat the pandemic from spreading further. For original post visit: <https://www.morocoworldnews.com/2020/03/297981/who-grants-free-access-to-multilingual-health-platform-openwho/>

### E-Library to help Readers during Lockdown

Because of the country-wide COVID-19 lockdown, Tumakuru Smart City Limited (TSCL) has launched a 'digital library' for people who are in the habit of going to the library every day to read newspapers and books, says a report in *The Deccan Herald*. All one needs is a mobile phone or a computer with an Internet connection to access dozens of newspapers, journals and hundreds of books. This e-library has the following sections: books, periodicals, newspapers, journals, general knowledge books. The collections have literature, textbooks and children's books. The collections have been categorized on the basis of

author and language. Including mainstream and district papers, totally 33 Kannada newspapers can be accessed here apart from the day's editions of newspapers in the country's prominent languages. As many as 24 English, 13 Kannada and eight Hindi periodicals are available. The topics covered include science, technology, geography, agriculture and economy. As many as 238 scholarly research-oriented journals are available here. For original report visit: <https://www.deccanherald.com/state/tscl-launches-e-library-for-book-lovers-amid-coronavirus-lockdown-823315.html>

### Canadian Libraries' Response to COVID-19

With public libraries across Canada suddenly shuttered in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, library leaders and workers across the country are quickly adapting to still serve people, primarily online, according to a story by Cailynn Klingbeil available on [libraryjournal.com](http://libraryjournal.com) website. Canadian libraries began announcing building closures in mid-March. In Toronto, Ontario, Canada's largest city, recommendations from the city's medical officer of health led the City of Toronto to announce March 13 the closure of numerous facilities, including all 100 library branches. In a few cases, including at Vancouver Island Regional Library in British Columbia and Whitchurch-Stouffville Public Library in Ontario, layoff notices followed building closures. Vancouver Island Regional Library closed its 39 branches at the end of the day March 16, then announced a few days later the majority of staff had been laid off. "This is a stressful time for everyone involved and we are committed to working closely with our employees to ensure they are protected and secure," said the Vancouver Island Regional Library in a statement on March 18. Following the sudden building closures, libraries have quickly communicated to patrons about what to do with checked out materials, overdue items, and holds ready for pickup. At the same time, libraries have transitioned their staff to work remotely, increased communication to the public about available digital resources and how to access them from home, and directed people to credible information about COVID-19. At Richmond Hill Public Library in Ontario, where all four locations have been closed since March 14, temporary digital cards have been introduced to allow residents access to the library's online offerings. "What we are essentially trying to do is to provide a digital space that provides the comfort, recreation, and knowledge that we provided as a library," says Yunmi Hwang, the library's interim CEO. In other cities, services previously accessed in-person have been adjusted to happen by phone, such as walk-in counselling services at Regina Public Libraries in Saskatchewan. For full story visit: <https://www.libraryjournal.com/?detailStory=canadian-libraries-respond-to-covid-19&fbclid=IwAR2Ikj5tFFJiAutHjyE0tnvziXrmWwGXB5gaXC1OeNsR9L8MtxuOghpNAM>

### Mobile Library Changing Lives of Children

Eleven-year-old Hariom Yadav of Vadodra, who till recently was mortally frightened of staying alone at his home after his parents left for work, is a changed boy now, according to a story in *The Times of India*. The change in this boy from Nandesari came, thanks to a storyteller whose tales inspired the boy to see things differently. Teachers claim, Hariom's academic performances have also improved greatly. "I am not scared to be alone at home now. When I heard the story of how a mother saved two kids when a tiger tried to attack them, I got inspired and gradually my confidence grew," Hariom told *TOI*. Tracing the miracle storyteller, we reached the library and storytelling project, Vivek, initiated by Deepak Foundation. Here we found that Hariom is not alone. The project's storytellers are literally doing wonders with many such children studying in different schools at Nandesari and adjacent villages. "The storytelling sessions have helped the children grasp the subjects in a better way. They have even narrated the complexities of science and mathematics in a story form. It improves their creativity apart from academic performance," said Mahendra Mahida, principal of a primary school in Fazalpur village. Saroj Chauhan, mother of 12-year-old Diptika, a Class VII student at Kotana village, said that her daughter's reading and speaking abilities were very weak and she was also suffering from low confidence levels. "Since she began attending the story-telling sessions, Diptika's attitude has changed. She not only speaks fluently now, but even gives presentations in her class," the mother gushed with pride. Dr. Archana Joshi, Director of Deepak Foundation, said, "We have reached 1,200 children from nine villages and held nearly 1,100 story telling sessions in last one year. Poor children who have little access to good reading material are helped by our mobile library project and story-telling sessions. These help them improve holistically — from academic performance to confidence levels." Anjana Gohil, who conducts story-telling sessions in one of the schools, said that she was amazed to see the transformation among the listeners. "When I narrate to them stories and teach them various subjects, they listen very attentively. Many of them ask questions and even share with us their experiences," she said. For original report visit: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/vadodara/tell-tale-mobile-library-changing-underprivileged-students-lives/articleshowprint/73012599.cms>

### Libraries at TN Hospital Maternity Wards

Libraries will be set up in the maternity wards of government women and children's hospitals in all district headquarters of Tamil Nadu by Ramco Cements and The Hindu Group, as part of their corporate social responsibility activities, with the support of the Tamil Nadu Health and Family Welfare Department, according to a report in *The Hindu*. The first such library was inaugurated at the Government Kasturba Gandhi Hospital for Women and Children in Chennai recently, by Health Minister C Vijaya Baskar. The Minister said that reading books would help in the emotional well-being of antenatal women, who could

well be under stress during their pregnancy. He said that the government would provide full support to the setting up of similar libraries in all districts. Sridhar Aranala, Vice President, Sales and Distribution, The Hindu Group Publishing Pvt. Ltd, said that each hospital would be given books in around 120 titles, primarily dealing with nutrition, child welfare, women empowerment, emotional well-being and self-motivation. He said that the project would be implemented soon in all the districts with the support of Ramco Cements. The Health Minister said that the libraries would be a valuable addition to the number of initiatives already being implemented by the state government towards antenatal care. The library was inaugurated in the presence of S Raghunathan, Deputy General Manager, Ramco Cements. K L Malarvizhi, Director, Government Kasturba Gandhi Hospital for Women and Children, said that the hospital would strive to ensure that the library was put to good use. For full report visit: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/tamil-nadu/libraries-to-be-set-up-at-maternity-wards-of-tamil-nadu-district-government-hospitals/article31058041.ece>

### Audio Books Attracting Children

Melanie Musson in Belgrade, Montana, USA, does a lot of driving with her four girls. Juggling a broad age range, 1 to 9, she's forever searching for ways to keep them all entertained without relying entirely on video, according to an Associated Press story published in *The Times of India*. While she still adores paper and tablet books for her kids, she said: "I think when they hear without seeing, they have to make up visuals in their heads. That's so good." There were plenty of quality audiobooks, podcasts and music for the young, she noted, but wading through thousands of selections and jumping from platform to platform was a challenge since audio content had exploded over the last few years. Audiobooks and music for kids have been around awhile, but podcasts made for the 3-to-12 set are relatively new, driving more parents to choose one-stop platforms that include all formats. Demand is "primarily driven by parents who are podcast listeners or audiobook fans," said Frannie Ucciferri, Associate Managing Editor of the non-profit Common Sense Media. With a huge bump in podcasts overall, the value of audio content for kids hasn't been lost. Spotify recently launched a new ad-free app, Spotify Kids. It is packed with singalongs, soundtracks and stories for children as young as 3. A platform called Pinna is among the latest to launch ad-free with a variety of content and ages in mind. Bonnie Way of Vancouver, British Columbia, has five kids, ranging from 2 to 12, and like Musson, she pulls a lot of travel time with her brood. She reaches for audiobooks to keep them happy. Some of her kids are prone to motion sickness, and listening rather than reading helps, Way says. For full report visit: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/home/science/children-are-not-reading-books-but-listening-to-them/articleshowprint/73720209.cms>

### Septuagenarian's Reading Promotion Drive

When was the last time you picked up a book, inhaled the heady scent between its pages, and got lost in its content? Struggling a bit? In today's hyperactive world of social media, we have lost many habits that we had inculcated during our childhood, like playing outdoor games, taking part in dance or music classes, or losing ourselves in books and comics. The decline in book-reading habits, especially among the youth, is so evident that Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu recently expressed concern over it. But one woman in Kerala is trying to change that, according to a story available on [dailyhunt.in](https://m.dailyhunt.in) website. Seventy-three-year-old Umadevi Antharjanam has taken to the streets and walks four-five kilometres every day to promote reading in Kerala. One can find her carrying a bag stuffed with books, along with an umbrella. So far, the avid reader has visited at least 220 houses in the past 14 years in Budhannoor village near Chengannur in Kerala. Speaking to Matters India, Umadevi said, "I reach the library by three in the evening to collect the books. Mostly children and women take books from me to read. In case of students, they inform me in advance which book they want. I collect it from the library and deliver to them." She says, the library, which is located in the village, is stuffed with books on all subjects — fiction, non-fiction, and detective novels along with mythological books mostly read by the elderly. The avid reader also makes sure that the library members actually read the books that she brings to them. She asks children to tell her what they learnt from the books when she goes back to collect them after a couple of weeks. With people having known Umadevi for over a decade, they now call her to let her know about which books they or their family members want to read. She began doing rounds of the village, distributing books, and instilling book-reading habits after she was invited to work in the library by its president, Viswambharan Panicker. For original story visit: <https://m.dailyhunt.in/news/india/english/yourstory-epaper-yourstory/this+73+year+old+librarian+in+kerala+walks+4+km+every+day+to+promote+reading-newsid-169462458>

### Nainital's only PL remains shut

For years, the Nainital's only and the oldest public library, Durga Sah Municipal Public Library, had been the centre for literary debates, meetings and discussions. However, a financial dispute between the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and its contractor has led to the 87-year-old library remaining shut for over three years, says a *The Times of India* report. The library was set up by a resident of Nainital named Mohan Lal Sah in 1933 after he provided a grant of Rs 5000 and was named after his father Durga Sah. City historians stated that Nainital's only library was the hub for scholars and students. "We would go to the library every day. It had the best collection of books on almost every subject. Whether you were looking for books on Indian literature, western literature, philosophy or science, you could find anything here," said Ajay Singh Rawat, an environmentalist and former professor

of Kumaon University. In 2015, the ADB was given the task of renovating the library along with almost a dozen other heritage properties which included several historical churches in the town. "The project was given in 2015 and the work on the library started in June 2016 when the library was closed for public use. However, in January 2019, a financial dispute between the contractor and the ADB led to the abandonment of the project and it has remained in this condition ever since," said an official of the tourism department. For Rawat and many others who have spent their lives in the town, the condition of the library and the response from officials has been disconcerting. "We remember how all of us would gather near it to listen to news bulletin by the All India Radio (AIR) every morning and evening. People from across the town would come to read newspapers, magazines, literature and even gazette articles which couldn't be found in any other library," Rawat said, while also crediting the town's only library for giving the maximum number of forest officers from Nainital. When asked about the project's progress, the ADB officials said that the older contractor had already been removed and new tenders had been floated. "We aim to finish the project within six months," said H C Sharma, support engineer, ADB. For full report visit: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/dehradun/nainitals-british-era-library-remains-shut-for-over-three-years/articleshowprint/74154520.cms>

### App to help use Library Resources

The Department of Public Libraries of Karnataka is all set to launch a library app very soon, which can be used by the members of state libraries to access close to one lakh books, journals and textbooks, says a report by Subhas Urs in *The Deccan Herald*. This apart, efforts are on to set up a digital library in each ward of the city. Satish Kumar Hosamani, Director, Department of Public Libraries, said NCERT and state syllabus textbooks for Classes 1 to 12 would also be available on the yet-to-be-named app. "The app will be available on Google Play," Hosamani said. Tenders have been invited for the digital library to be set up in 100 wards of Bengaluru. The successful bidder will provide a cloud-based integrated digital library platform that not only includes books but multimedia materials that will aid learning, especially higher education and preparing for civil service exams. The department has set aside a budget of Rs 2 crore per zone to set up the digital ecosystem for virtual libraries and plans to make it accessible to members of the central libraries by the end of September this year. Public library members will be given a user ID and a password to access the digital material through two computers and two tabs made available in designated libraries. The service will also be accessible on personal computers through Digital Rights Management. "The reader can download and renew any book for a period 15 days and will not be able to edit or copy it. The book will automatically get deleted every 15 days," Hosamani said. For original report visit: <https://www.deccanherald.com/city/public-libraries-set-for-digital-leap-in-bengaluru-807513.html>

### Demand to enact Punjab Public Libraries Bill

Hanging fire for nearly nine years, the 'Punjab Public Library and Information Services Bill 2011' is being pushed for again, says a *The Times of India* report. Representatives of public libraries and NGOs got together at Barnala recently and urged the Punjab government to clear the Bill in the budget session of the state assembly. A total of 20 states, including neighbouring Haryana, have the Public Library Act. However, Punjab, where the readers of literature are decreasing, has no such law. Efforts have been made from time to time, but the Act could not be passed. Punjab lacks in public libraries and even central state library at Patiala is in severe need of upkeep. Some libraries have opened in the past in villages, many of these with support from philanthropists or NRIs, say academicians. "A committee was formed in 2011 to study and recommend measures for the Bill but nothing happened thereafter," said Prof. Jagtar Singh of Punjabi University Library and Information Science Department. He said the first Public Library Act was passed by erstwhile Madras state in 1948, and neighbouring Haryana passed it in 1989. "If the Bill is passed, it will pave the way for setting up public libraries at various places, which can become instrumental in people, especially the youth, starting to read again. We could thus have our youths turning towards constructive things and away from the menace of drugs, which Punjab is facing these days," he added. Shiromani Sahitkar awardee Om Parkash Gasso said that there was dire need to take people close to literature and culture. "If a Public Library Act is passed, this could make it happen. It is said that books are biggest friends of any person. Now is the time to make that come true," said Gasso. For original report visit: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/chandigarh/demand-revived-to-pass-public-libraries-bill/articleshowprint/74274857.cms2/>

### Ambedkar Library at Rajasthan Varsity

A constitutional park and a new library in the name of Bhimrao Amedkar will soon be additional features of Rajasthan University, says a report in *The Times of India*. While library construction has been completed, furnishings will begin soon and the university will invite tenders very soon. Vice-chancellor R K Kothari said, "We will finalise the tender within a few days. We are expecting the work to be completed in three months. It will be named after Bhimrao Ambedkar. Right in front of the library, a constitutional park will be created as per the orders of the governor. The Preamble of the Constitution, fundamental rights, directive principles of state policy and other provisions of the Constitution will be inscribed on a stone in the park. This will spread positive message amongst students." The new library will have a digitalised system to reduce dependency on manpower. Prof. S L Sharma, in-charge of library, said that there would be special chips in the books to keep track. "Students will have to punch their smart library cards to get a book issued. Library cards will have information of all books issued in the past as well. At the entry gates, sensors will be installed that will

start beeping if any book is taken out without being issued. This will help in preventing book theft as well," said Sharma. For full report visit: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/jaipur/new-library-and-constitutional-park-at-rajasthan-university/articleshowprint/74290885.cms2/>

### Maharashtra to have new PL Policy

The Maharashtra Government recently told the State Legislative Assembly that a new policy on libraries would be unveiled in the next legislature session, says a *The Times of India* report. Higher and Technical Education Minister Uday Samant informed the Lower House that the new policy would give a boost to the movement of rural libraries in Maharashtra. At present there were 12,149 recognised public libraries in the state, he said, adding that since 2012-13, permission had not been given for new libraries and upgradation of the existing libraries. "A committee was set up to formulate a policy for libraries regarding upgradation of the existing ones, provision of grants and recruitment of staff," he said. "The report has been given to the law and judiciary department and the new policy will be unveiled in the next session," the minister added. "In the last few years, permission was not given to open new government-aided libraries," he said, adding that "the new policy will help strengthen the library movement at village level. The local authorities will be given powers to set up libraries in the villages", Samant said. The committee has also surveyed the existing libraries. Members cutting across the party lines stressed the need to encourage the library movement and inculcate reading habits among people, especially in view of the rising use of social media. The legislators also called for the need to digitize important manuscripts available in libraries. For original report visit: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/home/education/news/new-policy-on-libraries-in-next-legislature-session-maha-govt/articleshowprint/74475645.cms>

### 'Uncensored' Library

A virtual library housing censored articles from around the world has been created within the hugely popular video game Minecraft by press freedom group Reporters Without Borders (RSF), says an AFP report published in *The Times of India*. Minecraft, with its signature pixelated graphics, enables players to build entire universes from Lego-like digital blocks, either alone or with others online. RSF said it had put works by banned, exiled or killed journalists in five countries — Egypt, Mexico, Saudi Arabia, Russia and Vietnam — on an open server, making it available for players to view despite local censorship laws. "In these countries, where websites, blogs and free press in general are strictly limited, Minecraft is still accessible by everyone," the group said in a press release. "These articles are now available again within Minecraft, hidden from government surveillance technology inside a computer game. The books can be read by everyone on the server, but their content cannot be changed," it said. In May last year, Minecraft said 176 million copies of the game have been

sold since its launch a decade ago. The project, announced recently to mark the World Day Against Cyber Censorship, is called the “Uncensored Library” and takes the form of a large neoclassical-style building in the game. RSF said the library was growing, with more texts being added both in English and their original languages. For full report visit: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/world/rest-of-world/now-a-virtual-library-to-store-censored-articles/articleshowprint/74651376.cms>

### Digital Library Service in Udupi

The Digital Library Service, a first-of-its-kind initiative in the country, was inaugurated by Deputy Commissioner G Jagadheesha at Udupi in Karnataka, recently, says a post on [dailyhunt.in](http://dailyhunt.in) website. Department of Public Libraries Director Dr. Satishkumar S Hosamani, addressing the gathering at Z P Hall, said 79,000 digital portals, 5,000 periodicals in English and Kannada languages, video clippings, text books of NCERT and CBSE from class 1 to class 12 were now accessible online free of charge. The digital service will be available in 272 libraries, including 176 libraries in taluks, across the state. The next phase of digitalization will cover slum libraries, children's community centers, travelling libraries and rural libraries. He said there were 7,000 libraries for 6.5 crore people in Karnataka. Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Rajasthan with a combined population of over 27 crore, have 78, 38 and 68 libraries respectively, he said and added that the libraries of the Karnataka government were a model to other states. Shri Jagadheesha said digitalisation of library would help in dissemination of knowledge and information at a faster pace. The deputy commissioner said that the readers could access books through the new facility. The books and other journals would be available in the digital format, he added. Shri Jagadeesha said digitalisation would enhance the usage of libraries. MLA Raghupathi Bhat, who inaugurated a three-day workshop organised for staff of libraries in Udupi, Dakshina Kannada and Uttara Kannada districts, said the workshop would help the staff in improving the quality of service. The MLA said the digitalization was an attempt to get children to develop a passion for reading and diverting them away from cell phones. A new library would be built in Ajjarkadu and will be soon opened, he added. For full report visit: <https://m.dailyhunt.in/news/india/english/deccan+herald-epaper-deccan/digital+library+service+inaugurated+in+udupi-newsid-162615672>

### E-Libraries in MP Colleges Non-Functional

While Directorate of Higher Education of MP has been going hammer and tongs to digitize government colleges, e-libraries at most colleges still seem to be virtually non-functional, says a *The Times of India* report. Despite the fact that set-up of e-library is counted as one of the parameters of evaluation by National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC), not all the government colleges of Indore district have such libraries. Moreover, colleges that have one either don't have sufficient number of subscription or students are not made

aware about its presence. Govt. Maharani Laxmi Bai Girls' PG College (New GDC College) has set-up 15 computers for e-libraries. However, they have not subscribed to any site for e-books. The college had taken subscriptions for journals, which cost Rs. 5000 per year and had a set of 25 books that were downloaded free of cost from Internet by librarian, principal of New GDC College Dr. Kusumlata Nigwal said. The college has set up for e-library and even has subscription of journals and Nigwal affirms that it can be accessed by undergraduate students. Govt. Holkar Science College and Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Government Arts and Commerce College (GACC) have e-libraries and the access is given to all students including undergraduate students. While Holkar has around 25 computers for e-library, GACC has around 10-15 computers that give access to e-content subscribed by the institute. The e-library is not getting used by students as most of the undergraduate and postgraduate students are unaware of it. Govt. Mata Jija Bai Girls' P G College (Old GDC) still hasn't got set up for e-library yet, but they have already applied for it. For full report visit: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/indore/only-paper-trails-e-libraries-at-colleges-virtually-defunct/articleshowprint/74345986.cms>

## TECHNOLOGY NEWS

### New Feature of WhatsApp

WhatsApp is all set to implement the much-needed feature that would allow more than four people to join a video call, says a post by Ankita Chakravarti on [www.indiatoday.in](http://www.indiatoday.in) website. Owing to the growing popularity of video calling apps in the time of coronavirus, WhatsApp too is planning to jump into the arena and give a close fight to the popular apps. Currently, WhatsApp allows only four people at a time to participate in a group video call. As per WABetaInfo, WhatsApp will finally extend the limit of participants in a group call. The report also stated that the new group call limit was not known yet as the feature was still under development. WhatsApp wants to ensure that it is bug-free before it officially rolls out the group call feature for all users. In order to get the new feature, WhatsApp would want its users to update the latest version of the app. It will not be available in the older versions of the messaging app. With the entire world under lockdown due to COVID-19, the video-calling apps are in great demand. This is what made the Silicon Valley startup Zoom, the most sought after video calling platform in a just matter of a month. However, due to innumerable security vulnerabilities found in the app, several tech companies and governments across the world had banned their employees from using the app. The Indian government too raised issues over Zoom's flawed security policies and called the app “unsafe”. “Many organizations have allowed their staff to work from home to stop the spread of coronavirus disease. Online communication platforms such as Zoom, Microsoft Teams and Teams for Education, Slack, Cisco WebEx, etc. are being used for remote meetings and webinars. Insecure usage of the platform may allow cyber criminals to access sensitive information such as meeting details and conversations,” the

advisory issued by the Home Ministry read. However, WhatsApp too is no saint when it comes to security breaches. As much as twelve security vulnerabilities were discovered in the app a few months ago. The Facebook-owned messaging app has assured the users that it has fixed the flaws in the latest update of the app. With people giving Zoom a miss now, will WhatsApp video calling feature carve a place out for itself? That is something only time can tell once the feature is officially rolled out. For now, people also have Microsoft Teams, Skype, Hangouts and Apple's FaceTime to use if they are not comfortable in sharing information with Zoom. For full report visit: <https://www.indiatoday.in/technology/news/story/whatsapp-to-soon-allow-more-than-4-people-in-group-call-may-take-aim-at-zoom-other-video-call-apps-1667855-2020-04-17>

## 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. SURESH (Lata). Leadership and Management in Libraries. 2020. Mankin Press, New Delhi. ₹. 795. ISBN: 9789388342179.
2. TRIPATHI (Aditya) et al, *Eds.* Recent Trends in Libraries in Networked Environment: Challenges and Opportunities for Librarianship in 21st Century. 2019. ₹. 1000. ISBN: 9789387698024.

(The book acquaints the readers with basic concerns and prominent issues in the field of library and information science in the networked environment)

### Foreign

1. HANSSON (Joacim). Educating Librarians in the Contemporary University: An Essay on iSchools and Emancipatory Resilience in Library and Information Science. 2019. Library Juice Press, Sacramento, CA. \$25.57. ISBN: 9781634000581

(This book analyzes the development of the LIS field in the

contemporary university, in the light of present critical social theory, focussing on such aspects as academic acceleration, organizational accretion and the rise of an "entrepreneurial spirit," all of which have both epistemological and organizational consequences)

2. JONES (Shannon D) and MURPHY (Beverly), *Ed.* Diversity and Inclusion in Libraries: A Call to Action and Strategies for Success. 2019. Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, Lanham, MD. \$78/£52.95. ISBN: 9781538114384

(The book covers three areas, viz., Why Diversity and Inclusion Matter, Equipping the Library Staff, and Voices from the Field)

3. SANDBERG (Jane), *Ed.* Ethical Questions in Name Authority Control. 2019. Library Juice Press Sacramento, CA. \$35. ISBN: 9781634000543

(As it explores ethical questions in a variety of settings, the book aims to deepen readers' understanding of names, identities, and library catalogues)

4. WONG (Melissa Autumn). Instructional Design for LIS Professionals: A Guide for Teaching Librarians and Information Science Professionals. 2019. Libraries Unlimited, Exeter, Devon. \$85. ISBN: 9781440867132

(It is a concise, practical guide to effectively teaching current and future librarians in graduate programs, professional settings, and beyond).

## PERSONALIA

**Shri Sayan Palit**, has been awarded Ph D degree in Library and Information Science by Rabindra Bharati University for his thesis on 'Research Outcome in Basic Sciences in Fundamental Research Institutes in West Bengal: A Bibliometric Analysis'. Dr. Palit carried out his research work under the supervision of Dr. Sudip Ranjan Hatua, Head, DLIS, Rabindra Bharati University, Kolkata. Dr. Palit is now serving as Assistant Librarian, Army Institute of Management, Kolkata. He is a life member of IASLIC.

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