



IASLIC NEWSLETTER

Indian Association for Special
Libraries and Information Centres



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Quote of the Month

'Libraries store the energy that fuels the imagination. They open up windows to the world and inspire us to explore and achieve, and contribute to improving our quality of life.'

— Sidney Sheldon (1917-2007)

American novelist and writer
for stage, movie and TV

Appeal to Readers

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

Email: chatterjeeamitabha@yahoo.co.in

CONFERENCES / SEMINARS / WORKSHOPS

National

Personality Development Course

LIS Academy, Bangaluru, is organizing a 'Communication Skills and Personality Development Course for Beginners in LIS Profession' for 25 days starting from August 10, 2020. To register for demo classes visit: <http://bit.ly/lisaspokenenglish>

Seminar on On-line Teaching-Learning

An online National Seminar on 'Online-Teaching-Learning: Issues and Challengers' is being organized by Women Librarians Association of Assam, a division of Assam Library Association, in association with LIS Link, the academic social network for LIS professionals in India, during September 3 – 4, 2020. The sub-themes of the seminar include library marketing and reference management system. For details visit: <https://bit.ly/2OAMjr2>

INFLIBNET Webinars

INFLIBNET Centre, Gandhinagar, is organizing free webinars on the following topics during October – December, 2020: 'Roles and Privileges of University Coordinators in Sodhganga' (October 13); 'Reference Management Tool: Zotero' (October 28); 'Reference Management Tool: EndNote' (November 10); 'Almetrics for Research Evaluation' (November 13); 'Research Integrity and Plagiarism Issues for Research Scholars' (November 17); 'IntStat: Usage Statistics for e-Resources' (November 20); 'N-LIST: e-Resource to Colleges' (November 24); 'Overview of Online Copy-Cataloguing System (OCS 2.0) for SOUL 2.0 Users' (December 1); 'INFLIBNET's Online Union Catalogue of Indian Universities (IndCat)' (December 4). For details visit: <https://hrd.inflibnet.ac.in/>

International

Webinar on Knowledge Management

A Webinar on Knowledge Management for Information Professionals: Are We Prepared? is being organized by Bangladesh Library Association on August 7 at 3 pm Bangladesh time. The speaker will be Prof. Md. Roknuzzaman, Dept. of Information Science & Library Management, University of Dhaka, while moderator will be Prof. Md. Shariful Islam, Dept. of Information Science & Library Management, University of Rajshahi. For registration, visit: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc4x1YDEQDBM52YXzuGqD3Y4_qQaeI_Ji2E4Jk7CgsxQOzBvg/viewform

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

COVID Database

COVID-19 is an infectious disease caused by newly identified coronavirus. On December 31, 2019, WHO was first informed of a cluster of cases of pneumonia of unknown cause detected in

Wuhan City, Hubei Province of China. Now COVID-19 has become a serious threat to the mankind. To combat the disease, scientists and researchers in different countries have been working hard to find out possible vaccines and therapies. As a result, huge amount of research data on the COVID-19 in the form of 'Research Articles', 'Case Studies', 'Clinical Trials' and 'Reports' are coming out daily through different communication channels as well as other sources. It is not possible for the scientists to access all the channels and sources simultaneously to keep themselves abreast of the developments in the field. The need of the hour is to provide information of published literature to all concerned. Keeping this in mind, a 'Database of Global Publications and Clinical Trials on COVID-19' has been prepared by *Shri Dhiman Mondal*, Librarian, Ananda Mohan College, Kolkata, and *Dr. Nitai Ray Choudhury*, Librarian, City College, Kolkata, and Editor, ILSA. They have compiled bibliographic details of 11,134 journal articles published during 2019 to May 2020 as reflected in the PubMed database. Each entry in the database provides title of the paper, name/s of author/s, name of the source journal, year of publication and DOI. The database can be accessed at [http://www.iaslic1955.org.in/fckeditor/userfiles/file/Research%20Articles%20on%20COVID-19-%20A%20snapshot%20as%20on%2031_05_2020%20\(1\).pdf](http://www.iaslic1955.org.in/fckeditor/userfiles/file/Research%20Articles%20on%20COVID-19-%20A%20snapshot%20as%20on%2031_05_2020%20(1).pdf). DOI available in the concerned entry can be pasted on the web browser or the title of the article may be copied and pasted on the web browser to access the full text. The compilers will update the database on regular basis and communicate the same to all concerned. For communication and updates, email to dhiman.bon@gmail.com or raychoudhurn@gmail.com.

Drone delivers Books

Children in Virginia, USA, will have a whole lot of fun reading library books this summer, especially as these will be directly delivered to their front porches by a flying drone, according to a story by Fabienne Lang available on amp-interestingengineering.com website. Google's drone delivery service, Wing, has started dropping off library books to book-lovers in Christianburg, Virginia, as per the *Washington Post*. It's a great way to keep kids occupied during the summer. Delivery drones have been gathering momentum around the world, and it was about time that books started being included in the list of things being delivered. It isn't always easy convincing kids to get their noses stuck in a good book, as many school librarians and parents can attest to. One such school librarian, Kelly Passek, a Montgomery County Public School's middle-school librarian, who recommended the drone delivery system in Christianburg, hopes that if kids see a drone drop off a book they'll be more excited about reading. "I think kids are going to be just thrilled to learn that they are going to be the first in the world to receive a library book by drone," Passek said to the *Post*. Google was of the same mindset as Passek, and agreed to add books to their list of deliverable goods. Passek helped get books to children during lockdown through school bus

deliveries after schools were forced to close their doors. In some cases, libraries are the only way for kids to get their hands on books as they don't have e-readers, which aren't always affordable, and buying books online isn't always the cheapest option either. So for many, reading library books is the only way of getting access to books. Google's drone delivery service, which partnered up with FedEx and Walgreens, has been delivering other goods to Christianburg as of October last year. Wing has also partnered up with some restaurants to deliver meals, and now books will be added to that list. Google has been testing Wing since 2014, and it may see an increase in deliveries starting this summer. For original story visit: <https://amp-interestingengineering-com.cdn.ampproject.org/c/s/amp-interestingengineering-com/googles-drone-delivery-service-drops-library-books-to-kids>

HC Order on Copyright of Literary Artworks

Bombay High Court has held that in the case of literary artworks, copyright extends not only to the expression of the core idea but also to its theme, plot and the storyline, says a report by Kanchan Chaudhuri in *Hindustan Times*. The order pronounced recently came on a plea filed by Urdu writer Shamoil Ahmad Khan who claimed that Falguni Shah and two others had infringed his copyright in one of his short stories, Singardan (Dressing Table), and produced a web series under the same title. It is being aired on an online platform, Ullu, and is also available on YouTube, Khan said. Khan claimed that producers of the web series had not only copied the title but also the entire plot, narrative and characters of his story. Producers of the web series opposed his plea for an injunction claiming that save and except the central idea of Singardaan, there was no other similarity between Khan's work and the web series. They claimed that the central idea — a man taking away a dressing table from a brothel to his home during riots and its use leading to changes in the behaviour of the womenfolk at home — by itself was not entitled to any copyright protection. They submitted that the depiction of the central idea in the web series, including the pathos, texture, treatment, purport and presentation, was materially different from Khan's story and therefore there was no question of infringement. The argument, however, failed to impress upon justice S C Gupte. The judge said "it's true that copyright does not extend to ideas, or schemes, or systems, or methods and it is confined to their expression, and if the expression is not copied the copyright is not infringed". Justice Gupte clarified that in "a literary artwork a germ of an idea is developed into a theme and then into a plot and then the final story with the help of characters and settings. It is the combination of all these elements which give a substance to the work", he said. "If one goes on stripping the final work of these various elements, one may finally come to the bare idea or abstraction which no longer enjoys copyright protection," he added. For full report visit: <https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/copyright-extends-to-theme-plot-and-storyline-of-literary-works-bombay-high-court/story-nacCJnUag2BLmg68XMf4IN.html>

Book returned 40 years late

A library in the Dutch town of Groesbeek celebrated the return of a long-lost book recently when one of the patrons brought back a novel that was nearly 40 years overdue, news agency DPA reported. According to the report published in *The Indian Express*, the library, located in the Dutch town of Groesbeek near the German border, posted a picture of the book and its checkout card on Twitter. The stamp on the card reads “05 March 1981” making the book 39 years, 13 weeks and 5 days overdue. “The reader must have had a hard time letting go,” the Groesbeek community library said, also commenting that sometimes as a librarian, “you do not believe your own eyes.” The book that he held onto for so long was a 1965 novel called “Terug naar Oegstgeest” (or “Back to Oegstgeest”) by Dutch author Jan Wolkers. Dutch news agency ANP calculated that the man's overdue fees should have amounted to nearly €1,531 (\$1,726). But the man was in luck, the Groesbeek community library sets a limit for its overdue fees, meaning the man was able to pay just a €5 fine. For original report visit: <https://indianexpress.com/article/world/dutch-man-returns-library-book-nearly-40-years-overdue-6452025/>

Library helps secure Scholarships

An initiative taken by Lakshandev Singh Public Library at Lakshanpur in Jamira panchayat of Bhojpur district in Bihar has helped not only 33 students qualify for the National Means-cum-Merit Scholarship (NMMS) exam, but also lent a helping hand to the children from the underprivileged sections of the society free of cost, says a *The Times of India* report. The middle school students are getting ₹ 12,000 as yearly scholarship for 4 years up to class XII. Recently altogether 20 students guided by the library passed NMMS exam and qualified for ₹ 12,000 yearly scholarship for 4 years. Founded and funded by social worker Bhim Singh Bhavesh in 2012, the library imparts education to the poor children with the help of some educated persons of the village. “I read an article in a newspaper about the NMMS exam for class VIII government school students. Those who qualify are entitled to ₹ 12,000 yearly scholarship for 4 years. I talked to the principals of government schools at Lakshanpur, Jamira and Bartoli as well as the library members and decided to teach and encourage the extremely poor students of the neighbouring villages to appear at the NMMS exam. A test was conducted in July 2018 in which 170 students from Lakshanpur, Jamira, Barauli, Kunjantola and Alipur appeared,” said Bhavesh, himself a Ph D and LLB degree holder. The library tasted its first success in April 2019 when 13 students qualified the NMMS exam. Among them were daily wage Chandan's son Uttam, auto driver Sanjay's son Raja and mason Krishna's son Vishnu. Encouraged by the success, the library started conducting regular tests for NMMS exam on every alternate Saturday. “It gives me immense pleasure that my humble initiative helped the poor students qualify for ₹ 48,000 scholarship. We now want to help more students from humble background, Bhavesh said. For

original report visit: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/patna/this-bhojpur-library-educates-poor-kids-for-scholarship-exam/articleshowprint/76497962.cms>

e-Public Library in Karnataka

The Karnataka Government has launched a digital library recently, which will provide access to books available at 272 state public libraries, except those with copyrights, says a *The Times of India* report. Launching e-Sarvajnika Granthalaya, the state's primary and secondary education S Suresh Kumar said that it was a matter of pride that the country's IT capital was also taking the lead in digital education by digitizing books on such a large scale. “Citizens can read their favourite books and magazines from the comfort of their homes. We are sure this will improve reading habit of youngsters and others. This application aims to increase readership among citizens,” the minister said. The project to digitize over 1 lakh titles was taken up by the Department of Public Libraries to modernize libraries with technology and digital infrastructure to bridge the gap in access to information. The library will have e-books and journals, covering more than 10 subjects like arts and humanities, science and technology, classics and literature, in seven languages. The project is considered to be a first in the country, where a state-level initiative has been taken up to digitize and provide access to learning in such a large scale. This project covers city central libraries (26), district central libraries (30) and taluk libraries (216) across Karnataka. Calling it a cultural shift, Kumar said 95,000 English books were available on the platform. “It is time authors and publishers welcomed this change,” he said, assuring that digitization won't affect publishers. For original report visit: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/bengaluru/11-books-from-272-libraries-at-readers-fingertips/articleshowprint/74325890.cms>

e-Libraries for Delhi lawyers suggested

The committee formed by Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal to recommend ways to utilize the ₹ 50 crore advocates' welfare fund, has suggested providing ₹ 10 lakh life insurance cover for practicing lawyers and ₹ 5 lakh group health insurance coverage to advocates, their spouses and two dependent children up to the age of 25 years. The other suggestions include creche facilities at the six district courts and setting up e-libraries for lawyers to upgrade their knowledge, says a *The Times of India* report. Around 40,115 advocates are likely to be treated as beneficiaries. Officials said that the committee had submitted its report to Kejriwal recently and guidelines on the utilization of the welfare fund were likely to be rolled out shortly. The government would take a final decision on the committee's recommendations soon, an official said. The 13-member panel, headed by Supreme Court Bar Association president Rakesh Kumar Khanna, was formed by Kejriwal on November 29, 2019. The other committee members included representatives of bar associations of Delhi

High Court and district courts, Delhi Government's standing council in the high court and senior advocates. In its report, the committee stated that e-library facilities were a must for practicing advocates in the current times. The panel has recommended that each district court be provided 10 computers, fully loaded with e-journals along with their web editions, besides various crucial law journals like SCC Online, All India Reporter, Manupatra, Delhi Law Times, etc, along with heavy duty printers. "The lawyers should be permitted to use the e-library free of cost," the report recommended, adding that the cost of printing of case laws and legal material, however, should be worked out on actual basis. For original report visit: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/delhi/use-advocate-welfare-fund-for-insurance-e-libraries/articleshowprint/72498055.cms>

Library Network in Uttarakhand

Uttarakhand Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat recently inaugurated "e-Granthalaya" (e-library) connecting libraries of state government universities and colleges, says an ANI report published in *The Times of India*. As per an official release of the Chief Minister's Office (CMO), five universities and 104 colleges in the state have been connected with e-library during the launch. "If a book is not available in any particular university or college, then by joining e-library, it will be easier for the students to study all the available books on the library portal. As many as 35 lakh books are available to the students through the e-library and over 2.5 lakh students will be associated with it," reads the release. Chief Minister Rawat instructed the officers that question papers of the last 10 years of competitive examinations should also be made available through e-library so that it could help them in their preparation for competitive exams. For full report visit: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/home/education/news/5-universities-104-colleges-connected-through-e-granthalaya-in-uttarakhand/articleshowprint/76728809.cms>

Mohali Public Libraries facing closure

After the Mohali Municipal Corporation's attempt to purchase 1,100 books worth ₹ 12 lakh for six libraries was thwarted for bypassing the committee concerned, these reference centres in phases IV, VI, 3B1, IX, and XI, besides Sector 70, are on the verge of closure, says a *The Times of India* report. These libraries have a limited number of books and regular members but, to those senior citizens, reading is the only recreation. They had even offered to manage and operate these libraries but the MC didn't agree. Municipal Commissioner Kamal Kumar Garg said: "We will not let these libraries die. We will design a policy to make these functional." In January, the MC had retrenched library managers with three-month pay out of six months of pending wages. This is because the MC failed to make any policy for managing the libraries. Some of these centres don't even have furniture, drinking water points, or signs. Students living in Mohali use the public libraries of Chandigarh, in

sectors 17 and 34. There's an all out credit war between the Congress and the Akali-BJP councillors for these libraries. Former MP Prem Singh Chandumajra accused cabinet minister Balbir Singh Sidhu of inaugurating four libraries that the MP had inaugurated already. On June 21, there was high drama at the Phase-IV community library when the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) councillors laid siege to it after minister Balbir Singh Sidhu demanded to share its books for opening libraries across the city. Last year, the MC had also turned down the offer of 200 books by Punjabi University, Patiala. Questions are being raised on the decision. The university had asked only for a security deposit. It was ready to not only take care of the books but also rotate those in six libraries every week or month as required. Former deputy mayor Manjit Singh Sethi said: "Why was this decision turned down when it could have saved a lot of public money?" For original report visit: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/chandigarh/mohalis-public-libraries-on-the-verge-of-closure/articleshowprint/76360683.cms>

Environment Library in Trichy

The Public Works Department (PWD) of Tamil Nadu is all set to launch a first-of-its-kind environment library in Trichy soon, says a *The Times of India* report. The State Government had allocated ₹ 5 lakh in the first phase for the library. A seminar and exhibition hall will also be raised. Government funds for the project came along with ecological restoration of eight water bodies in the state apart from conducting descriptive study, assessment of pollution and preparation of detailed project report in August last year. The library is being raised on a portion of the existing staff training institute building of PWD in Trichy. Saying that a seminar would be conducted once a week by inviting experts in environment studies, a senior PWD official said the library would be helpful for officials to know various aspects of a project and environmental implications. While PWD had started asking for environmental clearance for most projects it sanctioned of late, the official said that there had been very less awareness among people about this in the area. Further, there were also very few avenues to refer to the legal aspects related to environmental clearance. College students too could make use of the facility, said the official. For original report visit: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/trichy/pwd-environment-library-to-come-up-in-trichy-by-march/articleshowprint/74346550.cms>

Library set up by Senior Citizens

A few years ago, retired Air Force officer, Jayant Oak (75) of Pune and 12 of his friends decided to touch base with their hobby of reading books. They were disappointed by the lack of libraries in the vicinity and decided to change it. An inconspicuous white building inside Ashtavinayak Garden, which used to be an underutilized community space, in the by-lanes of Tingrenagar, gave the group an idea. The senior citizens took it upon themselves to turn this space, reserved for a public amenity by the Pune Municipal Corporation, into a

library, says a story published in *The Times of India*. With over 450 members now, 'Aapla Granthalaya', has a variety of books, reaching across genres and age groups. "We approached local corporator Anil Tingre for help. The PMC owned this building and it was mostly kept shut. So, he gave us permission and ₹ 1 lakh to start a library. We bought books and other infrastructure. We went around other libraries, to understand the intricacies of running one. In the first month, we had 60 registrations," Oak's wife Jaya, who volunteers at the library, said. Currently, the library has nearly 8,000 books and 450-plus members. The monthly membership fee is ₹ 50, and a book and a magazine can be issued for eight days. If books are not returned on time, the person is fined ₹10 per month. "That hardly happens as we all know them personally and one phone call is generally enough," Oak said. The library remains open from 5pm to 8pm on all days except Wednesday and is run on no-profit-no-loss basis. "We have many people who come here to sit around, talk to like-minded people, and spend three hours of their day in a peaceful atmosphere," Oak added. Jaya hoped senior citizens across the city would take up such activities. "As we grow old, we stop doing things we love. I hope senior citizens realise that need not be the case," she said. For original story visit: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/pune/senior-citizens-set-up-a-library-in-tingrenagar-for-the-love-of-reading/articleshowprint/71998375.cms>

Camel Libraries help Children

In a remote part of Ethiopia, one charity has come up with a novel way of protecting children off school because of the coronavirus pandemic from forced labour — camels bearing books, according to a Thomson Reuters story published in *The Tribune*. Ethiopia closed its schools in mid-March and sent more than 26 million children home, where experts say they are at greater risk from forced labour and child marriage. But in the country's eastern Somali region, more than 20 camels have been deployed to carry wooden boxes filled with storybooks to help thousands of children in remote villages to continue their education. "The scale of this crisis is huge, but we are determined to meet the needs of the most vulnerable and ensure no child is worse off at the end of this pandemic," said Ekin Ogutogullari, country director for Save the Children, the charity behind the scheme. "We are ensuring that children still continue to read and learn, despite the fact that they are out of school," he told the Thomson Reuters Foundation. Community volunteers travel around villages with the camels, carrying boxes of books and a tent to set up a temporary library that stays in each village for two and a half days before moving on. The charity has adapted its mobile libraries to the new circumstances — before, children would gather around and read together, whereas now they take the books home and return them the following week. Last month, it surveyed 30 Ethiopian children about their concerns over the coronavirus, finding they were worried about the economic pressure on their families and about rises in early marriage and child

labour. One child from the Somali region, where people are already grappling with droughts, floods, disease outbreaks and invasions of desert locusts, said many minors were having to work as herders or collect firewood while out of school. Almost 16 million children aged between 5 and 17 are engaged in child labour in Ethiopia, according to a national survey published in 2018. Joan Nyanyuki, executive director of the Ethiopia-based African Child Policy Forum, a research institution, said the role of schools was to protect as well as educate children. "But now with schools closed, children are shut off completely from different benefits of the educational system," she said. "(They) are more prone to violence, abuse, and even at risk of missing meals, which could result in malnutrition and hunger." Ogutogullari said the charity was trying to find creative ways to help children continue learning. "We also know the longer they are away from school, the higher the number of children that might not be coming back to school," he said. For original story visit: <https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/schools/ethiopia-mobile-camel-libraries-keep-children-from-forced-labour-94981>

Travelling Library with Feminist Literature

What is violation to you? Do you identify as having been violated at least once in your life? And how do you deal with it? "There are women who have not heard their names in many years. They are somebody's mother, grandmother, aunt or daughter and that has become their identity. That is a violation that shakes me," — Aqui Thami witnesses disturbing instances of patriarchy and women's harassment everyday in Dharavi, Mumbai, according to a story by Vishnupriya Viswanathan published in *The Hindu*. Aqui is an artist who works with the women and children of Dharavi through her projects Dharavi Art Room and Bombay Underground by creating experiences with installations, performances and print. She is also the singular force behind the Sister Library, which houses writings only by women. Conceptualised in 2013, Aqui started travelling with the library in 2018 and was part of the Kochi Biennale 2018. A few months ago, the library travelled to Chennai and was put up at Tara Books in Thiruvanniyur and The Book Office in Adyar. Born out of a longing to create a space where people can immerse themselves in women's voices, the Sister Library comes from Aqui's own personal journey as much as the women she works with. "There is an abundance of literature written by men that is widely read and for a long time I did not realise that there were very few women writers I was exposed to. I consciously started reading female authors and that opened a new world for me. I wanted to begin a conversation with the community on questioning and relooking at cultural norms. That is what I do through the Sister Library." The hall and verandah at Tara Books presented a smorgasbord of colourful zines, novels and picture books all written and illustrated by women. Talking about the freedom zines — booklets produced by individuals or small groups — , Aqui says, "There is no editor, nobody telling you what should go in it, what format it

should follow or how big or small it should be. For the men in Dharavi, an evening chat over a cigarette or tea is routine. The zines bring out the women's voices.” Bold type and vibrant colours scream out titles like *Ladies Only - Stories for All* and *Aesthetically Yours* from her collection on display. The range covers various subjects like menstruation, food, culture and love, all of them narrating personal stories that people across the country can resonate with. For full story visit: <https://www.thehindu.com/books/mumbais-sister-library-travels-across-india-with-feminist-literature/article29691022.ece>

TECHNOLOGY NEWS

Spotify removes number limit

Music streaming service Spotify has removed its 10,000-song library limit, says a post on *dailyhunt.in* website. Users can now save as many songs as they want to their library with no limits on the size of the library. The new system only applies to the ability to save songs to Spotify library. Individual playlists are still limited to 10,000 items and users can only download up to 10,000 songs on each of their five different devices for offline listening, reports *The Verge*. Spotify has more than 50 million songs available to customers to stream at any time. Until now, there was a hard limit of 10,000 songs that users could save to their own "Your Music" collections on Spotify for easy access. After reaching the limit, if a user likes a song or an album, "Epic collection my friend. There is no more room in Your Library. To save more, you will need to remove some songs or albums" message was presented to the users. Some customers may still run into the "library full" notification, as the update has not rolled out to every account. For years users have been requesting the removal of the limit, but Spotify had before now shown resistance to the idea. For full post visit: <https://m.dailyhunt.in/news/india/english/news+karnataka-epaper-newskarn/spotify+removes+10+000+song+library+limit-newsid-n187260076>

Arogya Setu resumes service

India's first COVID tracing app, Arogya Setu has resumed its services after rectification of technical error, according to a story by Ankita Chakravarti available on *www.indiatoday.in* website. Some users had recently reported that they were unable to log in due to some technical error. The developers were quick to rectify the error and announced that the services of the app had gone back to being normal. "Setu is back!!" The Twitter handle of Arogya Setu posted after the glitch was rectified. Informing the users about the glitch, Arogya Setu had earlier tweeted from their official handle, "Some users have reported login errors on #ArogyaSetu. Our technical teams are on the job. We will be back soon. Sorry for the inconvenience." In another tweet, Arogya Setu ensured that all user data were safe. "The tech teams ensured that Setu is back to doing what it does the best - Keeping You Safe!! And yes, all user data is safe!!," the twitter

handle of the app tweeted. Incidentally, the snag in the Arogya Setu app appeared a day after the Indian government banned 59 Chinese apps including TikTok, UC Browser and others due to some security and privacy reasons. Coming back to COVID-tracing apps, Google and Apple have updated their phones and software with an inbuilt exposure notification tool that can be used to track Covid-19 patients, and their contacts. However, to use the tool one will have to install an authorized app by the government that can send Exposure Notifications. The government of India's own COVID tracing app, Arogya Setu is incompatible with the Google-Apple API for contact tracing and therefore the feature available in the smartphones cannot be used now. There are a couple of differences in Google-Apple's API and the Setu App. The feature by Google and Apple allows contact tracing apps to use Bluetooth to make the contact tracing more effective whereas the Arogya Setu requires information such as the location of users and their contacts for contact tracing to work effectively. For full story visit: <https://www.indiatoday.in/technology/news/story/aarogya-setu-resumes-services-after-users-report-login-issues-1695754-2020-07-01#:~:text=59%20Chinese%20apps-,India's%20first%20COVID%20tracing%20app%2C%20Aarogya%20Setu%20resumes%20its%20services,gone%20back%20to%20being%20normal.>

Instagram's Video Feature

Instagram has launched its own short video feature called Reels in India, says a report in *The Indian Express*. The new feature lets users create videos on the app, add creative filters and music and share it beyond their regular followers, according to Vishal Shah, Vice-President of Product, Facebook. Reels is similar to TikTok and allows users to create 15 seconds video with popular songs, trends, or challenges. The new feature lets users shoot video, add filters and music from Instagram's catalogue and share it beyond the platform. Users will be able to share Reels in Explore, and also on Feed with followers. There will be no monetisation avenues for now. India is the fourth country, after Brazil, Germany, and France, where this new Instagram video format is being tested. For Reels, Instagram has partnered with prominent music labels to provide a vast collection of songs to users to create interesting Reels and share with everyone. For full report visit: <https://indianexpress.com/article/technology/social/instagram-reels-india-tiktok-ban-6495531/lite/>

New WhatsApp Feature

WhatsApp has been reportedly testing a lot of new features, according to a story by Ankita Chakravarti available on *www.indiatoday.in* website. Everyday we get to hear about some or the other feature that the company is developing. It is now being reported that WhatsApp is testing animated stickers for Android, iOS and might launch the feature soon. The company has always worked towards enhancing the user experience but this new feature would be fun to use. As per a

report by WABetaInfo, WhatsApp is rolling out the feature to view animated stickers for some users, presumably the beta users. Once implemented, users will be able to send animated stickers to their contacts. The report says that some of the users who had received the feature can view, save, star, send, and forward the animated stickers. WhatsApp hasn't rolled out the feature for everyone. So if you haven't received it yet, don't fret, the messaging app will roll out the feature officially. For full story visit: <https://www.indiatoday.in/technology/news/story/whatsapp-s-upcoming-feature-will-provide-a-fun-chatting-experience-1692497-2020-06-25#:~:text=The%20company%20has%20always%20worked,users%20presumably%20the%20beta%20users.>

Google Maps to show Traffic Signals

Google Maps is undoubtedly one of the most popular apps in Google's portfolio, and the company often releases updates to make the service even better. Since its 15th birthday earlier this year in February, the app has added a ton of new features like Live View AR navigation, integrated menu scanning, a new real-time location sharing UI, YouTube Music integration, and much more. Now, according to a recent report from *Droid-Life*, Google has started testing a new feature that will show traffic lights in Google Maps on Android, says a story available on www.xda-developers.com website. The report cites screenshots taken by a reader who lives in West Des Moines, Iowa, which show traffic lights in several intersections around the city. The traffic lights are visible both while using the traditional map view and while navigating. However, they do appear slightly bigger and more noticeable while navigating. The feature is expected to give users a heads up when they are about to reach a traffic light and even help them plan their route ahead of time to avoid any unnecessary delay. As of now, the feature is limited to just showing the traffic lights on the map and Google hasn't included any additional functionality for users. However, that might change by the time the feature is released to more users. The feature currently appears to be in its early stages of development as it is only available for a small number of users in certain regions on version 10.44.3 of the app. It is also worth noting that Apple Maps has had a similar feature since last year which offers additional functionality like using Siri to alert users when they are about to reach a traffic light. For original story visit: <https://www.xda-developers.com/google-maps-starts-showing-traffic-lights-on-android/amp/>

Jio's Video-Conferencing App

Zoom became an essential app for millions of employees around the globe during the Covid-19 pandemic. The unique video-conferencing app which reached its peak during the lockdown, was under the scanner, and also landed in controversy for various reasons. With voices of anti-China sentiment growing stronger due to the tension on the border followed by 59 Chinese apps getting banned in India, Reliance launched JioMeet to rival not only Zoom but apps like Google

Meet, Skype, Microsoft Teams, and others, according to a story in *The Indian Express*. You can have up to 100 participants in a single meeting. Unlike Zoom, JioMeet is free to use and you can hold meetings for a duration of up to 24 hours. The best video quality you can get is 720p. You need to have Android version 5.0 and above, and also a minimum of 2 GB of RAM to run the app. If you are an iPhone user, you need iOS version 9 or above and minimum of 1 GB RAM. As of now, there are no paid plans for the JioMeet app. However, the Indian video-conferencing is yet to launch for Windows or MacOS. For full story visit: <https://indianexpress.com/article/technology/tech-news-technology/how-to-use-jio-meet-5-tips-and-tricks-for-better-video-meetings-6489911/#:~:text=Tips%20for%20using%20JioMeet&text=For%20Android%20users%2C%20they%20can,microphone%20at%20the%20same%20time.&text=Both%2C%20the%20host%20and%20the,option%20of%20muting%20the%20mic>

New Feature of Microsoft Teams

Microsoft Teams has just confirmed a launch date for the missing feature that could allow it to beat Zoom, says a story by cyber security journalist Kate O'Flaherty available on www.forbes.com website. Microsoft Teams is growing in popularity as an increasing number of security conscious users look for an alternative to Zoom. But Zoom has remained the first choice from a feature perspective until now. That's because Microsoft Teams has confirmed in a blog that its ultimate Zoom-beating feature — the ability to view up to 49 participants on a call — will launch in preview by the end of June and to everyone this Fall. Currently, you can only view up to nine meeting participants at once on a Teams call, while you can see 49 in the gallery view on Zoom. Seeing nine people is fine if your meeting is small or if it is simply a broadcast event. However, with a huge number of people using video conferencing apps for exercise classes, school classes and large business meetings, this number needed to be bigger for Teams to even try to beat Zoom. The new Teams feature will be here just in time for the start of the new school year in September in USA. So this latest new Microsoft Teams feature really is a big deal for those looking to conduct school lessons or other big meetings over video conferencing. For full story visit: <https://www.forbes.com/sites/kateoflahertyuk/2020/06/16/microsoft-confirms-launch-date-for-ultimate-new-zoom-beating-feature/#1b127dcc3f60>

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]

Foreign

- GNOLI (Claudio). Introduction to Knowledge Organization. 2020. Facet Publishing, London. £ 55. ISBN: 9781783304653

(Provides a complete introduction to the rapidly expanding field of knowledge organization, presenting historical precedents and theoretical foundations in a discursive, intelligible form, covering the philosophical, linguistic and technical aspects)

2. MCLEISH (Simon), *Ed.* Resource Discovery for the Twenty-First Century Library: Case studies and perspectives on the role of IT in user engagement and empowerment. 2020. Facet Publishing, London. £ 64.95. ISBN: 9781783301386

(Contains a range of contributions analysing the ways in which libraries are tackling the challenges facing them in resource discovery in the (post)-Google era)

OBITUARY

Dr. H K Kaul passes away

Dr. Hari Krishen Kaul, former Chief Librarian of India International Centre (IIC), New Delhi, and founder Director of DELNET, passed away on July 1, 2020. He was 79. He was suffering from COVID-19 and was admitted in Primus Hospital in the capital city.

Dr. Kaul was born on December 21, 1941 in Srinagar, Kashmir. He obtained BLIS degree from Rajasthan University, MLIS degree from University of Mumbai and Ph D degree from University of Pune. He started his career as Yoga Research Assistant in Laxmibai National University of Physical Education, Gwalior, in 1964 and shifted to India International Centre Library in 1967 where he served for over 40 years and retired in 2007 as Chief Librarian. He was appointed as the first Director of DELNET in 1992, which was then located at IIC Library. Due to his efforts, DELNET later moved to a new

building in the campus of Jawaharlal Nehru University. Around 7000 libraries are now members of DELNET, including 22 libraries located abroad. DELNET gives access to over 2.5 crore records of books, articles, journals, etc., gives access to online full text content, offers library management software at subsidized rate and inter-library loan services to scholars living in any part of the world. He developed DELNET as the first major self-supporting library network in Asia. He also initiated National Convention on Library and Information Networking (NACLIN) in 1988, which is held annually.

Dr. Kaul served as a member of the Indian National Commission for UNESCO, Working Group on Libraries of the National Knowledge Commission, and member of several national committees including Board of Management, National Library, Kolkata; Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation, Kolkata; Delhi Library Board; etc. He also served as chairman of several committees of the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, Ministry of Culture and DRDO. He was also the chairman of the National Mission on Libraries Working Group on National Virtual Library, Modernization and Networking of Libraries.

Dr. Kaul co-founded The Poetry Society (India) in 1984 and served as its first Secretary General and later as its President. The society organizes annual lectures, seminars, poetry workshops and competitions and publishes a journal to promote poetry. He has authored/edited over 60 books and contributed a large number of papers in the field of library networking, history, bibliographical studies, poetry and publishing. He was decorated with ten awards/fellowships/honours by different organizations.

Dr. Kaul was a life member of IASLIC. His demise is a great loss for library and information profession. IASLIC deeply mourns his death.

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