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IASLIC NEWSLETTER

For Members only



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Prof. K P Majumder

Prof. P K Panigrahi

Quote of the Month

*“It is good to read the nice book,
but the extract of the great
literature should be followed in
life.”*

- Mahatma Gandhi

Appeal to Readers

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

Email: chatterjeeamitabha@yahoo.co.in

IASLIC ACTIVITIES

IASLIC 31st ALL INDIA CONFERENCE 2017

Theme: Public Libraries in India in 21st Century

Special Interest Group Discussions

SIG01: Social Science Information

Information Literacy Competency Development

SIG02 Computer Applications in LIS

Digital Indian Initiatives and Libraries

Organized by

Department of Library & Information Science

Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi 221005

Organizing Secretary

Dr. Aditya Tripathi

Associate Professor & Head

Department of Library & Information Science

Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi 221005

Date: November 7 - 9, 2017

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Study Circle Lecture on Information Services in Corporate Libraries

The 331st IASLIC Study Circle meeting was held on August, 31, 2017 in the Seminar Room of the Association. The speakers were Shri Pradip Kumar Jana and Shri Amitava Bhattacharyya of Information Resource Centre, Tata Consultancy Services Limited, who jointly delivered a lecture on 'Information services in Corporate Libraries, with special reference to TCS Library'. The meeting was chaired by Dr. Sushanta Bannerjee, Director, American Library, Kolkata. Shri Jana gave an overview of the various information services, strength, nature of work, etc. of Information Resource Centres (IRC) of Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) located in different parts of the world. He also explained how TCS Library works and provides services to different users in the organization. Shri Jana also introduced some important databases and software packages which help in providing corporate information services. Shri Bhattacharyya explained the nature of such software/portals/information channels and their modes of operation. He also mentioned that there were some information security (iSecurity) guidelines to be followed by IRC staff, e.g. information relating to any business secret of the company could not be shared in an open lecture. He also mentioned that the IRC was a hybrid library and explained how the importance of digital resources increased over time. The lecture was followed by queries from some members of the audience, which were duly answered by the speakers. Dr. Sushanta Bannerjee, in his address, opined that the role of library professionals in corporate libraries was more challenging and competitive than that in academic libraries. Dr. Sudip Ranjan Hatua, Convener, Study Circle Division, thanked the audience for their cooperation in making it possible to commence the study circle lecture early and said that this would help the students who come from long distances to participate in the study circle meetings. A good number of library and information professionals and a large number of LIS students attended the meeting. The meeting concluded with the vote of thanks proposed by Dr. Gurudas Ghosh, Member, Study Circle Division of IASLIC.

CONFERENCES / SEMINARS / WORKSHOPS

National

Workshop on Web of Science

The University Library of Periyar University, Salem, Tamil Nadu, is organizing a Workshop on 'Web of Science, J-Gate Plus and EBESCO Databases' on October 11, 2017. For details visit: <http://www.periyaruniversity.ac.in/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/Library-Workshop-11-10.2017.pdf>

Workshop on Copyright

The libraries of Narsee Monjee Institute of Management Studies (deemed university), Mumbai, and Jitendra Chauhan College of Law, Mumbai, are going to organize a

National Workshop on 'Confronting Copyright: for Librarians and Academicians' on October 14, 2017. For details visit: <http://iprworkshop.blogspot.in/>

Conference on Digital Libraries

The DLIS, University of Mysore, is organizing a National Conference on 'Digital Libraries, Library Automation and Open Courseware: Issues and Best Practices' during November 10 - 11, 2017 under the UGC-SAP DRS II programme. For details visit: <http://www.uni-mysore.ac.in/library-and-information-science>

INFLIBNET Programmes

INFLIBNET Centre, Gandhinagar, will organize the following programmes during October - December 2017: (1) A National Workshop on 'Research Impact Evaluation and Altmetrics (October 23 - 25, 2017); (2) An advance level training programme on 'Bibliometrics and Research Output Analysis' (November 20 - 24, 2017); and (3) National Workshop on 'Organizing Research with Reference Management Tools' (December 27 - 29, 2017). For details visit: <http://www.inflibnet.ac.in/>

Meeting on Information Retrieval Evaluation

The 9th meeting of the Forum for Information Retrieval Evaluation 2017 (FIRE 2017) will be held in Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, during December 8 - 10, 2017. For details visit: <http://fire.irs.res.in/fire/2017/home>

Workshop on Smart Libraries

The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), New Delhi, is organizing a Workshop on 'Digital Marketing and Role of Social Media to Build Smart Libraries 2.0' during November 8 - 10, 2017 ". For details visit: <http://www.teriin.org/events/smart-library>

Conference on Academic Libraries

Indian Institute of Science Education and Research Bhopal (IISER Bhopal) is organizing a National Conference on 'Role of Academic Libraries for Excellence in Research' (ROALER 2018) during January 18 - 20, 2018. For details visit: <http://roaler.iiserb.ac.in/index.php>

IndKoha 2017: Brief Report

An International Conference on Koha (IndKoha 2017) was organized by Bengal Library Association, in collaboration with Heritage Institute of Technology, Kolkata (HITK), during August 26 - 27, 2017 at HITK. The Conference was sponsored by Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation and Indian Council of Social Science Research. Prof. Saikat Maitra, Vice-Chancellor, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad University of Technology, Kolkata, inaugurated the conference. At the outset, Shri Goutam Goswami, General Secretary, Bengal Library Association, welcomed the guests and participants. Dr. Arun Kumar Chakraborty, Director General, Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation, Kolkata, was the Chief Guest, while Shri Probir Roy, Director, Kalyan Bharti Trust and Dr. Prabir Kumar Das, Registrar, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad University of Technology, were the Guests of Honour. Prof. B B Paira, Advisor, Higher Education, KBT, described the activities of Kalyan Bharti Trust and HITK. The Conference Director,

Shri Arup Raychaudhury, former Deputy Librarian, ISI, Kolkata, introduced the theme of the conference. Dr. Binod Bihari Das, Library Advisor, HITK, highlighted the activities and services of HITK Library and other nine libraries within the Heritage Campus. Dr. Bimal Chattopadhyay, President, BLA, also spoke on the occasion. The inaugural function ended with the vote of thanks proposed by Prof. K P Majumder. The Technical Session started with the keynote address on 'A Journey from ILS to LSP: Is Koha Ready?' delivered by Prof. Parthasarathi Mukhopadhyay, Associate Professor, DLIS, University of Kalyani. This was followed by invited lectures by different experts on Koha, panel discussions, commercial presentations and paper presentations. About 260 participants and resource persons from different parts of the country as well as from Bangladesh and Sri Lanka shared their views on Koha.

It emerged from the presentations and discussions that (1) contributions from this Sub-continent to Koha community are very low for different reasons; (2) Kerala Government has developed an effective infrastructure to support and promote the use of open source software including Koha and they are also providing financial support for customization/value addition of Koha; (3) most of the libraries are facing problems from version-dependant customization of Koha; and (4) the libraries are also facing problems in selecting Koha service provider at local level who can provide appropriate implementation, migration and customization guidelines through Annual Maintenance Contract. Based on the discussions and observations of different experts, the IndKoha 2017 resolved that all stake holders (DLIS in different universities, library associations in the different states and others organizations and experts) (1) should take appropriate steps to educate and train the library professionals about how to contribute effectively to the Koha development so that such contributions become a part of core Koha development activities; (2) may impress upon appropriate authorities to develop necessary infrastructure (technical, logistics and financial) for support and promotion of open source software in general and Koha in particular; (3) should help to develop the "best practice guide" in different areas such as customization, bug reporting etc.; and (4) should develop model AMC agreement for different types of libraries.

International

Pre-Conference Seminar on KO

A Pre-conference Seminar on 'Innovations in Knowledge Organization' (IKO 2017) is being organized by International Society for Knowledge Organization, Singapore Chapter, on October 23, 2017, at the venue of International Conference on Knowledge Organization, Library and Information Management, at IIT, Chennai. For details visit: <http://srr125.org>

Conference on Digital Preservation

The National Digital Stewardship Alliance (NDSA) of USA will hold its annual conference on 'Digital Preservation 2017: Preservation is Political' in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, during October 25 - 26, 2017. For details visit: <http://ndsa.org/meetings/>

Conference on Dublin Core

Dublin Core Metadata Initiative (DCMI) is organizing an International Conference on 'Dublin Core Metadata Applications' in Washington, D.C. during October 26 - 29, 2017. For details visit: <http://dcevents.dublincore.Org/index.php/IntConf/dc-2017/schedConf/>

Conference on Knowledge Discovery

The 9th International Joint Conference on 'Knowledge Discovery, Knowledge Engineering and Knowledge Management' will be held at Funchal, Madeira, Portugal, during November 1 - 3, 2017. For details visit: <http://www.ic3k.org/>

Conference on Knowledge Management

The 9th International Conference on 'Knowledge Management and Information Sharing' will be held, as a part of IC3K, at Funchal, Madeira, Portugal, during November 1 - 3, 2017. For details visit: <http://www.kmis.ic3k.org/>

Library Exhibition

The 19th Library Comprehensive Exhibition / Public Facilities Composite Fair / Education Scientific Information Open Summit 2017 will be held at Yokohama, Japan, during November 7 - 9, 2017. For details visit: <https://www.libraryfair.jp/schedule/5514>

Workshop on Information Infrastructure

The 5th Innovation in Information Infrastructures (III) Workshop will be held in Rome, Italy, during November 7-9, 2017. For details visit: <http://impresaemangement.luiss.it/news/2017/05/24/5th-innovation-information-infrastructures-iii-workshop>

Conference on Future of Information Science

The 6th International Conference on 'Future of Information Science' (INFuture) is being organized by the Department of Information and Communication Sciences, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Zagreb, Zagreb, Croatia, during November 8 - 10, 2017. For details visit: <http://infoz.ffzg.hr/INFuture/>

LI Research Group Workshop

The 9th Asia Library and Information Research Group (ALIRG) Workshop will be held at Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Khon Kaen University, Thailand, during November 16 - 17, 2017. For details visit: <https://alirgworkshop2017.wixsite.com/alirg2017>

Conference on Digital Document

The 20th International Conference on 'Digital Document' (CiDE.20) will be held during November 23 - 25, 2017 at Villeurbanne, France. For details visit: <http://www.eblida.>

[org/freeze-url/cide.20.html](http://freeze-url/cide.20.html)

Conference on Research Applications

The Research Applications, Information and Library Studies (RAILS) conference is being hosted by the School of IT and Mathematical Sciences, University of South Australia, during November 28 - 30, 2017. For details visit: <https://railsconference.com/rails-2017/>

Conference on Semantic Web

Semantic Web in Libraries Conference (SWIB17) will be held at Hamburg, Germany, during December 4 - 6, 2017. For details visit: <http://www.eblida.org/freeze-url/swib17.html>

Conference on Library Collaboration

The 50th Anniversary Conference of Joint University Libraries Advisory Committee of Hong Kong will be held at University of Hong Kong during December 5 - 6, 2017. The theme of the conference is 'Library Collaboration at Dizzying Heights: Innovation and Impact'.

Conference on Intellectual Capital

The 14th International Conference on 'Intellectual Capital, Knowledge Management & Organisational Learning' (ICICKM) is being organized by Hong Kong Polytechnic University during December 7 - 8, 2017. For details visit: <http://www.academic-conferences.org/conferences/icickm/>

Conference on Big Data

The 2017 IEEE International Conference on Big Data (Big Data 2017) will be held in Boston, USA, during December 11 - 14, 2017. For details visit: <http://cci.drexel.edu/bigdata/bigdata2017/>

Virtual Conference on Almetrics

National Information Standards Organization (NISO) of USA is organizing a Virtual Conference on 'Advancing Almetrics: Best Practices and Emerging Ideas' on December 13, 2017. For details visit: http://www.niso.org/news/events/2017/2017_virtconf/dec13_virtconf/

Workshop on Information Management Tools

The Central Library of All India Shri Shivaji Memorial Society's College of Engineering, Pune, is organizing an International Workshop on 'Information Management Tools for Academic and Research Libraries' during December 18 - 22, 2017. For details visit: <http://aissmscoelibraryworkshop2017.weebly.com/>

Conference on Big Data

An International Conference on 'Big Data and Internet of Things' (BDIOT2017) will be held during December 20-22, 2017 in London. For details visit: <http://www.bdiot.org/>

Symposium on Data Science and Big Data

International Symposium on 'Data Science and Big Data' (ISDB-ACM-WIR 2018) is being organized by the Department of Computer Science & Engineering, Sri

Aurobindo Institute of Technology, Indore, and Association for Computing Machinery (ACM) Udaipur Chapter, during January 5 - 6, 2018. For details visit: <http://acmwsait.hosting.acm.org/wir-2017>.

Conference on Knowledge Resources

Department of Library, DRBCCC Hindu College, Pattabiram, Chennai, in collaboration with Academic Library Association, Tamil Nadu, is organizing an International Conference on 'Knowledge Resources and Technologies in Higher Education' (KRTHE 2018) during February 16 - 17, 2018. For details visit: <http://krthe2018.weebly.com>

Symposium on Trends in Library Services

An International Symposium on 'Emerging Trends and Technologies in Libraries and Information Services' (ETTLIS -2018) will be held at Bennett University, Greater Noida, UP, during February 21 - 23, 2018. For details visit: http://www.ieee.org/conferences_events/conferences/conferencedetails/index.html?Conf_ID=41730

Asia-Pacific Library and Information Conference

Asia-Pacific Library and Information Conference 2018, the joint conference of Australian Library and Information Association (ALIA), Library and Information of New Zealand Aotearoa (LIANZA) and Library Association of Singapore (LAS), will be held at Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre, Queensland, Australia, during July 30 - August 2, 2018. For details visit: <https://www.alia.org.au/events/13403/asia-pacific-library-and-information-conference-2018>

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

INB Diamond Jubilee

Shri Keshari Nath Tripathi, Honourable Governor of West Bengal, inaugurated the Diamond Jubilee celebration of Indian National Bibliography at a function held at Bhasha Bhawan Auditorium of the National Library on September 18, 2017. Shri Pankaj Rag, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Culture, and Director, National Mission on Libraries, presided over the function. Shri R K Mittal, Secretary General, Afro-Asian Book Council, was the Guest of Honour. Prof. Uma Kanjilal, DLIS, IGNOU, was the special invitee. Earlier, Dr. K K Kochukoshy, General Editor, Indian National Bibliography, and Librarian, Central Reference Library, welcomed the dignitaries. In his inaugural speech, Shri Tripathi pointed out the need for a current Indian National Bibliography for the preservation of the country's cultural heritage. Shri Pankaj Rag, in his address, observed that at present INB covered books in only 14 languages, and stressed that it should cover books in all other languages or at least the languages enumerated in the 8th schedule of the Indian Constitution. Shri R K Mittal, who is also the Director of D K Agencies, spoke on his company's long association with INB and said that his company benefited by cooperating with INB.

Prof. Uma Kanjilal talked about the fruitful association of CRL and NVLI team in placing INB online. The Governor launched the INB online for the public on the occasion. Two Gujarati bibliographies, viz., Balasashitya Granthasuchi and Malayala Balasahitya Suchi were also released by him. Shri P K Upadyaya, Assistant Editor of INB, proposed the vote of thanks. The inaugural function was followed by a cultural programme by Kalamandalam, Kolkata.

Library helping to digitize personal artifacts

Old photographs, tapes, cassettes and discs can now be saved from the technology graveyard thanks to the Memory Lab at the La Jolla-Riford Library in San Diego, California, where patrons can use a host of gadgets to turn these treasures to digital formats, says a report published in *San Diego Union Tribune*. "What do libraries do? We provide access to information and access to things that are hard to get, and it appealed to us to think we could help members of the public preserve their important personal information that is in danger of being lost," said La Jolla-Riford branch manager Shaun Briley. "These are the most important objects and artifacts for a lot of people. It's their history." Launched on April 1, 2017, the Memory Lab became an instant hit with patrons, who booked up all of the available April appointments within 24 hours of its opening. Inside the lab, a volunteer can help you convert VHS or Beta tapes, audio cassettes, floppy discs, photos, photo negatives or slides to a digital format. You can take your newly digitized materials home on a thumb drive or the data can be stored on the cloud. For more details visit: <http://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/entertainment/things-to-do/sd-me-test-library-20170506-story.html>

Digital Literacy Training for Weavers

The Digital Cluster Development Programme of Digital Empowerment Foundation, in collaboration with Microsoft India and Chaitanya Bharti, has initiated a project called Re-Weaver to digitally empower the weavers of Pochampally in Telangana. DEF is the technical training partner and aims to provide trainings in digital literacy, digital designing and digital marketing to the weavers in the region. Under this project, the first batch of 25 weavers from Pochampally was trained in basic digital literacy from July 14 to July 21, 2017. In the course of the next few months, more such trainings will follow for various groups of weavers, says a report published in a *Digital Empowerment Foundation Newsletter*.

Library helps check anti-social activities

A village library has stolen people's attention by bringing the main village path under surveillance camera, says a *The Times of India* report. The Oruma Library and Cultural Centre at Kundoor, a village in Nannambra Grama Panchayath in Malappuram district of Kerala, has installed six closed-circuit television (CCTV) cameras along the one kilometer stretch of the main road passing through the village. The local people, traders and NRIs supported the drive. The organizers claimed that it was the first such attempt by any village library in the State. They said that no other village library had ventured out to monitor what was

happening in the village. The cameras had been set up with the permission of the police. Library officials said that confidentiality of the camera footage would be maintained. The visuals would be seen on a monitor kept inside the library. They said that the visuals would be given to others only with the permission of the police. They said that the cameras were set up in the light of increasing incidence of thefts and antisocial activities. For details visit: <http://www.Thehindu.com/news/national/kerala/library-to-keep-an-eye-on-the-street/article18283226.ece>

4000-Seat Library in Rajasthan Village

Bhadariya, a non-descript desert village of Rajasthan, with a population of about 15,000, boasts of one of the oldest libraries in India. This 4,000-seat library has over nine lakh books, which would be digitized soon, says a report published in *The Deccan Herald*. Situated in Sankra tehsil of Jaisalmer, the library was built by Saint Harvansh Singh Nirmal, reverentially called Bhadariya Maharaj or Nirmal Maharaj. In the library, which is at the basement of a temple complex some 16 feet below the ground level, the books are neatly arranged in 562 glass shelves. Above the library is the temple complex of Devi Bhadariya Mata. Every year, thousands of tourists - mostly scholars and researchers - visit the library from across the world. Jagadamba Seva Committee, the trust that manages the library, spends annually Rs 6 to Rs 7 lakh on its maintenance. The books have been added over 50 years after Nirmal Maharaj arrived at Bhadariya village in 1959 from Punjab. By February 15, 2010 when he passed away at the age of 80, he had left a rich heritage and a huge collection of books. With its unique architecture, the library is divided into five parts - two 356-foot-long galleries and two 220-foot-long galleries and 18 rooms. For more details visit: <http://www.deccanherald.com/content/595970/library-offer-rare-books-online.html>

Recognition for Child Librarian

The readers of this newsletter may remember Muskan, a Class-5 student living in a slum in Bhopal, who has been encouraging other children to study and realise the importance of education by running a library from her make-shift house. She also received an award for her efforts. This newsletter published her story in July 2016 issue, while a news item on her award was published in October 2016 issue. The 11-year-old girl's efforts have now been recognized by Madhya Pradesh chief minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, who has offered her a financial assistance of Rs 2 lakh to set up a proper library. The chief minister met the girl recently at his residence and handed her a cheque of Rs 2 lakh. He promised Muskan to build a one-room library for her, an official of the public relations department said. "The situation would soon change if girls like Muskan are extended support by the whole society. The government will extend all possible support", Shri Chouhan said while handing over the cheque to the girl. Muskan started the library with merely 25 books which, she says, has "now grown and accommodates around 1,000 books." For details visit: <http://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/bhopal-class-5-student-runs-a-library-for-kids-at-a-slum-cm-gives-rs-2-lakh-to-help/story-80G2OgwgO1GuIL7hpWgSIN.html>

Scavenger Builds Library

For 20 years, Columbian rubbish-collector Jose Alberto Gutierrez has been holding to the books he finds while on his rounds in Bogota. After two decades, his collection totals more than 20,000 books many of them thrown away by the people of the Colombian capital, now given a new life in the huge library Jose has amassed, says a report published in *The Telegraph* (UK). The books take up several rooms in the Gutierrez family home, from where they are lent out to neighbours through a free community library, which Jose runs with the help of his wife, Luz Mery Gutierrez, and their three children. The first book he ever brought home was a discarded copy of Tolstoy's *Anna Karenina*. It was soon joined by *The Little Prince*, *Sophie's World*, and various novels by Gabriel Garcia Marquez. Although poverty meant Jose had to leave school at a young age, his mother would send him to bed with a book every night which gave him a life-long love of reading. Now, through his swelling community library, called La Fuerza de las Palabras (Spanish for 'The Strength of Words'), he aims to pass on that love to other children from low-income families. The Gutierrez's used to run children's reading sessions but, as more and more books come to the library more through donations these days than through Jose's scavenging, they have run out of space to do that at home. Instead, they are now concentrating on travelling around the country, delivering books to poor and remote districts where there is no public library. For more details visit: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/books/news/dustbin-man-built-huge-public-library-books-people-had-thrown/>

Subway Library in New York

Subway commuters can now read e-books courtesy of a new programme called Subway Library, sponsored by the New York, Brooklyn and Queens libraries and enabled by wi-fi throughout the New York City subway transit system, according to a post on *New York Public Library blog*. The commuters will have free access to hundreds of e-books, excerpts, and short stories - all ready to read on the train. As part of the Subway Library celebration, there will be specially wrapped "Library Train," with the interior designed to look like NYPL's Rose Main Reading Room! To access the Subway Library, MTA customers in underground subway stations can connect to the free TransitWirelessWiFi through their network settings and click on the *SubwayLibrary.com* prompt to start reading from a large selection of titles for all ages. For details visit: <https://www.nypl.org/blog/2017/06/08/subwaylibrary>

Platform for buying used books

Amazon has launched a dedicated section for used books on its platform in India as it looks to make inroads into the country's semi-urban and rural markets, says a *Business Standard* report. Just as the company pioneered the concept of online selling by shipping books in the late 1990s, it is now deploying the same model to crack the price-sensitive Indian market with affordable, used textbooks and novels. Amazon India says it has 100,000 titles of used books on its platform. "With this launch, reading enthusiasts across the country can now buy used books with the same ease and convenience as buying new books," said Noor Patel,

director of category management at Amazon India. Amazon says book sales on its platform have grown 20 times over the past three years since the company launched its services in India. It now has millions of titles and 9,400 sellers of books on its platform, making it the country's largest book store. Sharad Churamani, founder of *secondhandbooks.com*, a portal that sells used books, says Amazon's entry would make the sector more organised. For details visit: http://www.business-standard.com/article/companies/amazon-launches-used-books-in-india-to-tap-smaller-town-readers-116081001444_1.html

TECHNOLOGY NEWS

Less Complex Passwords

People tend to hate computer passwords that are often nonsensical jumble of letters, numbers and special keystrokes which are said to be essential for digital security. The secret codes seem impossible to remember. It is why every login page has a "Forgot password?" life preserver. The struggle even has a name: Password rage. Now, a new standard is emerging for passwords, backed by a growing number of businesses and government agencies to the relief of computer users everywhere, says a *Washington Post* report. No longer must passwords be changed so often, or include an incomprehensible string of special characters. The new direction is one that champions less complexity in favor of length. Passwords that once looked like this: "W@5hPo5t!," can now be this: "mycatlikesreadinggarfieldinthewashingtonpost." Requiring longer passwords, known as passphrases, usually 16 to 64 characters long, is increasingly seen as a potential escape route from our painful push toward logins that only a cryptographer could love. A series of studies from Carnegie Mellon University confirmed that passphrases are just as good at online security because hacking programs are thrown off by length nearly as easily as randomness. To a computer, poetry or simple sentences can be just as hard to crack. Even better: People are less likely to forget them. For details visit: <http://www.denverpost.com/2016/08/15/strong-passwords-easier/>

Technology to Preserve Palm Leaf MNS

The Vedas and other ancient Indian scriptures may soon be available on the smartphone, thanks to an upcoming state-of-the-art preservation laboratory in Bangalore, says a report published in *The Times of India*. The idea of preserving Vedic manuscripts is the brainchild of P R Mukund, who graduated in physics from National College, Basavanagudi, 43 years ago, and moved to the US to pursue studies and a career in electrical engineering. Mukund is the driving force behind this initiative. Waferfiche, a technology developed by Mukund, is the cornerstone of preservation of the manuscripts available on ancient palm leaves. Waferfiche is a water and fire proof silicon wafer on which images of manuscripts can be copied through multi-spectral imaging process. Waferfiche can be read through a simple magnifying glass

held over the silicon wafer. A leaf is first softened by rubbing it with Tulsi juice and then a micro-image of it is digitized using the multi-spectral image technology. Mukund has already converted 3,000 old manuscripts into digital form and is now converting them into e-books. "The upcoming India Centre, which will house the manuscripts, will have a library of digital books of these granthas and a laboratory where I can make more of these Waferfiche discs. I'm confident of getting talent in India. A lot of Indian students connect with me online to hear my talks on Vedic science and are very energized about it," said Mukund, founder, Foundation for the Preservation of Knowledge in New York, US. For details visit: <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/bengaluru/bengaluru-to-house-preservation-lab-and-library-of-vedas/articleshow/59877272.cms>

Rare Tongues Discovered

Languages not seen since the Dark Ages have come to light after scientists used a new method to inspect a trove of ancient manuscripts found in a monastery in Egypt. They turned up extremely rare tongues, including Caucasian Albanian, on documents they found in Saint Catherine's monastery on the Sinai peninsula that date back 1,500 years. Monks originally wrote their texts down on parchments which were later scrubbed off and used to write the Bible by future generations who spoke in more modern languages. But a new technique developed by researchers allows them to see the original text hidden from the naked eye in a development hailed as "new golden age of discovery". Researchers took photographs of the material using different parts of the light spectrum and put the electronic images through a computer algorithm. The method allows them to see the first writing laid down on the parchments, which at the time were highly valuable, before they were re-used in later years. "The age of discovery is not over," Michael Phelps from the Early Manuscripts Electronic Library in California told *The Times*. "In the 20th century new manuscripts were discovered in caves. In the 21st century, we will apply new techniques to manuscripts that have been under our noses. We will recover lost voices from our history." <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/middle-east/lost-languages-found-ancient-manuscript-parchment-saint-catherine-monastery-sinai-peninsula-egypt-a7916346.html>

SPECIAL FEATURE

Books and Libraries 100 Years from Now

About four decades ago Frederick Wilferd Lancaster predicted that by the end of 20th century paperless communication system would replace the 'print-on-paper' system. He said, "It is my belief that electronic communication will continue to substitute for other forms, that electronic communication will largely replace print-on-paper publishing, and that libraries as we know them will become obsolete". Though it generated lots of controversy, with the rise of e-books and digital libraries it

looked that his prophesy would come true, but it did not. E-book sale initially went up, but soon plummeted as compared to printed books. Digital libraries have come up, but traditional libraries are still serving their users. In 1999 Lancaster himself postponed his prophecy to 2090. He admitted at second thought, after a long and continuous years in the publishing career, that it was the user community that would decide the extent of use of either the latest technology or the traditional print medium for reading. Thus today we really do not know if at all printed book and traditional libraries will ever disappear.

Interestingly, in Norway, an artist by profession, Katie Paterson, has shown her strong conviction about continuance of printed books and traditional library even after 100 years and has embarked upon a project called 'Future Library' in 2014 to make it possible. Highlighting the project, an AFP story published in *The Hindu* states, "some will never know if their books were appreciated by readers, many of whom aren't born yet. Every year for 100 years, a different author will contribute to the 'Future Library', a collection of works to be published only in the next century". A trust named Future Library Trust has been set up to manage the project, which is supported by city of Oslo. The manuscripts to be contributed for the project will be held in a specially designed room at the new Deichman Library (Oslo Public Library) currently under construction in Bjorvika, Oslo's former container port, but no one will be allowed to read them. A printing press will also be stored in the library. The Future Library Trust's committee of trustees will make a new selection of author annually based on the criteria "outstanding contributions to literature or poetry, and for their work's ability to capture the imagination of this and future generations". Canadian author Margaret Atwood was the first one asked to join the initiative in 2015, followed by English novelist David Mitchell in 2016. This year Icelandic poet Sjon submitted his manuscript - one, his contemporaries will, in all likelihood, never read. "One of the things an author will always deal with is the fact that there will be readers the author never knows. They might be on another continent and they might be far away in time.

The idea for the library took root in the imagination of Paterson and was able to grow following a meeting with Norwegian real estate developers hunting for cultural projects. "I think that will be very interesting for those who get to read the manuscripts in 100 years. Because they can reflect all the way back in time because, 100 years later, who knows what that civilization is going to be?" Paterson says. But, will we still be reading books in 2114? Will there still be machines to print books? "I think it was Umberto Eco, who said the form of the book can never be improved upon. It's like the wheel, there's no improvement," says Paterson.

For Patterson, books remain inexplicably bound with the earth and the paper they are printed on. So she got permission from the authorities to plant 1000 Norwegian spruce tree in a forest at the outskirts of Oslo so that these

can be used for making paper for printing the limited edition anthology of the 100 works to be contributed by the invited authors. The trees were planted three years ago and each little shrub has been decorated with a red ribbon. This aspect of the project is really praiseworthy as it envisages advance replenishment of the denudation of forest to be caused for making the paper for implementing this internationally and stylistically diverse project. Can we not also emulate this example everywhere?

[Sources: *Lancaster, F W. Toward paperless information systems. 1978. Academic Press, New York; Lancaster, F W. Libraries and librarians in an age of electronics. 1982. Information resource Press, Arlington, Va. p. 151; <http://www.thehindu.com/news/international/step-into-the-library-of-the-future/article19165709.ece>; <https://www.futurelibrary.no/#/information>; http://shodhganga.inflibnet.ac.in/bitstream/10603/135940/7/07_chapter1.pdf; http://www.huffingtonpost.in/entry/future-library_n_7532012, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Future_Library_project, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paperless_society]*

PERSONALIA

Prof. Gurrām Sujatha, has been appointed a member of the Andhra Pradesh Public Service Commission, Hyderabad. Consequent to this appointment, Prof. Sujatha, who was earlier serving as Professor and Head, University Library, Dr. B R Ambedkar Open University, Hyderabad, has taken voluntary retirement from BRAOU. Prof. Sujatha is a life member of IASLIC. Hearty congratulations to Prof. Sujatha from IASLIC.

OBITUARY

IASLIC loses Founder-Member

Shri M N Nagaraj, a founder-member of IASLIC and a well-known personality in the field of library and information services, passed away on August 9, 2017. He was 90. Born on August 9, 1927 in Mysore, Shri Nagaraj graduated in science from Mysore University in 1949 and obtained Diploma in Librarianship from University of Calcutta in 1951. He started his career as a Library Assistant in British Council Library in Kolkata in 1951. He shifted to USIS Library in Kolkata in 1952 and served there till 1954. He joined the National Library in 1955 and retired from there in 1985 as Deputy Librarian. His sharp memory and helping nature endeared him to the users of the National Library. He was popularly known as the 'encyclopedia of national library' among the users. He was closely associated with IASLIC, Indian Library Association and Bengal Library Association. He served as the vice-president of IASLIC during 1978 - 1983; vice-president of ILA during 1972 - 1983 and convener of the Library Committee of BLA during 1978 - 1982. Shri Nagaraj represented the National Library on the Documentation Sectional Committee of Indian Standards Institution (now Bureau of Indian Standards). He was honoured by the National Library for his valuable services in November 2014. His wife Kamala Nagaraj predeceased him. IASLIC deeply mourns his death.

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