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# IASLIC NEWSLETTER

For Members only



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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,  
Amerian 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

### 28th National Seminar of IASLIC

**Venue:** Visva Bharati University, Santiniketan

**Dates:** November 18 - 20, 2018

**Theme:** L I S Education in India: Present Scenario and Future Strategies\*

#### Themes for SIG Meetings:

SIG1: Rabindranath Tagore's Vision on Libraries and its Relevance in New Era\*

SIG 2: Data Management in Libraries\*

(\*For Sub-themes and facets see *IASLIC Newsletter* July 2018 issue or visit IASLIC website. The last date for submission of full papers is August 31, 2018)

### Nominations Invited for Various Awards

IASLIC has invited nominations for various awards for the years 2014 and 2015. For details please see *IASLIC Newsletter*, June 2018 issue or visit: <http://www.iaslic1955.org.in/Default.aspx?PageID=62>

### Librarians' Day Programme

IASLIC, jointly with Bengal Library Association (BLA) and West Bengal Public Library Employees Association (WBPLEA), and in collaboration with Raja Rammohan Roy Library Foundation (RRRLF), Kolkata, and Heritage Institute of Technology (HIT), Kolkata, will celebrate Librarians' Day at a function to be held on August 12, 2018 at the Vivekananda Auditorium of HIT. Honourable Justice Chittotosh Mukhopadhyay, former Chief Justice of Calcutta High Court and Bombay High Court, will inaugurate the function. Dr. Barun Mukhopadhyay, Ex-MP (Rajya Sabha) and Ex-President of IASLIC and BLA; Dr. Arun Kumar Chakraborty, Director General of RRRLF and National Library, Kolkata; and Prof. Smriti Kumar Sarkar, former Vice-Chancellor, University of Burdwan, Burdwan; will be the Guests of Honour. Dr. Jatindranath Satpathi, President, IASLIC, will preside over the function. Three eminent speakers, viz., Prof. Smriti Kumar Sarkar; Prof. Subol Chandra Biswas, former Professor, DLIS, Burdwan University, Burdwan; and Shri Arup Roychoudhury, former Deputy Librarian, Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata; will express their views on the theme 'Librarianship in Information Age'. Intending participants may contact Shri Sajal Kanti Goswami, General Secretary, IASLIC (Mob. 9433426495, or Shri Goutam Goswami, General Secretary, BLA (Mob. 8334043952); or Shri Shibprasad Chakraborty, General Secretary, WBPLEA (Mob. 9433927863) by August 10, 2018. The registration fee for the participants is Rs. 300.

### ILSA: Request to Send Relevant Literature

IASLIC has been publishing *Indian Library Science Abstracts* to showcase research from India to a wider research audience. The present editorial board is currently involved in compiling the issues of ILSA for the years 2015, 2016 and 2017. IASLIC is planning to release the volume(s) in the next IASLIC conference scheduled to be held in November 2018 at Visva Bharati, Santiniketan. The editorial board of ILSA has already collected data from journals which are available on websites such as *Annals of Library and Information Science*, *SRELS Journal of Information Management*, *DESIDOC Journal of Library & Information Technology*, *Library Herald*, *IASLIC Bulletin* and *Journal of ILA*. Authors, editors and compilers of publications other than the journals mentioned above, conference proceedings, festschrift volumes, and edited publications having research value, are requested to send electronic versions of publications for inclusion in the above volume(s) of ILSA to [vkjeevan@email.com](mailto:vkjeevan@email.com) by August 31, 2018.

### Programme for Young Professionals: Brief Report

IASLIC organized a programme on 'Shaping Young Minds in LIS Profession for Effective Functioning' during April 29 - 30, 2018. The course was designed to orient the young LIS professionals with some essential aspects of soft skills, which are very much needed for effectively rendering services to achieve customers' delight especially in the Libraries, which are service units. The course started with the introductory session on April 29, 2018. Shri S B Banerjee, Course Director and Convener, Education Division, IASLIC, apprised the participants of the activities of IASLIC and its role in the professional development of library and information workers. Introducing the course, he said that effective functioning of any library depended on three factors - planning, management and services - and that sustainability of a library was dependent on the quality of services it imparted. He said, quality performance in a library was the ardent task of the library professionals. The objective of the course was to help the participants to gain knowledge in this regard, he added.

Sixteen participants - mostly college and school students and research scholars - attended the course and enthusiastically interacted during different sessions on case studies of the academic and research libraries, group discussion, interview techniques, personality development, leadership, inter-personal communication, understanding customers and their needs, measuring satisfaction and gaps, designing information services and products and real life situations of college libraries. Dr. Soumitra Sarkar, University Librarian, Calcutta University; Dr. Binod Bihari Das, Former Chief Librarian, Jadavpur University; Dr. Narayan Chandra Ghose, Head, Knowledge Resource Centre, IICB, Kolkata; Ms. Indrani Bhattacharya, Former Head, Library & Customer Services (East India), British Council, Kolkata; Dr. Milan Kumar Sarkar, Librarian (SG), K D College of Commerce and General Studies, Midnapur; Shri Subhasish Mukherjee, Chief General Manager, HR, Andrew Yule & Co.; Shri B

Pradhan, Management Consultant and Academic Counsellor, IGNOU; and Ms. Soma Mukherjee, Director, Disha Academy; acted as Resource Persons.

Dr. J N Sathpathi, President, IASLIC, addressed the participants in the concluding session and distributed the certificates. The participants expressed their happiness and satisfaction in attending the course. Shri Sajal Kanti Goswami, General Secretary, Shri Pradip Kumar Sarkar, Joint Secretary, Shri Avijit Kumar, Joint Secretary, Shri G C Basak, Treasurer, and Ms. Banasri Roy, Convener, Serials Division, of IASLIC were present in the concluding session.

## CONFERENCES / SEMINARS / WORKSHOPS

### National

#### **Koha Training Programme**

A Koha Training and Certification Programme is being organized by Jivesna Tech Pvt. Ltd. at Vasundhara Complex, Ghaziabad, during August 10 - 12, 2018. For details ring: 8860611657.

#### **Librarians' Day Meet at Guwahati**

The Librarians' Day Celebration, 2018 and the Convention of Assam Library Association are being jointly organized by Assam Library Association, Assam College Librarians' Association, Department of Library and Information Science, Gauhati University and Dr. S K Bhuyan Library, Cotton University, Guwahati, on August 12, 2018 at Cotton University. For details visit: <http://www.ala.net.in/>, or <http://www.ala.net.in/>, or <https://www.gauhati.ac.in/arts/library-and-information-science>

#### **Seminar on Library Development in Odisha**

Odisha Library Academy, jointly with Institute of Hotel Management (IHM), Bhubaneswar, is organizing the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Day Celebration and Seminar on 'Drafting Blueprint on Future Library Development of Odisha' at IHM Auditorium on August 12, 2018 on the occasion of Librarians' Day. For details visit: <http://olibacademy.org/uploads/OLA%202018%20Brochure.pdf>

#### **Workshop on Restriction of Plagiarism**

An ICSSR sponsored Workshop on 'Restriction of Plagiarism: A Quality Measure in Social Science Research' is being organized by Fr. Utarid Library, St. Xavier's College of Education, Palayamkottai; and ICSSR Southern Regional Centre, Hyderabad; jointly with Society for Advancement of Library and Information Science, Tirunelveli Chapter; on August 25, 2018 at St. Xavier's College of Education, Palayamkottai. For details visit: <http://api.ning.com/files/b1BMDNLnvbBuHZfCpDOfsPJGCUU3YdcA5oWFQF12vegy5G-UYq5KfwSyarb4KFM1qQ7-GHC89JM3sthsjIH9eGM1qfITYmn7/WorkshoponRestrictionofPlagiarismAugust2018.pdf1.pdf>

#### **Workshop on Koha, DSpace**

A Workshop on 'Koha and DSpace OSS: A Comprehensive

Hands on Learning' is being organized by Sri Krishna Institutions, Coimbatore, during September 7 - 8, 2018 at the Central Library, Sri Krishna College of Technology, Coimbatore. For details visit: [http://api.ning.com/files/mt7PEB24vG4ZFJmluHt\\*ZORqHXulQIP67DFhd5aWPFa-ZVohuZY51gzQFVDixVjIxIUnxX1cf7-jlbv-RcMiIW8VDX7vWLGm/WorkshopBrochure.pdf](http://api.ning.com/files/mt7PEB24vG4ZFJmluHt*ZORqHXulQIP67DFhd5aWPFa-ZVohuZY51gzQFVDixVjIxIUnxX1cf7-jlbv-RcMiIW8VDX7vWLGm/WorkshopBrochure.pdf)

#### **Workshop on Research with RM Tools**

INFLIBNET Centre, Gandhinagar, is organizing a National Workshop on 'Organizing Research with Reference Management Tools' during October 4 - 5, 2018. For details visit: [http://inflibnet.ac.in/hrd/docs/References\\_2018.pdf](http://inflibnet.ac.in/hrd/docs/References_2018.pdf)

#### **NACLIN 2018**

The 21<sup>st</sup> National Convention on Knowledge, Library and Information Networking (NACLIN) is being organized by Developing Library Network (DELNET), jointly with GITAM Deemed to be University, Visakhapatnam, during October 4 - 6, 2018 at GITAM. The theme of the convention is 'Managing Strategies and Technologies for Advancing Scope and Services of Libraries'. For details visit: <http://delnet.nic.in/nac2018.pdf>

#### **International**

#### **Course on Library Preservation**

California Rare Book School is organizing a short-term course on 'Library and Archives Preservation in the Digital Age' during August 6 - 10, 2018. Mark S Roosa, Dean of Libraries at Pepperdine University in Malibu, California, will be the resource person. For details visit: <http://www.calrbs.org/admissions/>

#### **IFLA Digital Scholarship Programme**

The Digital Humanities/Digital Scholarship Special Interest Group of Knowledge Management Section of IFLA will host a programme titled 'The Transforming Digital Scholarship Model - From Service Provider to Interdisciplinary Partner' on August 25, 2018 at the venue of IFLA World Library and Information Congress to be held during August 24 - 30, 2018 at Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. For details visit: <https://www.ifla.org/node/59460>

#### **IFLA Satellite Meeting**

IFLA Indigenous Matters Satellite Meeting will be held at Pustaka Negari, Sarawak (Sarawak State Library) during September 1 - 2, 2018. The theme of discussion is 'Hard to reach libraries and users: Indigenous perspective'. For details visit: <http://www.pustaka-sarawak.com/ifla2018/>

#### **Conference on Bridging Digital Divide**

The Central Library, in collaboration with IQAC, of Shillong College, Shillong, is organizing an International Conference on 'Bridging the Digital Divide : Role of Libraries and Information Centers with Special Reference to the North Eastern Region' during September 5 - 6, 2018. For details visit: <http://shillongcollege.ac.in/international-conference/>

#### **WIS Conference and COLLNET Meeting**

The 14th International Conference on Webometrics,

Informetrics, and Scientometrics (WIS) and the 19th Meeting of Collaboration in Science and Technology Network (COLLNET) will be held during December 5 - 8, 2018 in Macau. For details visit: <http://socio.org.uk/collnet2018/>

#### **Conference on Trends in Librarianship**

The 15<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Serbian Library Association will be held at the Public library "Vladislav Petkoviæ Dis", Èaèak, and University Library "Svetozar Markoviæ", Belgrade, during December 12 - 14, 2018. The theme of the conference is 'Innovations and Trends in Librarianship'. For details visit: [konferencija2018.bds.rs](http://konferencija2018.bds.rs)

#### **Seminar on Rejuvenating PL Services: Brief Report**

An International Seminar on *Rejuvenating Public Library Services through Digital Reference Sources* was organized by the Department of Library and Information Science, Jadavpur University (JUDLIS), Kolkata, during February 22 - 23, 2018, with the financial support from the University Grants Commission, Departments of Higher Education, Science and Technology and Biotechnology, Government of India, Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation, Indian Council of Social Science Research and National Digital Library of India. The purpose of the seminar was to bring together scholars from the country and abroad to discuss the scenario of the public library system and the significance of reference service in its traditional form as well as that in digital environment.

The seminar was inaugurated on February 22, 2018 at Dr. Triguna Sen Auditorium of Jadavpur University by Prof. Gautam Kumar Basu, Vice-Chancellor, Maharaja Bir Bikram University, Tripura. At the outset, Prof. Udayan Bhattacharya, Head, JUDLIS, and Organizing Secretary of the seminar, welcomed the dignitaries and participants who had come from different parts of the country and Bangladesh. Dr. Tarun Kumar Mondal, Assistant Professor, JUDLIS, and Conference Director, briefed on the theme of the seminar. This was followed by an eloquent inaugural address by Prof. Gautam Kumar Basu, and the address of the chief guest Dr. Arun Kumar Chakraborty, DG, RRRLF and National Library, on the importance of various information sources in the digital environment, which set the spirit of the seminar. Prof. Ratna Bandopadhyay's, UGC Emeritus Fellow, University of Calcutta, delivered the keynote address on the barriers of digital literacy like poverty, illiteracy, etc. With the vote of thanks proposed by Prof. Subarna Kumar Das, Professor, JUDLIS, and Joint Organizing Secretary of the seminar, the inaugural session came to an end. In the Invited Lecture Session that followed, Dr. Asitava Das, Librarian, Kalyani University, Kalyani, discussed the history of 200 years of Bengali dictionary and proposed that a day should be observed every year as 'Bengali Dictionary Day'.

The seminar witnessed altogether seven technical sessions during the two days on various facets of the seminar theme such as 'Present scenario of public libraries', 'Digital reference sources: characteristics, usage and management',

'Digital reference services: challenges and opportunities' and 'Digital reference in public libraries'. Altogether 84 papers were presented in these sessions chaired by various renowned personalities in the LIS domain. The participants belonged to different categories of persons in the LIS field, like students, researchers, working professionals, teachers, retired professionals and so on. Various issues regarding public library systems, services, reference service in its traditional and digital forms, recent trends in this service, and probable measures for the betterment of the system and services, got cogent manifestations in these sessions. The presentation on National Digital Library of India Project by Prof. Partha Pratim Das, Professor, Department of Computer Science & Engineering, IIT Kharagpur, was a great attraction of the seminar. He discussed the present education system in India and India's significant role in spreading education and highlighted the various facets of NDL project and its advantages, which gave hints about the better future for library services in the country. Another attraction of the seminar was the panel discussion on *Reimagining Reference Service for Community in Next Ten Years*, in which renowned LIS professionals like Dr. Binod Bihari Das, former Chief Librarian, Jadavpur University; Dr. Partho Biplob Roy, Associate Professor, Department of Information Science & Library Management, University of Rajshahi, Bangladesh; Dr. Sudip Ranjan Hatua, Assistant Professor, Department of Library & Information Science, Rabindra Bharati University, Kolkata; Dr. Saptarshi Ghosh, Assistant Professor, Department of Library & Information Science, North Bengal University, Raja Rammohunpur, West Bengal; Smt. Indrani Bhattacharya, Head, Library & Customer Services (East India), British Council, Kolkata; and Dr. Sushanta Banerjee, Director, American Information and Resource Centre, Kolkata; served as panelists, while Prof. Amitabha Chatterjee, former Professor, JUDLIS, served as the moderator.

In the valedictory session, Dr. Tarun Kumar Mondal presented a brief report on the seminar. Prof. Amitabha Chatterjee delivered the valedictory address on *Redesigning Reference Service in Public Libraries in New Era*. He opined that reference service, being a personalized service, could never be redesigned as a completely mechanical service like an ATM, where the user instantly could get the required material from a machine by pressing a key. The curtain on this mega event fell with the vote of thanks by Prof. Sunil Kumar Chatterjee, Professor, JUDLIS, and the final words from the Organizing Secretary of the seminar Prof. Udayan Bhattacharya, who extended special thanks to the participants and invited dignitaries from Bangladesh.

## MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

### Assam College Librarians declared as Academic Staff

As per notifications, dated June 28, 2018, issued by the Higher Education Department, Government of Assam, a college librarian in the state will henceforth be an ex-officio

member of the Governing body of the concerned college; he/she is to be treated as non-vacational academic staff of the college concerned and he/she is to be included in the committee constituted for the development/construction of the college library concerned.

### 18000 Books stolen from IIT Kanpur Library

About 18,000 books, worth over Rs. 1.5 crore, have been reportedly stolen from the P L Kelkar Library at the Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur, according to a *Daily News and Analysis* report. The IIT-Kanpur Deputy Director Prof. Manindra Agarwal has ordered a probe by the Deputy Librarian Dr. S K Vijainand to inquire into how these costly books were stolen from the high-secured library having a staff strength of 22. Startled by the theft of books, the Institute's Advisory Committee (IAC) has directed the librarian Prof. R Gurunath to review the security of the library and take immediate steps to check further theft of books, ranging from subjects from engineering to aeronautical and space science. Most of the books which are stolen are rare and have a high price tag. These books are not easily available in the market. The IIT Kanpur had ordered for the import of majority of them to procure from libraries abroad. The cost of these 18,000 stolen books is roughly around 1 crore to 1.5 crore. The actual cost will be known after the probe. A senior official of the P L Kelkar Library confided that a few of them were issued to students but never returned by them even after passing out from the Institute. However, others are missing from the library inventory without these being issued to any student or faculty member. For full report visit: <http://www.dnaindia.com/india/report-iit-kanpur-shocker-18000-rare-books-worth-over-rs-15-crore-go-missing-2632330>

### Library for Flood hit Children

A few youths in Barpeta district in Assam has taken a unique measure for people to deal with the menace of floods. The area, which is on the banks of river Beki, one of the major tributaries of Brahmaputra, now has a library to cater to the needs of the flood-affected children from nearby villages, says a report by Abdul Gani in *The Times of India*. Floods displace thousands of people every year in this area, forcing villagers to live in relief camps with deplorable living conditions for many days. There are around 1000 books in the library so far. "We have grown used to the pathetic conditions of the char dwellers, specially their children. Their future is dark, if people like us don't take any step. I think we can make a change. So I decided to initiate this step of collecting books from my friends and colleagues. Today I feel great to see the dream having turned into a real library with a good number of books," Abul Kalam Azad, a research scholar, who initiated the step, told TOI from Mazidbhita char. The one-room library close to the river Beki is almost ready for formal inauguration. For more details visit: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/guwahati/barpeta-library-to-cater-to-children-displaced-by-floods/articleshow/63590534.cms>

### Library funded by compensation amount

Family members of S Anitha, who committed suicide on September 1 last year as she could not pass the NEET and get a medical seat, laid the foundation stone for a public library in their village in Ariyalur district of Tamil Nadu which will be constructed in her memory, says a report by D Vincent Arockiaraj in *The Times of India*. The girl, who had scored 1,176 out of 1,200 in her Class XII state board examination, was unable to join MBBS course due to poor scores in the NEET. Anitha, a native of Kuzhumur and the daughter of a daily wage labourer, committed suicide by hanging in her house. Around four months after Anitha's death, her family accepted Rs. 7 lakh announced by chief minister Edappadi Palaniswami as solatium and a government job for her brother, which they had earlier rejected. S Manirathnam, 28, Anitha's elder brother who organized the foundation stone-laying event, said his father Shanmughum, 53, working as a loadman at Gandhi Market in Trichy, and family members had decided to use the compensation they got to set up a library in the village. "The library will be set up at a cost of Rs. 15 lakh. The library can be utilized by the students and medical aspirants from the weaker sections of the society," he said. Various political parties have also contributed money for the cause. For original report visit: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/chennai/deceased-neet-aspirant-anithas-family-begins-construction-of-library-in-her-name/articleshow/62825012.cms>

### Public Library within University Library

A portion of the Central Library in the main campus of Kannur University in Kerala would be converted into public library, said Vice-chancellor Gopinath Ravindran, according to a report by P Sudhakaran in *The Times of India*. Inaugurating the reading fortnight at the Municipal Higher Secondary School at Kannur recently, he also said that the plan was to make available e-books along with printed books to the general readers and it was expected that the project would become a reality in three months. Children should start reading in young age and it was not merely for gaining knowledge. "The experience that one gets from reading plays a major role in the development of an individual", he said. For more details visit: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/kochi/kannur-university-to-open-part-of-library-to-public/articleshow/64658097.cms>

### NEIULIBNET Project

NEIULIBNET, a UGC funded Major Research Project on creation of Union Catalogue of University Library Resources of North East India, is now being implemented under the supervision of Prof. Narendra Lahkar of DLIS, Gauhati University, Guwahati, and Vice-President of IASLIC. For the purpose of technical guidance for this project, a meeting was organized on June 10, 2018 where experiences, comments and views from selected senior librarians of various institutions were discussed. Dr. Parthasarathi Mukhopadhyay, Associate Professor, DLIS, Kalyani University, Kalyani, attended the meeting and offered his expert suggestions in this regard.

### Facebook Post helps set up Library

When in August 2017, Dimapur-based entrepreneur Imtisonup Longchar posted on *Facebook* his wish to set up a library, it was a shot in the dark. It had been four years since he returned to Nagaland from Delhi, and he couldn't help noticing the lack of infrastructure for young people to read, meet, discuss or channelise their creativity. On an instinct, he floated the idea on social media. Today what is probably Nagaland's only independent library can be traced back to that post, says a report by Tora Agarwala in *The Indian Express*. This is the "only independent library that is functional," Longchar adds. The state has about 80 registered rural libraries spread across its districts but most of these are closed. "There is a State library in Kohima run by the government but people don't even know it exists," says Hekani Jakhalu, founder of Youthnet, a Kohima-based NGO that works towards empowering the youth. The State library was inaugurated by the Government of Nagaland's Department of Art and Culture in 1981. "In 2007, the Assam Rifles had invested in a library in the Dimapur Government College but that closed down in 2010," says Longchar. Longchar's library called the Dimapur Public Library is managed by an eight-member core team some of whom were the initial respondents to his *Facebook* post in August 2017. One of them, Susan Lotha, met with him right after she saw the post and in a week, the core team was in place. In the months that followed they scoured Dimapur for a suitable space, called for donations and received considerable support. "But funds were always a problem, and after running around for 8 months, unable to find a space, we just went ahead on our own," he says. Today, the rent for the library (housed in a two-roomed space) is paid by the core team, while books (educational, reference, fiction, children's books, etc.) come in the form of donations from Nagaland and across India. For full report visit: <http://indianexpress.com/article/north-east-india/nagaland/locals-connect-through-facebook-to-open-dimapurs-first-independent-public-library-5166917/>

### Accession to WIPO Treaties Approved

The Union Cabinet has approved on July 4, 2018 a proposal submitted by the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, regarding accession to the WIPO Copyright Treaty and WIPO Performers and Phonograms Treaty which extends coverage of copyright to the Internet and digital environment, according to a press release by Press Information Bureau, Government of India. The approval is a step towards the objective laid in the National IPR Policy adopted by the Government on May 12, 2016, which aims to get value for IPRs through commercialization by providing guidance and support to IPR owners about commercial opportunities of e-commerce through Internet and mobile platforms. The approval will "enable creative right holders enjoy the fruit of their labour, through international copyright system that can be used to secure a return on the investment made in producing and distributing creative works". This will also "facilitate international protection of domestic rights holders." The press

release can be accessed at: [http://dipp.nic.in/sites/default/files/PressRelease%20\\_WCT\\_WPPT\\_04July2018.pdf](http://dipp.nic.in/sites/default/files/PressRelease%20_WCT_WPPT_04July2018.pdf)

### **New Copyright Manual**

The Copyright Office, Government of India, has recently brought out a *Practice and Procedure Manual 2018*, which “explains the process for examination of literary work application(s), documentation of ownership; provides guidelines on how to identify the originality of authorship, copyrightable subject matter and discusses the grounds on which a discrepancy letter may be issued”. The document “reflects the general practices and procedures for registration of literary works. It does not cover every principle of copyright law. The practice and procedure set forth in the document do not in themselves have the force and effect of law”. The document can be accessed at: [http://copyright.gov.in/Documents/Manuals/LITERARY\\_MANUAL.pdf](http://copyright.gov.in/Documents/Manuals/LITERARY_MANUAL.pdf)

### **Ireland to Abolish Library Fines**

The Minister for Rural and Community Development of Ireland has recently launched an ambitious new five-year strategy for public libraries, according to a report in *The Connought Telegraph*. Core elements of the strategy include the complete abolition of library fines and the roll out of the My Open Library initiative which will see a significant increase in library opening times in 100 of the 330 library branches around the country. Minister Michael Ring said: “This is great news for library users. With the abolition of all fines and increased opening hours in many of our local libraries, I hope that more people in Mayo will visit and use their local libraries. The 100 libraries nationally involved in the My Open Library initiative will see library opening hours increase from current normal working hours to 8 am to 10 pm., seven days a week, 365 days a year. Libraries will continue to be fully staffed during the normal working hours and there will be no decrease in staffing hours under this arrangement. .... The increase in opening hours is made possible by the provision of self-service technology, and library users will be able to scan books in and out when the libraries are unmanned.” For more details visit: <http://www.con-telegraph.ie/news/roundup/articles/2018/06/14/4157462-library-fines-to-be-abolished-and-opening-hours-extended/>

### **IFLA School Library Guidelines in Telugu**

The second revised edition of IFLA School Library Guidelines was published in 2015. The document is being translated in different languages. So far it has been translated in ten languages. Recently the Telugu version of the guidelines - the first in any Indian language - has been added to this list. It is available on IFLA website <https://www.ifla.org/files/assets/school-libraries-resource-centers/publications/ifla-school-library-guidelines-te.pdf>. Any professional interested to translate the guidelines in a language other than the languages in which it has already been translated may contact Albert Boekhorst by email through IFLA website <https://www.ifla.org/FR/publications/node/9512>

## **TECHNOLOGY NEWS**

### **New Features of WhatsApp**

WhatsApp has been on a roll, leaving no stone unturned in a bid to keep increasing the user engagement by providing them more tools to easily manage it. The Facebook-owned company has recently added features that are not only available for one-on-one conversations but also for group chats, says a *Deccan Chronicle* report. The new features that WhatsApp might roll out in 2018, according to the above report are:

*High Priority notification:* The feature which is available only for Android beta users, allows managing their notifications in a better way. Users can pin high-priority notifications to the top of a smartphone's notification centre. Moreover, the High Priority Notifications feature can be located in the notifications setting. It may be noted that if a smartphone has other applications that have a similar feature, then the notifications should be displayed in a chronological order. This feature is available in the WhatsApp version 2.18.117 on Android.

*Re-download old images and videos:* WhatsApp for Android beta version 2.18.113 supports this feature, and it is currently not available on iOS. With this feature, users will be able to re-download deleted media from their servers again. According to WABetaInfo, media files that were sent as long as three months back can be re-downloaded. Additionally, WABetaInfo asserted that "Since a few days, WhatsApp allows downloading deleted media from their servers again. This automatically translates into the fact that WhatsApp continues to store our media on their servers also after downloading them." Notably, even with the files stored on their server, the instant messaging app keeps the data secure, as per the cited source.

*WhatsApp Payments 'Request Money':* This feature is currently available to a few select users who have WhatsApp Payments enabled. The Request Money feature is on WhatsApp beta for Android 2.18.113. So far one was allowed sending payments to the contacts via UPI address, QR code, however, with the new Request Money feature, users can request money from their friends.

*Dismiss as Admin feature:* WhatsApp has added the 'Dismiss as Admin' feature, aimed at the WhatsApp groups. Spotted by WABetaInfo, this new feature will allow one group administrator to demote other admins without even deleting the person from the group. Previously, group admins had to remove others admins in order to demote them. Currently, the new feature is only available to iOS beta users on WhatsApp version 2.18.41 and Web apps. However, it is not yet thrown open on the stable version of the Android app.

*Lock voice message recording:* The instant messaging service has recently added this feature to the Android beta version 2.18.102. This feature is also available on iOS. With this new update, one will not be required to hold down the

mic button for as long as one is recording a voice message. One just needs to tap and hold the mic icon for 0.5 seconds and then swipe it up till the lock symbol shows on the screen. It will then automatically record the voice message without keeping the mic button pressed continuously. Besides, there remains a few features that WhatsApp should offer which its relatively 'unpopular' rivals do such as Schedule WhatsApp messages, sharing files up to 1GB and others.

*Schedule WhatsApp messages:* While WhatsApp allows one to send messages, photos and videos, instantly, there are times when one wants his/her message to be delivered at just the right time. Sadly, WhatsApp doesn't offer an option to schedule one's messages. This feature should hopefully come soon. However, for now, users can use the SKEDit app to schedule WhatsApp messages, text messages, send automatic emails, schedule Facebook posts and set call reminders, without having to lift a finger! With this app, one can create and schedule a post or a message. SKEDit will automate sharing or message without further user action. One can also set a scheduled reminder instead of an automatic submission.

*Sharing files up to 1GB:* WhatsApp adds several features on a nearly regular basis, however, the only feature that the messaging platform restricts is the limited file size of attachments. While there are some messaging apps that let you share over 1GB of data, WhatsApp lets you share 100MB of data on Android and 120MB data on iOS devices. With all the updates that WhatsApp is receiving, this feature is expected to debut soon. For original report visit: <https://www.deccanchronicle.com/technology/in-other-news/220418/five-features-whatsapp-should-roll-out-in-2018.html>

## SPECIAL FEATURE

### Library Anxiety!

Anxiety, according to dictionary meaning, is a "feeling of worry, nervousness, or unease about something with an uncertain outcome". But since library is a space for recreation and study, can a user have such a feeling when he approaches it? Though it may look a bit odd, but it can happen, at least for some users, specially the college students when they enter the college just after leaving school. The existence of such a phenomenon has been proved through several studies. Such anxiety is called 'Library Anxiety'. The term was first coined in 1986 by Prof. Constance Mellon, then Assistant Professor in the Department of Library and Information Studies, East Carolina University, Greenville, North Carolina, USA, in a paper entitled 'Library Anxiety: A Grounded Theory and its Development' published in *College and Research Libraries*.

When Mellon published her article in 1986, the term 'library anxiety' was new, but the phenomenon had been observed and reported by several library researchers earlier too. For example, in 1972, Mary Jane Swope and Jeffrey Katzer of

Syracuse University discovered, through interviews, that students at their university were intimidated by the library and were afraid of seeking help from library personnel. Their findings were published in *Reference Quarterly* (now known as *Reference and User Services Quarterly*). In 1982, Geza Kosa surveyed university students in Australia and found similar results, which were published in *Australian Academic & Research Libraries*.

So library anxiety is a real phenomenon. It is more so in the emerging digital environment. Library anxiety is a fear of both the library space, which can be seen as overwhelming and confusing, and of the process of using the library to find the required materials. Mellon's study revealed that the main reasons for library anxiety among the students were that the students were intimidated by the size of the library; they lacked knowledge about where the required materials were located; they lacked knowledge about how to begin their search. Mellon further discovered that these negative feelings often overwhelmed students to the point at which they could not function effectively in the library. It was found that the students had a feeling of inferiority when they compared their library skills to those of other students and this feeling of inadequacy was a source of shame that made them hesitant to ask library staff for help. Several studies have also been carried out on this phenomenon after the publication of Mellon's work. Most of them relate to users of academic libraries, but such anxiety may be felt by potential users of other types of library too, specially public libraries functioning in areas where literacy rate or level is low. Thus it is not a peculiar phenomenon in academic libraries alone.

Sharon L Bostick, in her 1992 PhD thesis (submitted to Wayne State University, USA) entitled *The Development and validation of the library anxiety scale*, has identified five barriers that prevent a student from asking help: Barriers with staff (e.g. librarians don't have time to help me); Affective barriers (e.g. I feel like I am bothering the reference librarian if I ask a question); Comfort with library (e.g. I don't understand the library's overdue fines); Knowledge of the library (e.g. I want to learn to do my own research); and Mechanical barriers (e.g. The computer printers are often out of paper). Bostick also designed a Library Anxiety Scale for measuring the extent of anxiety. Doris J. Van Kampen created a new instrument in 2004, the Multidimensional Library Anxiety Scale (MLAS), to take into account off-campus use of library resources and master's and doctoral students' attitudes. Her study was reported in *College and Research Libraries*.

Obviously, the new or potential users of a library cannot be converted into actual or regular users unless such anxiety is properly managed. Information literacy programmes, computer literacy programmes where necessary, and user education programmes, if conducted in an effective manner, can serve as a good beginning in this direction. Most importantly the library must create a welcoming environment to attract the newcomers. Several other

suggestions have been put forward by different experts for effectively dealing with library anxiety. According to one expert, personal interaction should be the central component of anxiety reduction strategies. Some other suggestions are setting up of a help-desk or 'Ask-a-Librarian' desk near the entrance of the library, compiling and distributing a printed guidebook or handbook for circumventing through the library with ease, marketing of services of the library, and so on.

It is not known if any researcher in this country has studied this phenomenon. Such studies need to be taken in different types of library so that the anxiety levels of the users/potential users can be assessed and the appropriate anxiety reduction method may be identified and adopted for the benefit of the users.

[Sources: <https://en.oxforddictionaries.com/definition/anxiety>, <https://crl.acrl.org/index.php/crl/article/view/14195/15641>, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Library\\_anxiety](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Library_anxiety), <https://crl.acrl.org/index.php/crl/article/view/16604/186044>]

## PERSONALIA

**Dr. P K Jain, Librarian**, Institute of Economic Growth, Delhi, was inducted into SLA's Hall of Fame Award 2018 on June 13, 2018 at the SLA 2018 Annual Conference in Baltimore. He is the first librarian not only from India but

first from outside America to join this select circle of librarians and information professionals.

**Dr. Sada Bihari Sahu**, Asst. General Manager, SIDBI, Lucknow, has been awarded *First Prize* in All India Inter-Bank Essay competition for the year 2017-18 on the topic 'Equitable Development and Financial Inclusion', organized by Reserve Bank of India (RBI), Mumbai. He received prize money of Rs.11000, trophy and certificate from Dr. Viral V Acharya, Dy. Governor, RBI, at a function held at RBI, Central Office, Mumbai, on June 26, 2018. This is the fifth time (2009-10, 2013-14, 2014-15, 2015-16 & 2017-18) that Dr. Sahu has been so awarded. Dr. Sahu has also been selected for *Professional Grant Award 2018* of Business & Finance Division, Special Library Association (SLA), USA. He will receive the award and prize money of \$1000 during SLA Annual Conference 2019 to be held at Claveland, Ohio, USA on June 12, 2019.

**Ms. Sanghamitra Jana Chatterjee** has been awarded PhD degree in Library and Information Science by Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), New Delhi, for her thesis entitled 'Exclusion and Inequality: Gender Dimensions in the Development and Usage of Open Source Library Software (OSLS)'. She pursued her research work under the guidance of Prof. Uma Kanjilal, Professor, DLIS, IGNOU. Dr. Jana Chatterjee is at present serving as Library-in-charge, Vina Mazumdar Memorial Library, Centre for Women Development Studies, New Delhi.

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