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IASLIC NEWSLETTER

For Members only

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Editor

Prof. Amitabha Chatterjee

Associate Editor:

Shri Gurudas Ghosh

Quote of the Month

“The library is the temple of learning, and learning has liberated more people than all the wars in history”

- Carl T Rowan,
American journalist and author.

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

27th IASLIC National Seminar, 2016: Brief Report

The 27th IASLIC National Seminar, 2016 was organized by Pt. Sundarlal Sharma Library and School of Studies in Library and Information Science, Pt. Ravishankar University, Raipur, during December 22-24, 2016. The theme of the seminar was *Social Networking and Libraries*. The seminar was inaugurated on December 22, 2016 in the gracious presence of Dr. Shiv Kumar Pandey, Vice-chancellor, Pt. Ravishankar University, Raipur; Dr. Naresh Dadhich, Former Director, Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics, Pune; Dr. Barun Mukherjee, President IASLIC & Former MP; and Prof. Pijushkanti Panigrahi, General Secretary, IASLIC. Dr. Suparna Sengupta, Organizing Secretary of the seminar welcomed the guests and participants.

The Governing Body Meeting of IASLIC was held on the same day, in which the Annual Report and Audited Statement of Accounts for the year 2015-2016 and the annual budget for the year 2017-2018 were adopted and the theme and venue of 31st All India Conference of IASLIC, 2018 were approved. In the same meeting counting of votes for IASLIC Election, 2017-19 was conducted.

Thematic sessions took place on December 23 and 24, 2016. Prof. A K Verma, Retired Professor & Head, School of Studies in Library and Information Science, Pt. Ravishankar University, was the Director of the thematic sessions. During the two days, five technical sessions and two Special Interest Group meetings were held. Papers were presented under sub-themes *Social Media: concept and function, Opportunities and challenges of using social media in Library and Information Services (LIS) and Social Networking in LIS education* during these technical sessions.

Special Interest Group meeting *SIG01: Social Sciences Information* was held on the theme *Customer Satisfaction Management in Library and Information Services*. Seven papers were presented in two sessions. Special Interest Group meeting *SIG02: Computer Application in LIS* was held on the theme *Mobile Technology in Libraries*. In this SIG meeting also seven papers were presented in two sessions.

Each paper presented during the technical sessions as well as SIG meetings was followed by discussions, observations, and comments.

The Annual General Meeting of IASLIC was held on December 23, 2016 at Pt. Sundarlal Sharma Library. The meeting was presided over by Dr. Barun Mukherjee. At the outset, one-minute silence was observed to pay respect to the IASLIC members who had passed away during the previous year, viz., Shri S K Kapur, Prof. Ashok Basu, Dr. U. M. Thakur and Prof. Dibyendu Paul. During this meeting, the proceedings of the 57th Annual General Meeting and the Annual Report for the year 2015-2016 were adopted. The members were informed that the 31st All India Conference of IASLIC would be held at Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi. The

meeting also approved *Public Libraries in India in 21st Century* as the theme of the conference. Finally, the results of the elections for the period 2017-19 were declared by the Election Officer Dr. Shyamal Roy Choudhury.

The valedictory function was held on December 24, 2016 at Pt. Sundarlal Sharma Library, which was presided over by Dr. Shiv Kumar Pandey, Vice-chancellor, Pt. Ravishankar University, Raipur. Dr. Aditya Tripathi, Rapporteur General of the Seminar, presented the detailed report of the seminar. Prof. Maya Verma, Head, School of Studies in Library and Information Science, Pt. Ravishankar University, Raipur, proposed the vote of thanks.

CONFERENCES/SEMINARS/ WORKSHOPS

National

Workshop on Best Library Practices

FLAME University Library, Pune, is organizing a National Level Workshop on 'Library Best Practices' on February 3, 2017. For details visit: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfW48w-q9ewXoCQLPe4kQlqhF45-tDUzECVb8qLlm_OySZag/viewform

Training on DSpace

NISCAIR, New Delhi, is organizing a Training Programme on 'Design and Development of Institutional Repositories using Dspace' during February 6-10, 2017. For details visit: <http://www.niscair.res.in>

Workshop on Digital Repository

The Learning Resource Centre, ABV Indian Institute of Information Technology and Management, Gwalior, in collaboration with NDL Project, IIT Kharagpur, is organizing a Workshop on 'Institutional Digital Repository for National Digital Library (NDL) Project of India' during February 9-10, 2017. For details visit: https://www.iitm.ac.in/images/News_2016/Dec_2016/NDL_Workshop_Call_for_Participation.pdf

Seminar on Future of Libraries

DLIS, University of Jammu, is organizing the 2nd National Seminar on 'Future of Libraries: Trends, Issues and Challenges' (NASOFOL-17) during February 10-11, 2017. For details visit: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/0BPTs0QGe1c0NUVQRG9IN3cyTDQ/view?usp=sharing>

Workshop on Koha

Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics (GIPE), Pune, is organizing a National Level Workshop on Koha Integrated Library Management System during February 13-14, 2017. For details visit: <http://www.gipe.ac.in/admin/>

Workshop on Research Report Writing

Kerala Library Association Ernakulam Region, in association with School of Library and Information Science, Rajagiri College of Social Science, is organizing a

National Workshop on 'Research Report Writing', during February 17-18, 2017 at the Hill Campus of the college at Kalamassery, Kochi. For details visit: <https://klaweblog.wordpress.com>

Seminar on Role of LI Professionals

Ananta Institute of Medical Science and Research Centre (AIMSRC) and Rajasthan Technical Library Association are jointly organizing a National Seminar on 'Role of Library Professional in Digital Environment' on March 4, 2017 at AIMSRC, Udaipur. The theme of the seminar is 'Role of Library Professional in Digital Environment'. For details email to: drrajakumarjnn@gmail.com

Seminar on Participatory Librarianship

A National Seminar on 'Participatory Librarianship' is being organized by DLIS, North Bengal University, Raja Rammohunpur, near Siliguri, West Bengal, during March 9-10, 2017. For details visit: <http://www.nbu.ac.in>

Seminar on Knowledge Economy

A National Seminar on 'Bonding of People's Knowledge and People's University : Pre-requisites of Knowledge Economy' is being organized by the DLIS, Vidyasagar University, Midnapur, West Bengal, during March 23-24, 2017. For details email to: vuseminar2017@gmail.com

Seminar on 'From Print to Digital'

Footwear Design & Development Institute (FDDI) and Asian Library Association (ASIALA) are organizing a National Seminar on 'From Print to Digital: Managing Libraries in Neo-Information Environment' on March 25, 2017 at FDDI campus, Noida. For details visit: http://www.fddiindia.com/news/Downloads/Events/PRINT_TO_DIGITAL__MANAGING_LIB.pdf

Seminar on Challenges of Library Professionals: Brief report

A UGC sponsored National Seminar on 'Issues and Challenges of Library Professionals in Digital Era' was organised by Alokesh Chandra Barua Central Library of Pramathesh Barua College, Gauripur, Assam, in collaboration with Gauripur Sakha Sahitya Sabha, during January 20-21, 2017. Dr. Asit Kumar Das, Principal of the college chaired the inaugural session. The seminar was inaugurated by Prof. Ganga Shankar Pandey, former Principal of the college, by lighting the lamp and garlanding the portraits of Prof. Alokesh Chandra Barua and Dr. S.R. Ranganathan. Dr. Partha Sarathi Mukhopadhyay of Kalyani University, Kalyani, West Bengal, delivered the keynote address. Dr. Sanjay Kumar Singh, Professor & Head, DLIS, Gauhati University, Dr. Badan Barman, Assistant Professor, DLIS, Gauhati University, and Dr. Subal Kumar Barui, Deputy Librarian, University of Calcutta, were present as resource persons. Dr. Prasanta Kumar Deka, Librarian, K C Das Commerce College and Secretary of Assam College Librarians' Association, was the special guest. On the second day of the seminar a panel discussion was held on the topic 'Issues and challenges for establishing digital libraries in the colleges of Assam', which was chaired by Dr. Sanjay Kumar Singh. Altogether 37 library and information professionals from various parts of the country participated in the seminar.

International**IFLA World Congress**

IFLA World Library and Information Congress: 83rd IFLA General Conference and Assembly will be held at Wrochaw, Poland, during August 19-25, 2017. The theme of the congress is 'Libraries. Solidarity. Society'. The themes of the satellite meetings are: Environment, Sustainability and Libraries Special Interest Group - Collaborative Strategies for Successive Green Libraries: Buildings, Management, Programs and Services; Genealogy and Local History Section jointly with Asia and Oceania Section and Information Technology Section - The Challenge of Multiple Identities. Multiethnicity in Genealogy, Local History and Regional Memory: Challenges and Opportunities for Libraries and Other Memory Institutions; Knowledge Management Section - New Directions in Knowledge Management; Latin America and the Caribbean Section - Libraries and the 2030 Agenda: prospective information & forthcoming society; Library Theory and Research Section, jointly with Preservation and Conservation Section and Information Technology Section - Data Curator's Roles and Responsibilities: International and Interdisciplinary Perspectives; News Media Section - Relying on News Media: Perspectives for Long Term Preservation and Our Collective Memory; Preservation and Conservation Section jointly with the Association International Francophone des Bibliothécaires et Documentalistes (AIFBD) and in collaboration with the Médiathèque Valais - New Challenges for the Preservation of Documentary Heritage; Public Libraries Section, jointly with Management and Marketing Section - Managing Change: Library Transitions - Moving into the Future. Best practices from around the world; Reference and Information Services Section, jointly with Information Technology Section - Innovation and the User Experience: Evaluating and Implementing Discovery Systems; Women, Information and Libraries Special Interest Group - LIS professionals supporting women living in conflict situations; Agricultural Libraries Special Interest Group - Agricultural Libraries and Information Services in attaining UN Sustainable Development Goals with Special Reference to Women in Agriculture. For more details visit: <http://2017.ifla.org/congress-information>

Seminar on Innovative Library Services

The Central Library, Jawaharlal Nehru University, in collaboration with the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) Regional Standing Committee for Asia and Oceania (RSCAO) and Association for Media Libraries and Archives (AMLA), is organizing an International Seminar on 'New and Innovative Library & Information Services' on February 22, 2017. For details visit: <http://lib.jnu.ac.in/one-day-international-seminar-new-innovative-library-information-services>

Conference on Knowledge Resources

DLIS, Bharathidasan University, is organizing an International Conference on 'Knowledge Resources and

Library Technologies' during February 24-25, 2017. For details visit: <https://ickreлт2017conference.wordpress.com/>

Congress on Change Management

The Medical and Health Librarians Association of the Philippines (MAHLAP) will hold its 29th National Congress and Seminar-Workshop on the theme 'The Challenge of Change: Expanding the Role and Reach of Libraries' during March 8-10, 2017 in Baguio City. For details visit: <http://www.mahlap.org>

Public Library Think Tank

The 2017 Public Library Think Tank, presented by *Library Journal* and *School Library Journal* will be held during March 9-10, 2017 at Miami, Florida, USA. For details visit: http://lj.libraryjournal.com/public-library-think-tank/#_

Institute on Library Leadership

The 15th Annual Library Leadership Institute, organized by the University of Hong Kong Libraries, in conjunction with iGroup, will be held at Bangkok, Thailand, during May 12-16, 2017. The theme of the institute is 'Libraries at the Crossroads: Challenges for Leadership'. For details visit: <https://lib.hku.hk/leadership/>

National Library Directors' Meet

The 25th meeting of the Conference of the Directors of National Libraries in Asia and Oceania (CDNLAO) will be held in May 2017 in Beijing, China, hosted by the National Library of China. For details visit: <http://www.ndl.go.jp/en/cdnlaol/newsletter/087/874.html>

Conference on innovation

The 6th International Conference on 'Innovation, Knowledge and Management' will be held during June 17-19, 2017, at Phuket, Thailand. For details visit: <http://www.icikm.org/>

New Librarians' Symposium

Australian Library and Information Association's New Librarians' Symposium will be held at the National Library of Australia, Canberra, during June 23-25, 2017. For details visit: <http://nls8.com/>

Open Repositories Conference

The University of Queensland (UQ), Queensland University of Technology (QUT) and Griffith University will host the 'International Open Repositories Conference' during June 26-30, 2017 at the Hilton Brisbane, Australia. For details visit: <https://or2017.net/>

Conference on Social Impact of Librarianship

Sri Lanka Library Association will organize its National Conference on Library and Information Science on June 29, 2016. The theme of the conference is 'Social impact of librarianship: scholarship towards sustainable development goals'. For details visit: <http://www.slla.org.lk/index.php/241-naclis2017>

CALIBER 2017

The 11th International CALIBER 2017 is going to be

organised by the INFLIBNET Centre, in collaboration with Anna University, Chennai, Tamilnadu, during August 2-4, 2017. The theme of the seminar is 'Re-envisioning Role of Libraries: Transforming Scholarly Communication'. For details visit: <http://caliber.inflibnet.ac.in> or caliber2017@inflibnet.ac.in

Conference on Innovation in Library

The 7th Annual International Conference of MANLIBNET will be held during September 15-16, 2017 at Jaipuria Institute of Management, Noida. The theme of the conference is 'Innovation in Library Technology, Services and Resources - Current trends in libraries globally'. For details email to: Jitender.sharma@jaipuria.ac.in

Information Literacy Conference

European Conference on Information Literacy 2017 (ECIL 2017), will be organized by Institut universitaire de technologie Paris Descartes, Paris, during September 18-21, 2017 in Saint-Malo, France. For details visit: [http://ecil2017.ilconf.org/?utm_source=ECIL&utm_campaign=dda2923cfb-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2017_01_19&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_d316d3bd52-dda2923cfb64926957&ct=t\(ECIL_2017_Third_call_of_paper1_19_2017\)&mcid=dda2923cfb&mc_eid=d15bdac8c5](http://ecil2017.ilconf.org/?utm_source=ECIL&utm_campaign=dda2923cfb-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2017_01_19&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_d316d3bd52-dda2923cfb64926957&ct=t(ECIL_2017_Third_call_of_paper1_19_2017)&mcid=dda2923cfb&mc_eid=d15bdac8c5)

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

Dubai to build largest e-Library

The Ruler of Dubai Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al-Maktoum has issued a law to establish a one billion dirham (USD 272 million) library with two million e-books, making it the world's largest electronic collection, UAE state news agency WAM has reported. A board, which will have to plan the construction of the library, will also be drawing up general policies and strategic plans required to deliver the library's objectives. Renderings of the planned library indicate that its architecture will have the shape of a book. Spreading over one million square feet, the facility will include eight specialized libraries, can accommodate 42 million visitors annually and will host over 100 annual cultural events. "We want this library to serve as a cultural forum, an incubator for knowledge and a civilization centre in the region," said His Highness Sheikh Mohammed. The announcement marks the culmination of the UAE government's program "2016 - the year of reading." For details visit: http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2016-11/19/c_135841399.htm

Four-Year old Librarian of LC

A four-year-old girl, who has read more than 1,000 books, has become the "librarian for a day" at the world's largest library in the US, says a PTI report published in *The Times of India*. Daliyah Arana, who is from Gainesville, Georgia, joined Librarian of Congress Carla Hayden who made history in 2016 when she became the first female and the first African-American to hold the position. Arana became the first-ever librarian for the day at the US Library of Congress on January 11, the ABC reported. Hayden and

Arana sat in on meetings, met with library staff and roamed the many halls of the library. Arana also suggested the library to add whiteboards to the walls so that children could practice their writing, which library officials said they were considering. For full report visit: <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/world/us/4-year-old-becomes-librarian-for-a-day-in-worlds-largest-library/articleshow/56565450.cms>

Talking Library set up in Nashik

Four days after International Braille Day, celebrated on January 4, the visually challenged people in Nashik received a 'Talking Library' as a gift, says a report published in *The Times of India*. Om Sai Welfare Association for the Blind and Disabled, a non-governmental organisation for visually challenged people, has started the first ever library of talking books at their Nashik Road office. The library was inaugurated by DCP (Crime) Dattatreya Karale. "The library has three types of services - books based on digital accessible information system (DAISY), books recorded in MP3 format and e-books that can be read with the talk-back software," said president of the organization, Vikas Shejwal. The books recorded in MP3 format will be accessible for the people even on their cellphones and MP3 players. "It's going to be a free service for visually challenged people. We have recorded textbooks from Std X to different post-graduate courses in MP3 format. Books for competitive examinations like MPSC, UPSC and banking are also available in Marathi, English and Hindi," Shejwal said. For details visit: <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/nashik/city-gets-its-first-talking-library/articleshow/56427495.cms>

Braille Library opened in Guwahati

Guwahati has got its first braille library for the visually impaired students at the Guwahati Blind High School, says a *The Times of India* report. The library offers braille versions of a variety of books and journals ranging from academic books, fiction, self-help, and general knowledge for the benefit of the visually impaired students who otherwise have limited access to books. Amway Opportunity Foundation (AOF), the CSR arm of Amway India, has partnered with Guwahati Blind High School to set up the library. For details visit: <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/guwahati/guwahati-gets-its-first-braille-library/articleshow/56344969.cms>

Library set on fire

A sacked contract employee of Gulbarga University was arrested recently for setting the university's library building on fire, says a *The Times of India* report. Thousands of books worth several lakhs have been burnt in the incident which happened just two days prior to the university's convocation. Police has nabbed the accused Shivkumar Pattedar, a resident of Kusanoor village, with the help of CCTV footage which showed him wandering near the library building. Sub-inspector Raghavendra of the University police station said that "Shivkumar worked as an attendant in the library on a contract basis and was sacked a couple of months ago for his inefficiency.

Shivakumar wanted to avenge his sacking. He gained entry into the library through a window after climbing a tree beside the building and set the books on fire”, he added. For details visit: <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/hubballi/Sacked-contract-employee-sets-Gulbarga-University-library-on-fire/articleshow/55861422.cms>

Open access book revenue poised to go up

While the movement to unlock the vaults of scientific, technical and medical (STM) research is revolutionizing academic journal publishing, scholarly and professional book publishers are experimenting with open models simply to keep the venerable monograph from extinction, according to the most recent report from media and publishing intelligence firm Simba Information. The report, *Open Access Book Publishing 2016-2020*, found that there was promise in this strategy. According to the report, while both STM and social science and humanities (SSH) book revenue is expected to decline at a compound annual rate of about 1% between 2016 and 2020, open access (OA) book revenue is expected to grow by almost 30% a year through 2020. For more details about *Open Access Book Publishing 2016-2020* visit: <http://www.simbainformation.com/Open-Access-Book-10410716/>.

E-book lending to be treated as print-book lending: EU Court

The lending of an electronic book (ebook) can be treated in the same way as that of a traditional book under certain conditions, Europe's highest court has said. The Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) was ruling on *VerenigingOpenbareBibliotheken v StichtingLeenrecht*, referred by the District Court of The Hague, in the Netherlands. Currently in the Netherlands, the lending of e-books by public libraries does not fall under the public lending regime applicable to traditional books. Libraries make e-books available to the public via the Internet, on the basis of licensing agreements with rights owners, says the court's press release. *VerenigingOpenbareBibliotheken*, an association to which every public library in the Netherlands belongs, brought an action against *StichtingLeenrecht*, a foundation that collects royalties owed to authors and other rights owners. *Vereniging* had taken the view that “the regime for traditional books should also apply to digital lending”, so it brought the claim against *Stichting*, seeking a declaratory judgment to that effect. According to the release, the action concerned lending under the 'one copy, one user' model, where users can download only one copy onto their own computer during the lending period. Once the period has expired, the downloaded copy can no longer be used. For more details visit: <http://librarylearningspace.com/ebooks-can-lent-way-traditional-books-says-cjeu/>

Australian Public Libraries Guidelines

A new *Guidelines, Standards and Outcome Measures for Australian Public Libraries* was launched at a gala dinner at Parliament House in Canberra recently. Commissioned by the Australian Library and Information Association (ALIA) and the Australian Public Library Alliance (APLA), these guidelines provide essential benchmarks for library

managers, councils and the state government and built on previous standards. To showcase public libraries' contribution to innovation and creativity, ALIA also produced a fact sheet *10 ways that libraries power smart cities*. For details visit: <http://www.ifla.org/node/10976>

Record number of e-books borrowed in USA

A record number of readers turned to their local library and school to enjoy e-books and audiobooks in USA during 2016. According to OverDrive, the leading digital reading platform for libraries and schools, readers borrowed 196 million digital books, an increase of 21 per cent over 2015. Of the 678 million visits to library and school websites, readers borrowed more e-books (+16%) and audiobooks (+34%) from their local and school libraries digital catalogue compared to last year. Highlights of record-setting growth from the OverDrive global network are: total digital titles borrowed from libraries and schools - 195 million (+21%); e-book circulation - 139 million (+16%); Audiobook circulation - 55 million (+34%); 49 library systems achieved at least 1 million digital checkouts; Visits to OverDrive-powered library and school websites - 678 million. For more details visit: <https://librarytechnology.org/news/pr.pl?id=22134>

Effect of Information Literacy

Though 83% of librarians agree that information literacy affects college graduation rates and 97% believe that this skill set contributes to success in the workforce, 44% think that their library does not support information literacy instruction as much as it should. A recent ProQuest survey of over 200 librarians from university, community college, high school and public libraries collected this insight and delved deeper into what librarians are doing to drive development of information literacy. "Overall, lack of budget and limited staffing were reported as some of the greatest obstacles for doing as much as they would like to drive development of this important skill set," said Kevin Stehr, ProQuest Vice President of North American Sales. For more details visit: <https://librarytechnology.org/news/pr.pl?id=22129>

Effect of demonetization

A farmer in West Midnapore district of West Bengal has put on hold plan to set up a computer centre in the library set up by him in his village after two sweet shop owners, who had promised to supply five machines, backed out in the aftermath of demonetisation, says a report by Naresh Jana published in *The Telegraph*. Himanka Sekhar Pal, a resident of Babla village in Dantan, runs the library which loans out books and study material to the poor students. The 63-year-old farmer's philanthropy started after his 24-year-old son committed suicide in 2005. "My only son had fallen into bad company and dropped out of school when he was in Class XII. I tried to bring him back to the mainstream but failed. This led to a distance between us. One day in 2005, he misbehaved with a neighbour and I rebuked him in public. Soon after, he committed suicide", Pal said. "My son was in coma for

three months before his death. During those months, I used to sit beside him and think how to turn children of our village into educated youths and good human beings," Pal said. This led him to start the library, which he named as Vidyasagar Pathagar, in a small room in his house with donations from villagers. "It started with 100 books and now, I have over 1,000 of them. I also keep reference and guide books for students of Classes IX to XII. There are books on general knowledge too. All this would not have been possible without the help of the villagers," he said. Pal takes a paltry sum as fee from the readers. But the actual donation has been coming from 51 farmers in his village, who have been paying him Rs 100 each every month. Since the demonetisation, the farmers have stopped paying Pal. The sweet shop owners, who had offered Pal to donate the computers, have since backed out saying their sales had dipped over the past month. For more details visit: https://www.telegraphindia.com/1170116/jsp/bengal/story_130591.jsp#.WIItHVN97IU

TECHNOLOGY NEWS

Power from Air for Internet

Even the smallest Internet-connected devices typically need a battery or power cord. Not for much longer. Technology that lets gadgets work and communicate using only energy harvested from nearby TV, radio, cell-phone, or Wi-Fi signals is headed toward commercialization, according to an article by Mark Harris published in *MIT Technology Review*. The University of Washington researchers who developed the technique have demonstrated Internet-connected temperature and motion sensors, and even a camera, powered that way. Transferring power wirelessly is not a new trick. But getting a device without a conventional power source to communicate is harder, because generating radio signals is very power-intensive and the airwaves harvested from radio, TV, and other telecommunication technologies hold little energy. Shyamnath Gollakota and his colleague Joshua Smith have proved that weak radio signals can indeed provide all an Internet gadget needs, using a principle called backscattering. Instead of generating original signals, one of their devices selectively reflects incoming radio waves to construct a new signal - a bit like an injured hiker sending an SOS message using the sun and a mirror. A gadget using the technique absorbs some energy from the signal it is modifying to power its own circuits. One version of the University of Washington technology, dubbed passive Wi-Fi, is being commercialized through a spin-off company, Jeeva Wireless. It lets battery-free gadgets connect with conventional devices such as computers and smartphones by backscattering Wi-Fi signals. In tests, prototype passive Wi-Fi devices have beamed data as far as 100 feet and made connections through walls. Doing that requires altering the software of a Wi-Fi access point to generate an extra signal for passive Wi-Fi devices to use, very slightly increasing its power consumption. For full story visit: <https://www.technologyreview.com/s/600773/10-breakthrough-technologies-2016-power-from-the-air/>

Restrictions for e-mail providers proposed

Email providers will have to guarantee the confidentiality of customer conversations under new proposals, according to an article by Amelia Heathman published on <http://www.wired.co.uk/> website. The European Commission has proposed new legislation to ensure the stronger privacy of individuals when it comes to using online messaging services including WhatsApp, iMessage and Gmail. Věra Jourová, Commissioner for Justice, Consumers and Gender Equality, said the new strategy would "facilitate international data exchanges in the global digital economy and promote high data protection standards worldwide." Under the proposal, tech companies including Google and Facebook will have to guarantee the confidentiality of their customers' conversations and make sure to get their consent before tracking them online, something that is used to serve customers with personalised ads. At the moment, email services such as Gmail can scan customers' emails to serve them targeted ads without explicit agreement from the users. The proposal would do away with this, something that online services are worried about as this could reduce their advertising revenue stream. For details visit: <http://www.wired.co.uk/article/european-commission-privacy-data-google-facebook>

SPECIAL FEATURE

In Quest of Superlatives

Which is the largest library in the world? this is one of the common questions often asked in interviews for recruitment of library/information professionals. Every professional knows that it is Library of Congress in USA. But this is not the only superlative relating to libraries. There are many such superlatives about which we are not much aware of. For example, the longest overdue book, issued to Robert Walpole of England from Sidney Sussex College library in 1668, was returned after 288 years, without fine, while the largest overdue fine of \$345 was paid by Emily Canellos-Simms of USA for returning a book of poetry *Days and Deeds*, which she returned to Kewanee Public Library after 47 years; the highest (230.9 m) library from ground level is located on the 60th floor of the J W Marriot Hotel at Tomorrow Square in Shanghai, China; the most sold copyrighted book and the most stolen book in the world is *Guinness World Records*; the largest book in the world is *This the Prophet Mohamed*, which measures 16.40ft x 26.44ft, weighs 3,306 lbs and consists of 429 pages, while the smallest book is *Teeny Ted from Turnip Town*, which is a 30 micro-tablet book carved on a pure crystalline silicon page, measuring just 70 micrometres x 100 micrometres; and the largest atlas is *Earth Platinum Atlas*, which measures 6.08ft x 4.75ft, with a depth of 2.36 inches and weight of 441lb and so on.

But then, where can we find such superlatives or records relating to libraries and their resources and users? The first source that comes to our mind is *Guinness World Records* (previously known as *Guinness Book of Records* and

Guinness Book of World Records). Yes, there is no doubt that it is an important information source in this regard, but its scope is wider and it includes records in innumerable other fields. Another similar initiative is *Golden Book of Records*, which too has several entries relating to libraries, such as largest research library in the world (New York Public Library), largest library in the world (British Library, though *Guinness World Records* gives this credit to Library of Congress) and also several entries relating to books. But its scope is also quite wide and records relating to library and books included in it are not significant in number.

Interestingly, a British librarian Godfrey Oswald, who has worked as a cataloguer, database searcher and library manager, being interested in identifying superlatives in his own field, started to do research in this area which culminated in introduction of a 'Library World Record' section in 2002 in the free Info Connect Library and Information Science Directory website created by him in 1995 and later publication of a record book entirely devoted to library and related fields, entitled *Library World Records* in 2004, which was revised in 2009. A new edition of the book is scheduled to be published next month. His record book provides hundreds of intriguing and comprehensive facts about ancient and modern books, manuscripts and libraries around the world, e.g.:

- What are the names of oldest public libraries in all of the different continents of the world?
- In which year was the first CD-ROM book released?
- When was the first major computer database used in libraries?
- What are the titles of the largest, heaviest, smallest and most expensive books ever published?
- What are the titles of the largest journals and magazines in the world?
- Which libraries have the most expensive budgets in the world?
- Which countries publish the largest number of books in the world?
- What are the names of the oldest surviving papyrus, vellum, parchment and paper manuscripts?
- What is the name of the very first printed book in the world to have page numbers?
- What are the names of the first books and illuminated manuscripts to be printed in colour?and so on.

Naturally, this book is often termed as the Guinness Book of World Records on libraries and books.

In India too some efforts have been made to create similar record books. *Limca Book of Records*, first brought out in 1990, includes library related records under Education category. Some of the entries relate to largest library in

India (National Library, Kolkata); first Little Magazine Library in Kolkata; first Comic Book Library in Mumbai; record of highest new member registration in a library (in a day) held by Pais Friends Library in Dombivli, Thane, Maharashtra; only library with clippings incorporated in books (The Phoenix Library, Pune) and so on. *India Book of Records* is another initiative started in 2004, but it specializes in the fields which mostly are not included in any organized sport. It has one entry on mobile library (packed inside a box) introduced in a Gujarat school and a few entries relating to books, but not specifically about any library or related fields. Another similar initiative is *Asia Book of Records*, but it does not cover many records relating to library and related fields. It has only recorded the first international journal on poetry *Kavita Sagar* and the first book of Indian Constitution in poetry form. There are two more similar initiatives, viz., *Indian Achiever Book of Records* and *World Records India*. The former does not seem to have any entry relating to library or related fields, while the latter has one entry relating to public library set up by a child and a few entries relating to books.

Obviously, there is dearth of any book specifically for library and book related records in India. We eagerly look forward for any young enthusiast who can take up this responsibility so that we can also boast of having a *Library India Records*.

[Sources: <http://www.lwrw.org/Aboutrecords2.htm>, <http://www.guinnessworldrecords.com/world-records/highest-library>, <http://www.guinnessworldrecords.com/world-records/largest-library-book-fine-paid/>, <https://www.inshorts.com/news/a-library-book-was-retuned-288-yrs-late-1467296257891>, <http://goldenbookofrecords.com/>, http://www.exlibris.ca/lib/exe/fetch.php?media=wiki:news_letters:elan_issue_38_fall_2005.pdf, http://www.limcabookofrecords.in/record_s.aspx?id=9, <http://www.indiabookofrecords.in/>, <http://indianachieverbookofrecords.com/>, <http://www.worldrecordsindia.com/>]

NEW LIS LITERATURE

[Note: Publishers of books enlisted here and/or any new books in LIS may send copies of such books to the Editor, *IASLIC Bulletin*, for review]

Indian

1. HANCHINAL (Veeresh B) et al. Re-imagining academic libraries: a perspective on institutional repositories. 2016. Ess Ess Publications, New Delhi. Rs. 850. ISBN: 9788170008040.
2. TRIPATHI (Sneha) and TRIPATHI (Aditya). Textbook of quality management in libraries. 2016. Ess Ess Publications, New Delhi. Rs.625. ISBN: 9788170008088.

(Explains the various aspects of quality and total quality management from the perspective of a library professional)

Foreign

1. ATKINSON (Jeremy), *Ed.* Quality and the academic library: reviewing, assessing and enhancing service provision. 2016. Chandos Publishing, Oxford. \$78.95. ISBN: 9780128021057

(Provides an in-depth review and analysis of quality management and service quality in academic libraries)

2. CARO (Susanne). Digitizing your collection: public library success stories. 2016. ALA Editions, Chicago. ISBN: 9780838913833.

(Shows the way to get a library's collection online)

3. DECKER (Emy Nelson) and TOWNES (Jennifer A). Handbook of research on disaster management and contingency planning in modern libraries 2016. IGI Global, Hershey. \$345.00. ISBN: 9781466686243.

(Brings together the latest scholarly research, theories, and case studies to investigate the scale and types of disasters that can impact a library)

4. GROSS (Melissa). Five steps of outcome-based planning and evaluation for public libraries. 2016. ALA Editions, Chicago. \$ 38.00. \$38.00 ISBN: 9780838914045

(This concise book combines planning and evaluation in a holistic approach, helping public library managers and staff put library resources to work for the community)

5. INFORMATION RESOURCES MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION (USA). Big

data: concepts, methodologies, tools and applications. 4v. 2016. IGI Global, Hershey. \$2,400. ISBN: 9781466698406.

(This is a compendium of research-based perspectives and solutions within the realm of large-scale and complex data sets)

OBITUARY

Smt. Aparna Vaidya, Retd. Assistant Librarian, RTM Nagpur University, passed away on January 8, 2017, at Bhopal at the age of 82. Smt. Vaidya (nee Usha Nemawarkar) joined Nagpur University Library as an Assistant Librarian in 1962. She actively contributed in reorganisation of Nagpur University library under the supervision of late N N Gidwani, the then librarian of NUL. She continued in this post till 1986. She was also contributory lecturer in the Department of Library and Information Science of Nagpur University from 1962 to 1979, and again during 1985-1986. She shifted to teaching and became a full time lecturer in the department in 1987 and continued in this post till her retirement in 1994. She was acclaimed as an excellent teacher of the subject, especially of cataloguing, by the students. Soft spoken, she was modest by nature and had won respect from one and all. IASLIC deeply mourns her death.

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