



IASLIC NEWSLETTER

Indian Association for Special Libraries and Information Centres

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Editor

Prof. Amitabha Chatterjee

Associate Editor:

Dr. Gurudas Ghosh

Assistant Editor:

Dr. Partha Sarathi Das

Editorial Board

Prof. K P Majumder

Prof. P K Panigrahi

Dr. Nitai Raychaudhury

Quote of the Month

“A library is not a luxury but one of the necessities of life.”

— Henry Ward Beecher,
American Social Reformer

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

Acknowledgement

Dr. Anup Kumar Das, JNU

IASLIC ACTIVITIES

IASLIC 29th National Seminar

Due to some unavoidable circumstances, the organizers of IASLIC 29th National Seminar, which was scheduled to be held during November 24 - 26, 2022 at North Eastern Hill University, Shillong, had to postpone the seminar at the last moment. The inconvenience caused to the intending participants is deeply regretted. The new dates for the seminar will be announced in due course.

New Members

New Life Members

1. Ashish Sharma, North 24 Parganas, West Bengal
2. Ujjwal Patra, Bankura, West Bengal

CONFERENCES / SEMINARS / WORKSHOPS

National

Seminar on Information Literacy

A Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation sponsored National Seminar on 'Information Literacy and Lifelong Learning in the Context of Public Library', is being organized by Asansol Girls' College Library during December 7 - 8, 2022. For details visit: <https://agc.ac.in/PDF/seminar02112022.pdf>

Research Methodology Course

The Department of Library and Information Science, Alagappa University, is organizing a Research Methodology Course during December 7 - 16, 2022. For details visit: <http://www.alagappauniversity.ac.in/>

Seminar on Reengineering of Libraries

The Central Library of Dr. Hari Singh Gour Vishwavidyalay, Sagar, Madhya Pradesh, is organizing a Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation sponsored National Seminar on 'Reengineering Libraries, Services and Resources' during December 10 - 11, 2022. For details visit: <http://dhsgsu.edu.in/index.php/en/>

Library Technology Conclave

The 7th Library Technology Conclave (LTC2023), organized by Informatics India Ltd, Bangalore, and Ashoka University, Delhi - NCR, Sonipat, will be held during February 15 - 17, 2023, at the Ashoka University. The theme of the conclave is 'Evolving Library Eco-system in the AI/Machine Learning Landscape.' For details visit: <https://www.ltc2023.org/>

Conference on User Centric Library

The 5th National Conference on 'Management of Modern Libraries' (NACML) 2023, is being organized by SEARCH - The KMC Health Sciences Library and Department of Library and

Information Science, Manipal Academy of Higher Education, Manipal, during February 3 - 4, 2023. The theme of the conference is 'User-Centric Library Systems and Services: Trends and Challenges'. For details visit: <https://conference.manipal.edu/NACML/>

International

Conference on Re-engineering of Libraries

An International Conference on 'Re-engineering of Libraries in the Context of Emerging Technologies: Myth of Reality' is being organized on the occasion of 68th Annual Conference of Indian Library Association, during January 19 - 21, 2023 at J L N Medical College, Ajmer. For details visit: <https://ilaindia.co.in/pdf/brochure68Conference.pdf>

Conference on Knowledge Organization

An International Conference on 'Knowledge Organization in Academic Library' (I-KOAL 2023), jointly organized by Library Professionals Association, New Delhi, and CDAC, Navi Mumbai, will be held during January 20 - 21, 2023 at Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (CDAC), Navi Mumbai. For details visit: <https://conference.manipal.edu/NACML/Default>

Conference on Library & Information Science

International Conference on 'Library and Information Science' (ICLIS 2023:17) will be held during January 23 - 24, 2023 in Paris. For details visit: <https://waset.org/library-and-information-science-conference-in-january-2023-in-paris>

Conference on Library & Information Science

The 6th International Conference on 'Library and Information Science' (ICLIS-2023) will be held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, during June 4 - 5, 2023. For details visit: <http://www.iclis.igrnet.org/549/malaysia/>

Conference on Library Science and Knowledge

An International Conference on 'Library Science and Knowledge' (ICLSK 2023:17) will be held during June 15 - 16, 2023 in Copenhagen, Denmark. For details visit: <https://waset.org/library-science-and-knowledge-conference-in-june-2023-in-copenhagen>

Conference on Library Science and Information

An International Conference on 'Library Science and Information' (ICLSI 2023:17) will be held during July 10 - 11, 2023 in Paris. For details visit: <https://waset.org/library-science-and-information-conference-in-july-2023-in-paris>

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

Teachers Convert Bus into Library

An old bus has been turned into a useful library as a result of the thought of some professors for the students, regardless of whether they have come to class, conducted a lesson, or done their duty. This has been done by the professors of the English

Department of Government College, Tura, Meghalaya, says a story available on *hindutamil* website. This bus is a mini library and poor students can get their books, clothes, stationery and sometimes even food from here. Regarding this, Assistant Professor Jena J Momin of the college said, "Our only intention is to convert this old bus into a useful vehicle. The contribution of students is high. They have looked at the books to be kept in this library and the equipment needed by the students. Starting with notepads, they have provided umbrellas to come to college without any hindrance in the rain," he said. There are many educational institutions in Tura, Meghalaya. So people from other areas send their children to Tura. Some are coming from neighboring villages amid severe hardships. Considering this difficulty, the old bus has been converted into such a utility vehicle. In the drop area of the bus, the affluent can keep whatever they can, such as books, stationery, clothes, food. English Department professors of the college have shared the cost of completely replacing this bus. All of them have paid their two months' salary for this. Regarding this, college student Tansy Kadeshil Marak said, "Through this project, even a useless item can be turned into something useful." Teachers say that the student-teacher relationship has improved after the Corona period. For original story visit: <https://www.hindutamil.in/news/life-style/811722-discarded-bus-turned-into-library-for-underprivileged-kids-in-meghalaya-thanks-to-a-teachers-group-3.html>

Library Gifted to Grandkids

Most grandparents gift their grandchildren silver and gold on birth. Bandana Sen chose to invest it in a home library for Devika even before she was born. Watching her mother-in-law build the library book by book, Himani Dalmia couldn't help but admire the time, effort and thought that went into choosing each title. Such was the beauty of this unique gift that Himani decided to share the story of *Thammi's Gift* with children, says a story by Subhadrika Sen in *My Kolkata* section of *The Telegraph Online*. Thammi, aka Bandana Sen, a pioneer in the field of children's libraries in India, spent over a decade building and managing libraries in schools in Kolkata and Delhi to nurture a love for reading in children. *My Kolkata* caught up with Bandana's daughter-in-law and author of *Thammi's Gift*, Himani, ahead of Children's Day, and spoke to her about the story behind the home library, her favourite picks for young readers and her own reading journey... For Himani, the book evolved quite naturally from depending on the home library during lockdown to writing about it and then curating a picture book with illustrations woven around it. While Himani has always treasured the library gifted to her children by their Thammi, it was during the pandemic that the family realized how precious it really was. "Our home library was a big boon during the pandemic, because the library we sometimes visit was closed and we couldn't even buy books. We did all the sensory play, crafts, endless baking and cooking, but honestly, that was still not enough to fill the hours of the day; so

that's where the collection of books at home helped," said the mother of seven-year-old Devika and four-and-a-half-year-old Yamini. It was around this time that Himani came across a series of essays and articles called *Publishing and the Pandemic*. "I wrote an article on our home library. It resonated with a lot of people and drew a lot of positive feedback. So, the idea just came to me that the heart of this article would make a good picture book. My children and I have really loved Priya Kurian's illustrations, so in my mind it was if I did this book I would love her to illustrate it. We pitched it and Harper Collins was very enthusiastic about it," the author said. Numbers do matter when building a library, according to Himani. "I do think it's important to think about numbers. What defines a library is quantity! So, there has to be a very large number of books and the child has to be surrounded by books. For instance, our library has over 2,000 books," she said. The second step would be to ensure variety in themes and content. "Where children's books are concerned, especially in India, the fact that they are actually literature is still not understood by everyone. If one goes to a local bookstore, what one mostly finds is mass-produced fairy tales. The whole idea is to populate the library with high literature," Himani said. Once the books are selected, it is important to tabulate them and keep a record. "A record of books must be maintained and books should be divided into categories. We maintain a spreadsheet of all the books in our home library. If I need to find a book, I need to be able to refer to something. It's not a library system of coding, but there has to be some organization around it," Himani said. Space is of utmost importance. "For us, the kid's nursery room was basically a library. For children, it is ideal to have low shelves that they can reach. But we also didn't have enough space. We also keep rotating the books from the higher shelves to lower shelves and back," she said. Having grown up in Delhi, where "library culture" didn't exist, Himani was blown away by Bandana Sen's library at the American Embassy School. "It was like Disneyland. It was massive and had rows and rows of books of every kind, every genre from every part of the world. There were paintings on the walls, there were props everywhere. There were colourful corners that one could sit in. It was such a calm and inspiring space," Himani recalled. "My school, on the other hand, didn't have much of a library. It had a room but it wasn't very well-stocked and there wasn't really any focus on developing reading or love for books or having a well-stocked library with people trained to manage a child's experience in the library. I remember going to The Library as a teenager, which basically had a lot of paperbacks and commercial teenage fiction." "With my children we go to OneUp Library in Vasant Vihar. I think it was launched in 2017 and I went there with my first daughter when she was about two years old. It's not as large as the AES library but it's large enough for a small child." But do today's children read? "Reading with a child is extremely important. Parents need to look at reading as a joint activity and a time to connect with the child. There needs to be an innate love

for books and the opportunity of having enough books around as well." As far as digital interference is concerned, parents need to set a limit. "It's important to have a routine for the day. Just having a rhythm to the day helps a lot because then the screen doesn't become the default. Also, the child is getting enriched in different ways, so they are not asking for a screen." For original story visit: <https://www.telegraphindia.com/my-kolkata/lifestyle/how-to-build-a-home-library-5-must-reads-from-pioneer-librarian-bandana-sens-gift-to-her-grandkids/cid/1897863>

Rajasthan to Spend ₹36.57 Crore for DL

The Rajasthan Government sanctioned ₹36.56 crore to set up digital libraries in 344 residential schools across the state, an official statement said. Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot approved the amount in compliance with the announcement made during the discussion of the Finance and Appropriation Bill 2022-23, says a PTI report carried by *The Times of India*. The Chief Minister had announced the financial provision for digital libraries and other necessary facilities for classes 9 to 12 in residential educational institutes and selected schools under various departments in view of the importance of digital learning in today's scenario, the statement said. With this, digital libraries equipped with state-of-the-art facilities will be established in various residential schools, multipurpose hostels and Kasturba Gandhi Schools run under the Tribal Area Development Department, Social Justice and Empowerment Department, Minority Affairs and the School Education Department, among others. For full report visit: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/jaipur/rajasthan-approves-rs-36-crore-to-set-up-digital-libraries-in-344-government-run-residential-schools/articleshow/95100407.cms>

Gift for Kids who Read the Most

A library in Piyali, South 24-Parganas, West Bengal, which completed a year recently, celebrated the occasion by gifting books to two children who had read the maximum number of books in the past 12 months, says a story by Jhinuk Mazumdar in *The Telegraph*. The children are first-generation learners who had almost no access to books outside their textbooks. The idea of the reading library is to give these children access to books an opportunity for them to feel the pages. The effort appears to have borne some fruit. Class V student Angana Roy read 30 books and Class IV student Durjoy Mondal read 20 books all in the reading space called Piyalir Boighar. The children cannot borrow a book but for about five days a week, they spend a couple of hours at the library reading Thakumar Jhuli, the Panchatantra and books by Sukumar Ray, among others. Other children come and read, too. Even on Diwali, Angana and Durjoy were at the boighar, reading. "The children cannot approach their parents for books. The parents find it impossible to afford books for them," said Ruchira Goswami, Honorary Secretary, Ebong Alap, the organization that started the library. The parents are mostly daily wage earners, some of whom work in the city. Angana said that she did not ask

her father to buy books. “He tries to buy textbooks for me. I do not ask for storybooks,” said the 11-year-old. Her father is a stone cutter. Sitting by her side, Durjoy said that it takes him five or six days to finish a book. Durjoy's father works in a bag factory. Smritikana Mondal, a postgraduate student and a volunteer at Ebong Alap helps the children choose books. Mondal guides their reading, too. For two years, during the pandemic, the children had no access to books. Their exposure to books or the outside world was highly limited, said a member of Ebong Alap. Many children in the city or beyond were on the verge of dropping out of school. “By introducing them to books and films, we are expanding their range. Reading groups and storytelling circles also help in igniting their minds,” said Goswami. For original story visit: <https://www.telegraphindia.com/my-kolkata/news/library-turns-one-gifts-books-to-two-kids-who-read-the-most/cid/1894055>

Unique Travelling Library

Kolkata recently welcomed its new library, albeit temporary, at Goethe Institut Max Mueller Bhavan. The Infinite Library, the newest addition to the City of Joy, is a travelling virtual reality exhibition which reinvents the concept of libraries through the history of mankind, says a story by Subhadrika Sen in *My Kolkata* section of *The Telegraph Online*. A space without books, a space which transcends time, a space which tells the history of the planet; inculcating in people the idea of how libraries as a space are used to transfer knowledge through generations. The installation is an amalgamation of art forms, science, artificial intelligence and virtual reality which not only delves into the past but also poses a question as to what lies ahead. Upon entering the venue, the dimly lit lights give you the feeling of entering a cave, one of the ancient forms of archive known to man. The audio-video narratives are mainly done through an ouroboros, the snake that eats its tail. The venue sets the mood which redefines the library through sensory experiences and tells how the library is as ancient as time. Ancient chants, humming, music, objects like the Neanderthal flute, a model of which is on display, corroborates the idea of how the library, in this case the planet itself, is a living archive of the history of mankind. It may not have books but objects that tell the story of a civilization. Conceptualized by Mika Johnson and his team, the installation uses a multi-sensory experience through voice narration, chanting sounds, archaeological information and much more. Johnson told *My Kolkata* during a special preview of the installation: “Knowledge takes the form of a medium. Oral history predates books massively as do dance, chanting, mask making, forms of architecture, which have deep significance related to the cosmos. Thinking about all these knowledge systems which people don't really know about was more exciting than thinking about reproducing different libraries with books and things that we do know about. We set about thinking what kind of libraries can be used to tell stories that books can't tell.” For full story

visit: <https://www.telegraphindia.com/my-kolkata/events/experience-the-new-travelling-library-at-goethe-institut/cid/1886757>

Each Ward of Bengaluru to have Library

Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) is planning to establish libraries in all 243 wards in the city, says a *The Hindu* story. BBMP administrator Rakesh Singh held a meeting recently with the Department of Public Libraries and directed officials to prepare a report on setting up the libraries. Mr. Singh said, “The libraries will help the public to develop reading skills, and also help school and college students read books and prepare for exams. Hence, we have directed officials to come up with the plan to set up libraries in all wards of the city.” “The BBMP will set up these libraries on properties belonging to the civic body. We will also talk to various non-governmental organizations that are interested in sharing books with these libraries,” he added. Apart from this, the civic body will also build quarters near to the libraries where the library employees can stay. According to BBMP officials, this will make the libraries run efficiently and on time. In March this year, the Karnataka Government launched Grama Digi Vikasana, an initiative by Sikshana Foundation, a Bengaluru-based NGO in association with Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department and Dell Technologies. Under the programme, gram panchayat libraries would be upgraded with digital devices aimed at providing shared digital access to the rural population. For full story visit: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/karnataka/coming-soon-a-library-for-each-ward-in-the-city/article66128434.ece>

Karnataka Library App has 2.9 cr. Subscribers

Adopting the new norm of digital life in the post-pandemic era by introducing the digital library concept, the Department of Public Libraries in Karnataka has set up a new record for the highest number of readership, says a report by Niranjan Kaggere in *The Times of India*. The department's free app e-Sarvajanikagranthalaya has recorded a whopping 2.9 crore users in just two years of its launch. With over 17 crore free-content across multiple disciplines available online, Karnataka's digital library today is one of the largest consulted libraries of the world on a daily basis as recorded by the World Book of Records, London. The project, a first in the country, started on a small scale to reach out to readers during the COVID lockdown and has now transformed into a sought-after platform due to its multiple contents. “Anybody with access to a computer, tab or smartphone can avail the library membership free of cost and start reading our content not just in Kannada but also in English and other Indian languages,” said Satishkumar S Hosamani, Director of the Department of Public Libraries. The department has also made provisions for digitally challenged readers to access digital content at its 372 libraries across Karnataka. “All these libraries, including 100 in Bengaluru, are

provided computers and tablets for the digitally challenged or any other readers to access our digital content. To date, on a daily basis we keep adding 25 - 50 books. The digitization of all libraries and providing infrastructure have cost ₹ 4.6 crore,” Hosamani clarified. The department has collaborated with other stakeholders such as CBSEW, NCERT, universities and All India Radio archives and offer access to contents, including video tutorials, simulated laboratory experiments, journals and periodicals, audio clippings, YouTube links and lectures by resource persons. For full report visit: http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/articleshow/95542624.cms?utm_source=contentofinterest&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=cppst

Z-Library Sites Blocked

Z-Library, a massively popular website that allows free downloading of pirated ebooks, has been blocked in India following a court order, says a story by Aroon Deep available on <https://entrackr.com/> website. *Entrackr* has found Multiple URLs associated with Z-Library show a message saying that they have been blocked as a result of a court order. While American publishers like Wiley and Elsevier have been pursuing a case in the Delhi High Court against two similar platforms Library Genesis and Sci-Hub, it is unclear which court ordered the blocking of these sites. Z-Library is said to be a 'mirror' of Library Genesis, but appears to have a larger catalogue with content from other sources as well, including academic papers. A message from ACT Broadband when trying to access Z-Library sites shows that the blocking is the result of a court order. The order does not appear to have been implemented fully by other Internet Service Providers yet. While multiple URLs associated with Z-Library were blocked on ACT and Reliance Jio, *Entrackr* was able to access them on Internet connections provided by Airtel. While accessing copyrighted materials is illegal, Indian researchers who use Sci-Hub argued in the Delhi High Court that the cost of accessing materials from Sci-Hub and Lib-Gen legally is prohibitively expensive. “If the suit is decreed in favour of the Plaintiffs and access to Lib-Gen is blocked, social science researchers will not be able to continue with their research. They will not be able to meaningfully engage with social scientists from other countries, expand our collective knowledge and continue to contribute to policy building,” the researchers said in a brief submitted to the court. For full story visit: <https://entrackr.com/2022/08/exclusive-z-library-sites-blocked-in-india-following-court-order/>

Doorsteps Delivery of Books in TN

After the delivery of medicines at the doorsteps Tamil Nadu Government will now deliver books at the doorsteps of readers. The Tamil Nadu Directorate of Public Libraries will launch the Noolangam Nanbaragal or Friends of Library scheme in 2,500 libraries across the state, says an *IANS* story. Tamil Nadu School Education Minister, Anbil Mahesh

Poyyamozhi announced, in the 2022-23 Budget, that the Noolangam Nanbaragal scheme would be implemented in the state. The Directorate of Public Libraries will select five volunteers for each library and the volunteers will deliver books at the doorsteps of readers and create awareness among the public on the importance of books and reading. A meeting of the librarians would be held at the district level soon and then the notification for the selection of volunteers would be issued. In a statement, the Directorate of Public Libraries said that the scheme would be implemented in 31 district central libraries, 300 full-time branch libraries, 1463 other libraries, and in 706 village libraries in the state. According to the Library Department, the selected volunteers would not be given any remuneration and instead would provide ₹ 500 per year if they perform well enough. With this scheme, the Tamil Nadu Government is expecting a large number of people to be engaged in books and libraries. For full story visit: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/life-style/books/features/tamil-nadu-government-to-deliver-books-at-doorsteps/articleshow/94805986.cms>

Facelift for TN Rural Libraries

The Tamil Nadu Rural Development department has sanctioned an amount of ₹ 84 crore for repairing and maintaining 3,808 rural libraries in the state. The development comes following widespread complaints about the dream project of former Chief Minister, late M Karunanidhi, waning due to lack of proper maintenance and management, says an *IANS* story available on *thenewsminute* website. During the last leg of the rule of Karunanidhi, the government had sanctioned the opening of 12,525 libraries under the Anaithu Grama Anna Marumalarchi Thittam (AGAMT) project. The project was aimed at students, women, and senior citizens who are not in a position to go to district headquarters to access public libraries. The government had purchased books worth several lakhs of rupees. However, within two years, the project was not functioning smoothly as fund allocation came down after the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) government lost power, and the rural libraries which were opened with much fanfare turned into remnants of their old glory. Gradually, the number of rural libraries that were functioning came down and by 2015, only 2,000 libraries were functioning. Most of the libraries had gathered dust, and the buildings turned into dens for anti-social activities. After the DMK government returned to power in 2021, Chief Minister M K Stalin announced the revival of rural public libraries and had earlier sanctioned an amount of ₹ 91 crore under the AGAMT for repairing 4,116 rural libraries. The Rural Development Department has now sanctioned an amount of ₹ 84 crore for repairing and maintaining 3,808 rural libraries. The Library Department has also announced sanctioning of ₹ 50,000 for each library for the purchase of books. However, the department has directed the honorary librarians in charge of these libraries to rope in some corporate social responsibility

(CSR) funds and also support from NGOs for the purchase of weeklies and magazines. With the rural libraries gearing up for a new facelift with the funds allocated and buying new books and magazines, these libraries could turn once again into vibrant centres of culture and reading in villages. For original library visit: <https://www.thenewsminute.com/article/makers-vijay-starrer-varisu-issued-notice-shooting-elephants-170263>

TECHNOLOGY NEWS

WhatsApp to mute large Group Chats

WhatsApp groups can be pretty annoying at times, especially when you are not part of the conversation but still constantly get bugged by notifications. Although WhatsApp offers a mute feature that allows users to silence the group notification for a certain amount of time, it is not always possible to mute a group. It appears that WhatsApp also understood this issue and the platform has reportedly rolled out a new feature that automatically mute large group chats to help reduce the amount of notifications, says a DNA story. As per a report by WABetaInfo, the Facebook owned platform has rolled out a new beta update that brings the new group feature for Android users. The WhatsApp beta update brings the version of the app up to 2.22.24.15. The new WhatsApp feature have been working for quite some time and references for it have been spotted in previous beta updates. Once the feature is available, an alert revealing that group has been automatically muted to reduce notifications. "This group has over 256 participants and was automatically muted to help reduce notifications," the alert in the group reads. WhatsApp recently also rolled out the capability to add 1024 participants in a group. Apart from this, the messaging platform also released the much-awaited Communities feature that allows group admins to manage multiple groups under a single umbrella. For full story visit: <https://www.dnaindia.com/technology/report-whatsapp-will-soon-automatically-mute-large-group-chats-for-you-3000976>

WhatsApp may allow posting of Voice Statuses

WhatsApp's version of Stories has arguably proven to be popular amongst people. The feature lets you post a photo, video, or text, which will vanish after 24 hours. This functionality could soon get an update, which will introduce Voice Statuses, says a story by Vanshika Malhotra available on [beebom.com](https://www.beebom.com) website. Here's what this is about. It is suggested (via *WABetaInfo*) that WhatsApp is planning to introduce Voice Status, which will basically allow you to post audio as a Status. This is a part of the Meta-owned messaging app's iOS version and was previously spotted on WhatsApp beta for Android too. A screenshot shows a voice note shared

a Status. This Voice Status will get a microphone icon at the bottom right corner, thus, acting as a differentiator between regular Statuses and the Voice ones. You can check it out for a better idea. The report reveals that you will get to post a voice note of up to 30 seconds along with a text. The Voice Statuses will be end-to-end encrypted and will be shown to people you will choose based on your privacy settings. For full story visit: <https://beebom.com/whatsapp-voice-status-feature/>

YouTube rolling out Short-Form Video App Shorts

YouTube has started rolling out its TikTok rival short-form video app Shorts on TV to its global users, says a DNA story. The updated YouTube smart TV app will now let users see the popular vertical videos in an optimized experience. "Coming soon to a TV near you? Shorts! Starting today, viewers will be able to enjoy these bright bursts of video (60 seconds or less) on the big screen at home," the company said in a statement. In the design rolling out, the users will see a modified version of a "maximal" prototype. "We simplified the design of the right side rail, but will be looking to bring in additional functionality in future releases. We believe that this experience balances the fun, quiriness of Shorts in a way that feels natural for TV," said the company. Over the coming weeks, this experience will be rolling out on TV models (2019 and later) and on newer game consoles. You can also use the remote to start or stop the Shorts video from playing by clicking directly on the short or by using the Play and Pause buttons on the remote control itself. YouTube Shorts has reached 30 billion daily views, and is growing exponentially. For full story visit: <https://www.dnaindia.com/technology/report-youtube-starts-to-roll-out-its-short-form-video-app-shorts-for-tv-3000300>

SPECIAL FEATURE

Libraries Galore!

Every school should ideally have a library for use by students to gather more knowledge than what they learn in class. It not only helps them in gathering all information needed by them to improve their academic performance but also in inculcating reading habit among them. But the real picture is that many schools still either do not have this essential unit, or have libraries only by name - a locked almira with a few books inside. In this background the students and teachers of a school in a small town of Kerala has set up a library in each of its 69 classes. A unique feat indeed! The inspiring story of this venture narrated by George Poikayil has been carried by [onmanorama.com](https://www.onmanorama.com) website, a shortened version of which is being reproduced below with due acknowledgement to the writer and the website concerned.

When his classmates picked up books from their newly started 'classroom library', Muhammed Arfaz, too, took home a Malayalam romance novel. The next day he returned the

book. That was fast, thought Nisa TP, an avid reader and designated 'little librarian' of Class X T. What Arfaz said did not surprise her. "I just wanted to read but I could not capture anything," Arfaz said, using the English word 'capture' to mean comprehend. But Nisa would not give up on him. She put a Sherlock Holmes in his hands and advised him to be at it till the end. "It's an easy read," she told him. "Boys are slow readers but they will come around," said Nisa, who had just finished reading Yuval Noah Harari's 'Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind'. Their class has 21 students and the 'kutty' (small) library has around 100 books.

Seethi Sahib Higher Secondary School in Kannur district's Taliparamba town has set up 'little libraries in all its 69 classrooms with more than 6,000 books to wean students off mobile phones and draw them into the world of reading. The school trained one student from each class to become the 'little librarian.' It took the teachers and students nearly five months to roll out the project named 'Chiraku' or Wings. The school is funded by the government and run by the Taliparamba Jumaath Palli (mosque) Trust Committee. It was established in 1968 and named after the social reformer and founder leader of the Muslim League, K M Seethi. Its Class VIII has 26 divisions, that is from A to Z, with 35 students each; Class IX has 22 divisions with 22 students each; and Class X has 21 divisions, with 45 students each.

"When the children returned to school after two years of Covid, we found them to be restless in class. Their attention span has fallen. Their reading skills have dropped and they are hooked to mobile phones," said the headmaster in-charge Ibrahimkutty UK. "The worst affected were the students in Class VIII," he said. The school library, with around 2,000 books, was the least visited room, said Nisar Malayil, a Malayalam teacher and in-charge of the library. "The library was not popular partially because it did not have a full-time librarian. I sat there barely for half an hour. It was a very small window for such a big school," he said. Government and government-aided schools do not have the provision to appoint a librarian in Kerala. But CBSE schools must have librarians.

The unused library at Seethi Sahib school made teachers think of a plan to take books to students. "We asked the students what they would like to read," said Nisar. The genres suggested were 'painkili' novels (cheesy pulp fiction), crime thrillers, detective novels, modern short stories, and science fiction. "We decided to go for them. The idea is to get them to read. Read anything. So we skipped the heavy biographies and classics that may bore kids," he said. The teachers then approached writer Suresh Kumar of Mathrubhumi Books and Vivek K V of DC Books to help them find the books. "They know the pulse of young readers. We also wanted them to screen the books to ensure the content was age-appropriate," said Jasmine CI, a mathematics

teacher. The two publishing houses gave the school a 35 per cent discount and also gave the books on credit. With around 3,000 titles, the teachers organized book fairs in the school on September 25, 26, and 27, the days on which there were PTA meetings. The school suggested that students and parents might buy books and donate to the 'Chiraku' project. "There was no compulsion but the response was overwhelming. Students of Class VIII were the most enthusiastic," said Jasmine. "We realized that parents of Taliparamba wanted their children to read."

When the photographs of students donating books to the school started doing the rounds on social media, the alumni groups started calling. The students of 1973, the third batch of the school, donated books worth ₹ 1 lakh. "The alumni sent English books from Delhi. We got them screened by Suresh and Vivek," said Nisar. Other alumni batches bought bookshelves for the 69 classes. Once the movement gained traction in Taliparamba, the traders and business houses started pitching in.

The school then brought in Binoy Mathew, a senior librarian of Valapattanam grama panchayat, to train its 69 'little librarians' how to manage the class libraries. "He taught us everything about books. Right from how to turn a page, how to take care of books, and how to read," said Naja Fathima of Class IX R. "Reading is an art and also a science." Mathew also introduced them to Scandinavian libraries, where families go together to read, eat and play. "Their libraries have activity rooms and mentors. And when people get tired, there is room to take a nap. Isn't that lovely?" she asked.

Jasmine, the maths teacher who produced a short video to promote reading in the school, said that she felt happy when the children were engaged in animated discussion over books. "Our efforts are paying off," she said.

Librarian Binoy Mathew, who also advises local self-government bodies on running libraries, said that several government schools had started classroom libraries but over the period, they became just another cupboard in the classroom. That was because the teachers were doubling up as librarians, he said. Recently, the government had distributed books worth ₹ 10 crore to schools but they were not being read, he said. Seethi Sahib School is doing it differently by making the project participatory from the start and giving the responsibility of running the libraries to the students, he said. "If these 69 little librarians become mentors to their classmates, it will have a big impact," said Mathew. "Seethi Sahib School should not make the mistake of confining their little libraries to the shelves or between the covers, Mathew stressed.

[Source: <https://www.onmanorama.com/news/kerala/2022/11/01/taliparamba-school-library-reading-revolution-kannur.html>]

OBITUARY

Prof. Bimal Kanti Sen, popularly known as B K Sen, former Head of the Education and Training Division of the Indian National Scientific Documentation Centre (INSDOC, presently CSIR-NISCAIR), New Delhi, breathed his last on October 17, 2022 at his residence in New Delhi. Born in 1941 at Charmadhua, in Mymensingh district of Bengal province of British India (now in Bangladesh). Prof. Sen obtained B.Sc. degree from University of Calcutta and began his career as a lower division assistant with the Government of West Bengal in 1960. While in service, he completed Certificate in Library Science course from Bengal Library Association (BLA), and Dip Lib Sc course from University of Calcutta. He passed M Lib Sc examination from University of Delhi, and was awarded Gold Medal for securing the first position. He was awarded PhD in 1995 by Jadavpur University. He pursued his research work under the supervision of Prof. Prabir Roychoudhury. He joined CSIR-INSDOC in 1963 and continued as a Scientist till 1995. He headed several divisions of INSDOC, namely the Russian Science Information Centre and National Science Library. He founded the National Centre on Bibliometrics at CSIR-INSDOC in 1988 with the support of NISSAT, which was possibly the greatest contribution of INSDOC to bibliometric and scientometric studies carried out from India. Prof. Sen served as a Visiting Professor of Library and Information Science in the University of Malaya, Malaysia, from 1995 to 1999. He visited several countries, viz., Russia (formerly USSR), Italy, Singapore, Malaysia, Bangladesh, and the Netherlands on professional assignments. He wrote and edited more than ten books in English and Bengali including

'Growth of Scientific Periodicals in India, 1901-1947' (INSA, 2005), 'Growth of Scientific Periodicals in India, 1788-1900' (INSA, 2002), 'Open Access to Knowledge and Information: Scholarly Literature and Digital Library Initiatives the South Asian Scenario' (UNESCO, 2008, with Anup Kumar Das), 'Granthagar o Tathya Vijnaner Paribhasha (English-Bengali)' (BLA, 2013), and Samsad Rasayan Vijnaner Paribhasha (Sahitya Samsad, 2013). He was a founder Editor of two well-known academic journals, namely, Information Today & Tomorrow (published by NISSAT, DSIR), and Malaysian Journal of Library & Information Science (published by University of Malaya). As an Editor-in-Chief and an editorial board member, he contributed towards development and sustainability of several academic journals, such as, *ILA Bulletin*, *Annals of Library and Information Studies (ALIS)*, *IASLIC Bulletin*, *Journal of Scientometric Research (JSciRes)*, *World Digital Libraries (WDL)*, *DESIDOC Journal of Library and Information Technology (DJLIT)*, *Indian Journal of History of Science (IJHS)*, and *Library Herald*. He was associated with the IASLIC's flagship periodical 'Indian Library & Information Science Abstracts' (ILSA) as an editorial adviser, and contributed contents to many of its volumes. He also served as the Chairman of the Bibliometrics Expert Committee in the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India, and was associated with DST till 2021. He supervised a number of doctoral research scholars in Jadavpur University and a few other universities. He was a Life Member of IASLIC and actively participated in many of the IASLIC seminars, conferences, special lectures, and special interest group meetings. Prof. Sen was also a Life member of the Indian Library Association (ILA), Information and Communication Society of India (ICSI) and Bengal Library Association (BLA). IASLIC deeply mourns his death.

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