



IASLIC NEWSLETTER

Indian Association for Special
Libraries and Information Centres



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Quote of the Month

*“Bad libraries build collections,
good libraries build services,
great libraries build
communities.”*

— R. David Lankes

Professor and Director, School of
Library & Information Science,
University of South Carolina, USA

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

List of New Members

Institutional

1. Bidhan Chandra College, Asansol, West Bengal
2. Narasinha Dutt College, Howrah, West Bengal
3. Pramathesh Barua College, Gauripur, Assam
4. Rishi Bankim Chandra Evening College, Naihati, West Bengal
5. Dhemaji College, Dhemaji, Assam
6. Satyapriya Roy College of Education, Kolkata, West Bengal

CONFERENCES / SEMINARS / WORKSHOPS

International

Conference on Digital Libraries

The 25th International Conference on 'Theory and Practice of Digital Libraries' is being organized by The Open University, UK, in online mode during September 13 - 17, 2021. For details visit: <http://www.tpd1.eu/tpdl2021/>

Conference on National Libraries

A digital conference on 'National Libraries Now 2021: International Perspectives on Library Curation' is being organized by the British Library, National Library of Jamaica and Bibliothèque royale de Belgique during September 16 - 17, 2021. For details visit: <https://nln2021conference.wordpress.com/2021/02/19/example-post-3/>

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

Over 8000 Books for gutted Library

The Public Library Department of the Karnataka Government has decided to donate as many as 8243 books to an economically underprivileged city worker who lost his library in Mysuru to a fire incident last month, Karnataka Education Minister S Suresh Kumar recently said, according to an *Indian Express* report. On April 9, a fire destroyed hundreds of books, including Kannada copies of religious scriptures like the Bhagwad Gita and the Quran, that had been collected by 62-year-old Syed Ishaq at his library in Shantinagar area over the last ten years. (For earlier report see May 2021 issue of this newsletter). “The Public Library Department would provide 8,243 books to Syed Ishaq's library, which fell prey to the mischief of the miscreants,” the minister said. He said that a proposal was sent to Kolkata-based Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation to support Ishaq's library. “This foundation from Kolkata, which works under the aegis of the Union Ministry of Culture, would be able to offer good support to Ishaq's library,” the minister said. On April 17, the Mysuru City Police arrested a 35-year-old man in connection with the incident. City

Police Commissioner Chandragupta said the man was arrested for carelessly throwing a matchstick after lighting a beedi which led to the outbreak of the fire near the library. The police added that the accused, identified as Syed Nasir, had returned home next to the library in an “inebriated state after a fight with his mother and brothers”. “He (the accused) had lit a beedi before throwing the burning matchstick on the furniture and cushions kept in the open outside a sofa repair shop adjacent to the library. This led to the fire which destroyed the library,” he said. Officials who investigated the probe had also clarified that CCTV visuals from the area helped them ascertain the reason behind the fire. For original report visit: <https://indianexpress.com/article/cities/bangalore/karnataka-govt-donates-8000-books-mysuru-man-library-fire-7291209/>

Mobile Library Bus

A mobile library bus has been rolled out by North Eastern Karnataka Road Transport Corporation (NEKRTC) along with the Zilla panchayat, Education Department and Library Department of Karnataka in Kalaburagi district, says a *Hindustan Times* report. The initiative was started with the aim of encouraging children in remote areas to inculcate the habit of reading, said Kurma Rao, Managing Director of the NEKRTC. “We receive overwhelmingly positive responses from both teachers and students across the district wherever we go. The main objective of this is to inculcate the habit of reading and to get students interested in various kinds of books. The bus is now roaming in interior villages,” Rao said. The unconventional library, in an old bus with over 4,000 books and about a hundred magazines, will soon allow students to issue books and return them the next time the bus visits. “Children are very keen to issue books from the library as well; so we are planning to come up with a programme that will allow students to borrow books and return the same the next time,” Rao added. For original report visit: <https://www.hindustantimes.com/education/news/mobile-library-rolled-out-for-children-in-kalaburagi-s-remote-areas-in-karnataka-101614416347267.html>

Libraries for Tribal Kids

For school students in remote villages of Naxalite-infested Gadchiroli district of Maharashtra, Covid days pass as if time's frozen in some sci-fi type suspended animation, until a few days ago. As schools remain closed for primary kids and no chance of entertainment also for these tribal kids, the monotony is being broken thanks to small libraries being set up at government schools by a private trust, says a *The Times of India* report. With no smartphones and in places no Internet connectivity either, these libraries are actually a window to the outside world for these students. Under the banner of Parag Granthalya (library), an initiative of Tata Trusts, around 50 schools in Gadchiroli district have benefited. Sanjay Duga, coordinator of the project in remote Bhamragarh tehsil, said, “We want children to develop reading habit and the best way to do that is through colourful story books. Our members visit schools regularly and teach children how a book is to be read, how that story is to be narrated to others and how to also

critically analyse points made therein.” Dharmanand Meshra, Block Education Officer of Bhamragarh, said, “For students, it's a welcome change as they get to read different books. In those books, activities like colouring and sketching are also there, which make it all the more interesting for students. Last week, I visited Tadgaon Zilla Parishad School and it was apparent that students loved the concept.” Rameshwar Jadhav, science teacher at Tadgaon ZP School, which has around 80 students on roll, says, “Though the school has students from Std I-VII, currently only the last three classes are allowed to operate; hence very few students are present. The activities for children mentioned in the books help engage them creatively as well,” said Jadhav. Tata Trusts is also providing stationery for students as part of this initiative. Duga said, “Right from books to colour crayons, we will ensure that students are able to complete activities mentioned in these books. We have stocked around 200 books for now and will keep adding in the coming months.” For original report visit: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/nagpur/amid-covid-lull-libraries-bring-cheer-to-gadchiroli-kids/articleshowprint/81299847.cms>

Library for Protesters at Tikri

As State lines continue to blur among them, a 35-year-old lawyer from Punjab's Mansa juggles daily virtual court appearances and provides legal aid to those arrested for their alleged role in the Republic Day violence, at the Tikri border. Representing the first generation from a family of farmers to take up a different occupation, Jagtar Singh Sidhu, from a tent he set up 45 days ago, runs the “Shared Heritage Library” seeking to educate protesting Haryana and Punjab farmers about the common history of their past generations leading up to, and following, the two partitions of Punjab — first in 1947 and then in 1966, says a story by Jatin Anand in *The Hindu*. “I have been associated with the protest since July last year when it was limited to Punjab and have been here for the last 45 days. We have books on history, religion and literature in Hindi, Punjabi and English. Between 20 and 25 books are issued every day. People should know where they come from and how they got here,” he said. “True Indian-ness lies in our diversity, so we should read diverse literature and culture to peacefully coexist. For me, it is as simple as that. This shared heritage is of India where a movement like this, which is bound to have international repercussions, is taking place right now,” said Mr. Sidhu, who is part of a team of 200 lawyers providing legal aid to those arrested in several cases related to Republic Day violence. From Vladimir Bogomolov and Nelson Mandela to Gandhi and Pash, Sadat Hasan Manto and Ismat Chughtai to Jaishankar Prasad and Mohan Rakesh, from Ishtiaq Ahmed to Tony Joseph, Mr. Sidhu's library, he said, seeks to bring together not just literary glimpses of the undivided Punjab of yesteryears that lay between Peshawar and Delhi but that of diverse cultures culminating in “Indian-ness”. For full story visit: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Delhi/lawyer-runs-heritage-library-to-educate-protesters-at-tikri/article33804834.ece>

Court's Praise for Librarian

The Madras High Court has passed an order to reopen the library

across villages for the public, says a report by Moumita Mondal available on lawsisto.com website. The court has stated that the opening of libraries for the public could lead to the growth and development of society. The court has told the State of Tamil Nadu to file a detailed report on some suggested reforms to initiate the movement of the public libraries to the next level. The court has also observed that the importance of libraries can't get lost due to the rising of technology in the world. Justice M Dhandapani also commented that "Google can bring 1,00,000 responses but the librarian can give the exact answer". The order states that every individual in the country carries a smartphone and they can Google any information which is required by them. The order also mentions that Google can give 1,00,000 but a librarian alone can give the right response. It also states that the initiatives are required to be taken in the future regarding the digital libraries providing audio, visual, and multimedia documents which will be beneficial to public use. The court has looked into various petitions which had challenged the modifications of rules under the Tamil Nadu Public Libraries Act in which the powers regarding the appointment and transfer of the library staff were given to the Director of Public Libraries. The petition regarding this contention was not considered by the court. Justice Dhandapani opined that the libraries were endangered and also that libraries were important because they provided knowledge to the citizens. He also stated that everyone could visit a library without leaving his or her house during the times of modern technology. He also mentioned that a library was a place where one could get precise and smart answers to even the most difficult questions. The court stated that the pandemic had not spread to the villages unlike the cities and towns, and so, the libraries could resume functioning after receiving the copy of the order within four weeks. For original report visit: <https://lawsisto.com/legalnewsread/OTg3Mw==/Google-can-bring-100000-answers-but-a-librarian-can-bring-the-exact-answer-Madras-High-Court-suggests-the-State-to-take-library-movement-to-next-level>

J K PLs to offer Career Guidance

Responding to the persistent demand of the students and other library users, the Department of Libraries & Research of Jammu and Kashmir has decided to keep the Reading Zones in SPS Library Srinagar and SRS Library Jammu open beyond official working hours, according to a post on indiaeducationdiary.in website. "Reading Zone of SRS Library Jammu and SPS Library Srinagar shall remain open on all working days except gazetted holidays from 9 am to 5 pm observing COVID-19 protocol," said a circular issued by Director, Libraries & Research, Mohammad Rafi. In a separate order, the Director, Libraries & Research, has ordered that the Reading Rooms of District Library Srinagar and City Central Library be made operational immediately to facilitate the readers. Pertinently, there has been an overwhelming demand from library users for keeping the Reading Zones open beyond official working hours. The issue had been flagged by the readers through the Hon'ble Lt Governor's Grievance Cell and was also raised by them with the Secretary, Department of Culture, Sarmad Hafeez, and District Development Commissioner, Srinagar, Dr. Shahid Choudhary,

during their recent visit to the SPS Library. The Department of Libraries & Research has embarked upon a plan of action to reinvent the role of public libraries in J&K by offering Career Guidance and Information Services to the students through the vast network of libraries spread across the UT. "Due to the cut-throat competition and overflow of information in the fast-changing academic and career scenario, it is very important to provide the right information to the right user and public libraries can play a critical role in guiding the students with right career options," said Director, Libraries & Research, regarding the new initiative. He said that the Department had a network of around 140 public libraries spread across the nook and corner of J&K and these libraries be repositioned as Career Guidance Centres to facilitate the students with reliable information about admissions in academic and professional colleges/universities, scholarships, fellowships and job opportunities. "We have embarked upon a programme to build the requisite infrastructure in the libraries pertaining to student needs with the focus on e-resources," he said and added that to begin with around 300 reference books and 50 prestigious journals/magazines were being provided in SPS Library Srinagar and SRS Library Jammu to help students prepare for various competitive examinations. This, he said, would be a value-addition to the already mandated responsibilities of the public libraries. For full post visit: <https://indiaeducationdiary.in/jks-public-libraries-to-offer-career-guidance-services-to-students/>

School, Library on Scooter

In an innovative initiative to bring education to students' doorstep, a government school teacher from Madhya Pradesh has set up a mini-school and library on the two wheels of his scooter for students in rural areas, where schools remain closed due to the Covid-19 pandemic, according to a story available on indiatoday.in website. Schools and colleges across the country are slowly shutting down once again due to the rise in Covid-19 cases in educational institutes, which is taking a toll on the education of students coming from rural areas and low-income families, who cannot afford to attend online classes. The government school teacher, Chandra Has Shrivastava, decided to build this school in a portable fashion so that it is easily accessible all across the village and he is often seen conducting classes for students in rural areas under the shade of a tree outdoors. As the schools have been shut down in Madhya Pradesh due to the rise in Covid-19 cases, school authorities have been conducting online classes for the students to keep them up to speed with their studies. This has become a major problem for students in rural areas. "We do not get network connectivity in many places. I used to download videos and show them on mobile and then I started teaching on the scooty on which there is a green board on one side and books on the other," Shrivastava said while talking about his mini-school. He further said, "Unavailability of the mobile network is also a major problem in many areas. Keeping this in mind, I bought five smartphones that I give to students of my class. Students can keep the books of the library for 2-3 days." Many students are benefiting from the venture started by Shri Shrivastava

amid the ongoing pandemic situation. Schools in Madhya Pradesh have been shut down for students below class 8 and will reopen once the COVID-19 situation is reviewed. For original story visit: <https://www.indiatoday.in/education-today/news/story/mp-teacher-sets-up-mini-school-library-on-scooter-as-schools-remain-closed-1785906-2021-04-01>

Park Library in Bhubaneswar

In a novel initiative to inculcate the reading habit in students, youngsters and the community at large, the Bhubaneswar Development Authority has recently opened a public library in one of the parks of Bhubaneswar where children can come and read books for 6 hours every day, according to a story by Debabrata Mohanti in *Hindustan Times*. The library, a collaboration between the BDA and city-based Bakul Foundation, started functioning at the Biju Patnaik Park, popularly known as 'Forest Park', and will have around 2000 books, including fiction, non-fiction, biographies, classics and textbooks. Though this library caters to people of all age groups, it would focus on children and students. Former IAS officer and chief advisor to CM Naveen Patnaik, R. Balakrishnan, who inaugurated the library recently, said that it was a great step by the BDA to promote the park library culture at a time when the reading habit was declining among youngsters. "In the age of Internet and social media, there is a steady decline in the reading habit. Therefore, initiatives like a park library will surely help in encouraging and promoting reading habits among all. This library will definitely attract children, students, book lovers and people visiting the park who can spend some time in reading amid a cool and peaceful environment," said Balakrishnan, adding that more such libraries would come up in other big parks in the city. Founder-secretary of Bakul Foundation, Sujit Mahapatra said that the library had a collection of Odia and English books and had shelves with books for children too, with chairs and tables meant for them. "The books have been graded into difficulty levels and genres to get a child interested in reading without intimidating him or her. The library has books in English and Odia, but there is a shelf each for children's books in Hindi and French as well. The foundation will engage its volunteers - comprising students, retired people, homemakers and professionals - who will conduct storytelling sessions, creative workshops and live performances to attract students and youngsters to the library," Mahapatra said. For full story visit: <https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/to-encourage-reading-odisha-sets-up-its-first-public-library-in-a-park-101616333385061.html#:~:text=In%20a%20novel%20initiati ve%20to,for%206%20hours%20every%20day.>

Internet Library in AP Villages Planned

The Andhra Pradesh Government was planning to establish a new university to adopt and promote new technologies, announced Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy during the review of IT and technology at his Tadepalli camp office recently, says a *The Times of India* report. The Chief Minister emphasized the need to promote technology in everyday life across the state. He told officials to focus on introducing technology, and extending mobile technology and mobile

network coverage in villages. Officials were also told to open Internet libraries in the villages within next three years. The Chief Minister asked officials to construct in every village a separate building that could be used as an Internet library. For full report visit: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/vijayawada/govt-plans-internet-libraries-across-villages/articleshow/80712699.cms>

Crowdsourced Libraries

A few years ago, the poster girl of child education rights Malala Yousafzai, told the UN that one child, one teacher, one book, and one pen could change the world. The pandemic changed the world of books digitally, but die-hard bibliophiles in India have taken her advice seriously, according to a story by Manju Latha Kalanidhi and Steni Simon in *The New Indian Express*. Book activists such as Shankar Reddy Patlolla in Telengana and Vijesh in Kerala are establishing local, crowdsourced libraries in their towns and villages to combat the reading famine caused by the COVID-19 wave. Twenty-nine-year-old Patlolla, a farmer-poet-activist, started a local library with his pocket money last year. During the peak lockdown period last summer, he had stayed for over a month at a migrant camp on the outskirts of Hyderabad where over one lakh labourers were preparing to leave for home. They had little to do except anxiously watching the news on their phones. "After the lockdown ended, I thought of starting a free public library," he says. Hearing the requests of locals, he established three more libraries under the 'Pustaka Kendram' label in Erravalli, Gottimukkula and Pullumamidi villages between February and March this year. Vijesh, a school teacher, along with a bunch of locals in Perumukulam, a village five km from Kottarakkara, Kerala, are spearheading the Pushtaka Koodu (book nest) initiative that involves placing small boxes containing books in various parts of their village. It costs a minimum Rs. 60,000 to establish a library, with at least 600 books. Well-wishers donated books, racks, reading lights and chairs for Patlolla's campaign. A school principal offered space in his school. Friends, family, top civil servants, businessmen, CEOs, educationists and authors came forward to help. Local students at each location run the libraries. "We'll set up libraries wherever there is a need. We hope to add e-books next. I've cracked the code," Patlolla declares. For full story visit: <https://www.newindianexpress.com/lifestyle/books/2021/may/02/going-by-the-book-kerala-and-telanganamen-crowdsource-libraries-to-connect-bookworms-2296532.html>

Kolkata Schools give e-access to Books

Several new age schools in Kolkata have digitized books that do not fall within the ambit of copyright laws and are allowing children to access to these through links since use of libraries has been restricted due to Covid, says a *The Times of India* report. These schools have also digitized previous years' question papers and given links to students to help them prepare for exams without visiting the library. In some of the old schools where such digitization has not yet happened, teachers are sending links of reference material from open access sites to help the board-exam candidates. Most schools have held special meetings to take a call on library use after the state

government announced school re-opening. While most have said no to lending and borrowing of books, some are allowing limited access to the reading rooms where a roster is being followed section-wise. Hindu School, for example, has allowed only students of classes X and XII to visit the reading room in small numbers but no lending is being allowed. "Fumigation chambers are expensive options, so we are isolating books," explained librarian Jishnu Bhattacharya. Some fiction and non-fiction books that have no copyright restriction have been digitized and teachers are supporting kids by giving links to books they need for their exams. Many other schools like La Martiniere for Boys and Girls and Loreto Convent Entally have suspended their library services for the time being. "The pandemic has taught us all the importance of the virtual space and soon we will be making provisions for digitizing books that are legally not bound by copyright laws," said Rupkatha Sarkar, principal of the girls' school. At St Paul's Mission School, the reading room facilities have been suspended but the school might allow students to borrow. Both Heritage and DPS Ruby Park have taken to the digital mode. At Heritage, primary section students are being allowed to join virtual library classes where pages from story books are being digitized and screen is being shared for them to read. For the senior students, classics have been digitized in large numbers and links have been shared. "We have even shared movie links and all text books have been converted into PDF formats so that students could access them during the lockdown phase," said librarian Anindita Dutta. DPS Ruby Park has shared free e-books with students. For original report visit: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/kolkata/with-libraries-out-of-bounds-schools-give-students-access-to-digitised-books/articleshowprint/81141882.cms>

TECHNOLOGY NEWS

Retirement of Internet Explorer

Internet Explorer Web browser will be officially retired on June 15, 2022, Microsoft has announced. The company will replace Internet Explorer 11 with Microsoft Edge, according to a story by Satvik Khare available on gadgets.ndtv.com website. The ageing Internet Explorer browser is in its final days before it is completely shut down. Microsoft had earlier announced that its 365 online will no longer support Internet Explorer. The original browser from Microsoft launched in August 1995 and is now more than 25 years old. The Redmond, Washington-based technology giant, says that Microsoft Edge will be compatible with older, legacy websites and applications. The announcement about the end of Internet Explorer was made through a post on the Windows blog. It says "Internet Explorer 11 desktop application will be retired and go out of support on June 15, 2022, for certain versions of Windows 10". Microsoft has given three reasons as to why Microsoft Edge is a good replacement for Internet Explorer for home and office use. One of the most notable reasons is improved browser security of Microsoft Edge. Microsoft claims that more than roughly 579 password attacks are

attempted every second and its Chromium-based Edge browser provides good security against phishing attacks and malware on Windows 10 with its Microsoft Defender SmartScreen. The company says that Microsoft Edge browser "can issue security patches for immediate vulnerabilities within days, if not hours". Another reason why Microsoft wants Internet Explorer users to migrate to Edge is due to the new browser's streamlined productivity. Microsoft introduced a Sleeping tabs feature that it claims uses 16 per cent less memory, 26 per cent less CPU usage, and increases battery life of the devices running it. Microsoft Edge browser also has a feature to sort all tabs in a vertical fashion on the left side of the screen. The third reason given by Microsoft in favour of the Edge browser is its compatibility with both legacy and modern websites. Microsoft Edge is compatible with legacy Internet Explorer-based websites and applications. And as it is based on the Chromium open-source project, it is also compatible with modern day websites. The Microsoft Edge browser has an IE mode that users can utilize to access websites that require Internet Explorer to open. Microsoft says that IE mode will be supported on Microsoft Edge through at least 2029. For enterprises using legacy websites and applications, Microsoft has defined a list of steps in the blog post that enterprises can follow to set up the Edge browser with IE mode. "Internet Explorer mode gives you built-in legacy browser support for websites and applications that still require Internet Explorer," the blog reads. Microsoft suggests users migrate from Internet Explorer to its Edge browser before June 15, 2022. "We've also aimed to make the upgrade to Microsoft Edge simple," reads the company's announcement. "Once you've opted in to moving to Microsoft Edge, it's easy to bring over your passwords, favourites and other browsing data from Internet Explorer in a few clicks." Microsoft says that Internet Explorer has "increasingly been difficult to support side-by-side with modern browsers". For original story visit: <https://gadgets.ndtv.com/apps/news/microsoft-internet-explorer-11-retire-end-support-june-15-2022-edge-chromium-browser-ie-mode-sleeping-tabs-2445706>

Zoom for Larger Event

Zoom Events, a new virtual platform for hosting large-scale events, was announced by the video-conferencing company on May 20. It replaces the OnZoom platform that was introduced in October 2020 for managing small business events, says a story by Tasneem Akolawala available on gadgets.ndtv.com website. Zoom Events has a lot of features that aim to make the job of hosting big events easy. The new Zoom Events platform will be launched sometime this summer, although an exact launch day is not known. While OnZoom catered only to small businesses, Zoom Events will help host online events for small businesses, large organizations, or even entrepreneurs. Zoom Events will give users the ability to host a variety of events, from multi-day summits to multi-track conferences. Users can register for notifications on Zoom Events on the company's sign up page. Zoom Events will provide businesses with the ability to create a "hub" — a main events page where all of their multi-day events will be listed with corresponding information about

each experience. A Zoom spokesperson told *The Verge* that event pages will also be able to feature video event previews. It will offer event hosts the ability to create multi-session events such as conferences where attendees can network with one another in a virtual lobby while waiting for the event to start. Zoom Events enables event hosts to provide ticketing and registration for attendees, and the ability to track these activities via an easy-to-use dashboard. This platform will help large businesses host internal events like all-hands and sales summits, or external events like user conferences and consumer events. It will also offer companies the ability to group internal events together and make them easily discoverable for employees. Zoom says that OnZoom will cease to exist and will automatically be migrated to the new platform once Zoom Events goes live. For original story visit: <https://gadgets.ndtv.com/internet/news/zoom-events-platform-launched-virtual-conference-summits-roll-out-summer-onzoom-2445453>

New WhatsApp Chat Migration Feature

WhatsApp users switching to a new phone number might get a new chat migration feature soon. WhatsApp is working on a way to let users transfer their chat history when migrating to a new phone that is using a different phone number, according to a report. The new development seems to be an extension of the ability to transfer WhatsApp chat history from one platform to another — from Android to iOS and vice versa — through a Chat History Migration tool, which is currently said to be in testing phase, says a story by Jagmeet Singh available on gadgets.ndtv.com website. The Chat History Migration tool could allow users to transfer media from one platform to another. This will help users who are looking to switch their WhatsApp accounts between Android phones and iPhones. WABetaInfo, WhatsApp beta-tracking site, reports that WhatsApp is testing an updated Chat History Migration tool that will allow users to transfer their chat history to not just a new device on a different platform but also when the new device has a different phone number. So, for instance, if you are changing your phone number alongside switching from an existing Android phone to a new iPhone, you will be able to transfer your existing WhatsApp chat history to the new device. WhatsApp currently allows users to change their phone number without losing any chats. It also lets you transfer your chat history if you're switching to a new device and phone number. But in this particular case, the new device should be based on the same platform as your old handset. This means that you will be able to transfer your chat history if you are switching between two iPhone models or two Android phones. However, WhatsApp does not have the ability to transfer chats between Android and iPhone, which is what the messaging app could change with its Chat History Migration tool. A screenshot shared by WABetaInfo suggests that WhatsApp may have a link to provide you with a way to transfer your chat history when switching your device and phone number. However, it is important to note that users will only get the option of migrating their chats when signing in to your WhatsApp account on the new phone for the first time and not later. In addition to transferring chats, the tool

can also be used to migrate media available in WhatsApp from one device to another. For original story visit: <https://gadgets.ndtv.com/apps/news/whatsapp-chat-history-transfer-android-iphone-new-phone-number-migration-tool-update-2446547>

SPECIAL FEATURE

The Benevolent Cops!

A well-built mustached person in uniform controlling a mob or traffic on the road - this will be the mental picture that will appear before you whenever you think of a policeman. But policemen do not only do such work, they also help the people in distress. This has been proved many a time before and again during the pandemic and consequent lockdown. But possibly another benevolent role of the police may not be known to many - the role of library founders. Yes, the cops in many places have set up libraries - sometimes within police stations - for the needy.

The first such library - Police Public Library - set up by the cops, in collaboration with NGO Shikhar Organization for Social Development (SOSD) started functioning in 2012 at Jamia Nagar police station in Delhi with an aim to provide free education facilities to the students of weaker sections. The library has a stock of over 2000 books of various genre - fiction, non-fiction, competitive examination books and ready reference books. Besides, it also acquires a good number of magazines and more than 10 newspapers in Hindi, Urdu and English. The air-conditioned library can accommodate around 50 students to study at a time. Students can pick any book with the permission of librarian and return it within library time. The library regularly conducts free entrance examination preparation courses, which have helped a large number of students to get jobs. In 2019 a 'Digital-Police Public Library' was inaugurated as a wing of this library. This digital library has a state-of-the-art SMART class room and 10 fully upgraded digital workstations with Internet connection, wherein the students can have access to digital content, including web based and multimedia resources.

Sometime in 2014, an India-born philanthropist from US visiting India went to Coimbatore and the small town of Tirupur in Tamil Nadu. In a light conversation with the Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP), Tirupur, he mentioned that he wanted to donate some books for a children's library in the area. The ACP was prompt to accept his offer. On reaching back to US, the philanthropist transported around 5000 books to Tirupur. The policemen at the North Police Station there were very pleased at the sight of the books. They sorted them out in various categories and numbered them. Almost 2000 books were donated to Rotary Club. The ACP decided to start a library with the remaining books. As he could not find a suitable space for the library, he rearranged the furniture in the large hall in his police station and put shelves filled with books right in the middle of the room and the library was there. He then contacted principals of local schools informing them about the library,

who in turn informed the students so that they could use the library. The library starts as soon as the police station opens its gates and it remains open until the police station closes for the day. Anybody wishing to study books is welcome here anytime on a working day. The library has now become a nest of children and students of the area.

During last year's lockdown, Ganauli, a village in Ghaziabad district of Uttar Pradesh, has seen how a 'gram pathshala' (village library) was set up by around 130 police constables living in and around that village by contributing ₹5000 each from their own pockets. The pathshala - a free public library with textbooks and study materials - helps the local students pursuing higher education and/or preparing for competitive examinations. Today, 'Gram Pathshala' has become a sort of a movement and spread to eight other districts of the state. Lal Bahar, a former Delhi Police Sub-Inspector, who now works with National Human Rights Commission, is the driving force behind the movement who wanted to make life a little easier for the kids of his village. The idea to set up the pathshala came to him from the struggle he had to do during his student days while preparing for police entrance examination. Once the Ganauli pathshala started functioning successfully, the message spread through word of mouth. Bahar and his friends on their part conducted cycle yatras in villages to spread awareness and counsel villagers on how to build a pathshala and in just six months such pathshalas have come up in 50 villages in eight districts bringing cheers to the local students and kids.

In December 2019 Delhi saw another police public library coming up in R K Puram to the delight of the slum children in nearby areas. But the pandemic forced it shut after just a few months. Fortunately, it could be revived again in August 2020. The library set up at the initiative of Station House Officer of R K Puram Police Station Rajesh Sharma, has over 4000 books, including NCERT books and guides for competitive examinations; more than 1,900 magazines and 15 newspapers. The library has an air-conditioned reading room, which can accommodate about 100 students at a time. The library also has a smart classroom, equipped with computers and free wifi. The main idea behind setting up the library was to ensure that the slum children were given an opportunity to read and write instead of straying to the path of crime. Supported by GAIL (India) Limited as part of its corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiative, the police station has also tied up with NGO Shikhar Organization for Social Development, which provides counselling and free coaching for competitive examinations as in case of other police public library at Jamia Nagar. The library has received a certificate of appreciation for innovative education from the Asia Pacific Chamber of Commerce, Goa.

In the north-eastern state of Arunachal Pradesh, A 'Students' Library' has been set up by the 138 Battalion of Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) under Civic Action Plan (CAP) in February this year at Senki View near Itanagar. It has 250 books with necessary sitting arrangement. Libraries have also been set up in many police stations for use by policemen or those who visit police stations but have to wait to meet the officers. For

example, in 2018 a library was set up in 24 police stations in Coimbatore and the state government of Tamil Nadu has decided to open libraries in all police stations of the state. Though these libraries are not meant for public, they will certainly be helpful to those for whom these have been started.

Everybody knows that in earlier days, Rajas, Maharajas, zamindars, philanthropists and some social organizations like clubs used to set up libraries for the public. It is really appreciable that now cops have also come forward to do so in some parts of the country. Let their counterparts in other regions in the country too emulate their efforts. Kudos to benevolent cops!

[Sources: <https://www.hindustantimes.com/delhi/students-queue-up-to-enroll-in-police-library/story-GGBlrSIBK7LsZFo3nRx2XO.html>, <https://www.dailypioneer.com/2019/india/jamia-nagar-police-public-library-goes-digital.html>, <https://manojdhika.home.blog/2019/06/23/police-public-library-jamia-nagar-okhla-new-delhi-25/>, <https://www.thebetterindia.com/35750/library-in-tirupur-police-station/>, <https://theprint.in/india/how-a-delhi-police-library-is-keeping-slum-children-in-school-and-away-from-crime/617261/>, <https://theprint.in/india/how-a-delhi-police-library-is-keeping-slum-children-in-school-and-away-from-crime/617261/>, <https://theprint.in/india/how-a-delhi-police-library-is-keeping-slum-children-in-school-and-away-from-crime/617261/>, <https://www.sentinelassam.com/north-east-india-news/arunachal-news/central-reserve-police-force-crpf-sets-up-library-for-itnagar-students-525150>, <https://www.policepubliclibrary.org/>, <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/coimbatore/libraries-opened-in-all-24-police-stations-in-city/articleshow/65926689.cms>]

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. AUGUSTINE (C A). Information Science, Information, Knowledge Communication and Libraries. 2021. Ess Ess Publications, Delhi. ₹825. ISBN: 9789387698826

(It is a collection of 12 chapters each of which deals with a salient aspect of information Science)

2. BALASUBRAMANIAN (P). Digital Libraries. 2021. Ess Ess Publications, Delhi. ₹875. ISBN: 9789387698765

(Provides an integrated overview of the field, including the concept of digital libraries, transition of libraries from traditional to digital, design and organization of digital libraries, their architecture, etc.)

3. PHADKE (Dattatray N). Advances in Library Computerisation. 2021. Ess Ess Publications, Delhi.

₹ 1700. ISBN: 9789387698789

(Discusses, at length, computerisation using different ways and means, for example, by using in-house systems, by using available commercial software, or by using open source software like Koha)

4. SATIJA (M P). Cutter-Sanborn Three Figure Author Table Supplemented with Indian Names. Ess Ess Publications, Delhi. ₹1250. ISBN: 9789387698390

(Provides an authentic version of the Cutter-Sanborn three-figure table supplemented with Indian names added at their alphabetical places for ready use)

Foreign

1. BENGTON (Jason). Library Web Development: Beyond Tips and Tricks. ALA, Atlanta. \$69.99. ISBN: 9780838918302

(Discusses key rules and strategies that help to become a confident coder and web developer)

2. DU (Yunfei) and KHAN (Hammad). Data Science for Librarians. 2020. Libraries Unlimited, Santa Barbara, California. ISBN: 9781440871221

(Introduces data science to students and practitioners in library services)

3. MURRAY-RUST (Catherin). Library Next: Seven Action Steps for Reinvention. 2021. ALA, Atlanta. \$54.99. ISBN: 9780838948392

(Discusses how to turn the library outward in order to make a difference in the lives of individuals and the community)

4. OLIVER (Chris). Introducing RDA: A Guide to the Basics after 3R, Second edition. 2021. ALA, Atlanta. \$46.99. ISBN: 978083891908-8.

(Provides clear plainspoken explanation of RDA: Resource Description and Access)

5. WONG (Melissa A). Reference and Information Services: An Introduction. 6th Edition, ed. by Laura Saunders. 2020. Libraries Unlimited; Santa Barbara, California. \$75. ISBN: 9781440875045

(Covers all phases of reference and information services with less emphasis on print and more emphasis on strategies and scenarios)

OBITUARY

Shrikrishna Bapurao Joshi, retired Assistant Editor, Indian National Bibliography, passed away on April 17, 2021. He was 91. Shri Joshi settled in Baroda after his retirement in 1988 and engaged himself as a fiction writer in Marathi and a columnist in *Maharashtra Times*. He produced ten books, and translated several Bengali and Assamese literary masterpieces into Marathi. Majestic Publishing of Mumbai honoured him with an award in 2009 for his literary pursuits. The cash money accompanying the award was donated by him for distribution of books among the needy. IASLIC deeply mourns his death.

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