

MARCH
2018



ISSN: 0018-845X; Regd. No. : 18243/69

IASLIC NEWSLETTER

For Members only



At a Glance

IASLIC Activities
Conferences/Seminars/Workshops
Miscellaneous News
Technology News
Special Feature
New LIS Literature
Obituary

Editor

Prof. Amitabha Chatterjee

Associate Editor:

Dr. Gurudas Ghosh

Assistant Editor:

Shri Partha Sarathi Das

Editorial Board

Prof. J K Sarkhel

Prof. K P Majumder

Prof. P K Panigrahi

Quote of the Month

“Without the library, I would have been lost ”

- Jesmyn Ward
American Novelist

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

Study Circle Lecture on Statistical Methods in LIS Research

Dr. Santosh Kumar Tunga, Librarian, Rishi Bankim Chandra Evening College, Naihati, North 24 Parganas, West Bengal, delivered a lecture on 'Statistical Methods in Library & Information Science Research: A Fundamental Approach' at the 332nd IASLIC Study Circle Meeting held on February 1, 2018 in the Seminar Room of the Association. The meeting was presided over by Prof. Arjun Dasgupta, former Professor, DLIS, and Dean, University of Calcutta, Kolkata. Dr. Tunga, in his lecture, gave an overview of the statistical analysis methods which can be implemented in various sections of a library like acquisition section, technical section, circulation section, administrative section, and so on. He described different types and nature of statistical data and methods of data collection. He also explained the methods of formulating different types of questionnaire for collecting primary data. The lecture was followed by lively question-answer session. A few student members from the audience expressed the opinion that they would be benefited if more study circle lectures on research method could be arranged by IASLIC. In his presidential remarks, Prof. Arjun Dasgupta appreciated the lucid way in which the speaker had delivered the lecture. He also mentioned about the dearth of quantitative research in the field of LIS. Dr. Sudip Ranjan Hatua, Convener, Study Circle Division, said that the topic was vast and could not be discussed in detail within the limited time. He assured that IASLIC Study Circle Division would try to invite more experts in this field to deliver lectures in future. The study circle meeting was attended by a good number of library and information professionals and a large number of LIS students. The meeting ended with a vote of thanks proposed by Dr. Bapan Kumar Maity, Librarian, Meghnad Saha Institute of Technology, Kolkata.

CONFERENCES / SEMINARS / WORKSHOPS

National

Seminar on Empowerment of Libraries

PG & Research Department of Library and Information Science, Vellalar College for Women (Autonomous), Erode; in association with Society for the Advancement of Library and Information Science (SALIS), Erode Chapter; M S Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF), Chennai; Vijnanabharati (Vibha) India; and Local Library Authority, Erode; is organizing a National Seminar on 'Digital Initiatives to Empower Libraries' during March 2 - 3, 2018. For details ring: 9488620130

Seminar on Reading Habit

A National Seminar is being organized by the Central Library, Pingla Thana Mahavidyalaya, P O Maligram, Dist. Paschim Medinipur, West Bengal, on 'Modern Technology: Its Effects on Reading Habit' on March 14, 2018. For details email to: milansarkar64@yahoo.com

Conference on Open Source

Council of Library and Information Science, Gandhinagar, and H M Patel English Medium School, Dharmaj, Anand, Gujarat, are organizing a Technical Conference on 'Open Source in Libraries' (T E C H N O L- 2 0 1 8) on March 17, 2018 at H M Patel English Medium School. For details visit: <http://technol-18.hmpatelelibrary.net>

Seminar on Innovative Librarianship

A National Seminar on 'Innovative Librarianship: Challenges and Opportunities' is being jointly organized by the Department of Library and Information Science and Central Library, Central University of Tamil Nadu, Thiruvavur, during March 26 - 27, 2018. For details email to: cutnlib@gmail.com

Seminar on Role of Libraries

The DBT's Electronic Library Consortium (DeLCON), and National Brain Research Centre, Manesar, in collaboration with local DBT Institutions, are organizing a National Seminar on 'Role of Libraries and Librarians in a Knowledge Society' on March 27, 2018. For details visit: <http://delcon.gov.in/index.php>

International

Seminar on O A Digital Resources

An International Seminar on 'Open Access Digital Resources for Academicians' is being organized by the Department of Library, Gobi Arts and Science College, Gobichettipalayam, Dist. Erode, Tamil Nadu, on March 5, 2018 For details visit: http://api.ning.com/files/FjrrjAikLM8Yf-AU9aVLRBpZ1OofICCKtTXXU9d6Nz06TNQDc*AoRpWm1QUToGo0DQGVc7AhtcSrkl7tK*Rd7p8a1BQRBPv/GASCIInternationalSeminar.pdf

Resource Sharing Conference

The 2018 OCLC Resource Sharing Conference will be held at Florida, USA, during March 13-15, 2018. The theme of the conference is 'Bridging Communities. For details visit: <http://view.e.oclc.org/?qs=6abc090d81a3ebf198a671d46df21aa44d275b7c07ae320c6d7409a0aa17b275fc32a549d57e030d2a4308352d89a756a70437d30436496e8997dc6e9feb10e219b45a43f73fe dae>

Conference on New Information Search Platform

The 3rd Scientific Conference on 'Smartphone as an Information Seeking Platform: Changes, Challenges, and Applications' will be held in Cairo, Egypt, during April 7 - 8, 2018. For details visit: <http://cybrarians.org/en/mt>

Creative Commons Summit

The 2018 Creative Commons Summit will be held in Toronto, Canada, during April 13-15, 2018. For details visit: <https://creativecommons.org/2017/07/21/summit-2018-announcement/>

IFLA News Media Conference

IFLA News Media Conference 2018 will be organized by the IFLA News Media Section at George A Smathers Libraries, University of Florida, Florida, USA, during April 18 - 20, 2018. The theme of the conference is 'When

risk becomes real, preserving news becomes critical'. For details visit: <https://www.ifla.org/node/20035>

MetLib Conference

The MetLib Conference, the annual gathering of metropolitan libraries, organized by the IFLA Section on Metropolitan Libraries, will be held at the Belgrade City Library, in Belgrade, Serbia, during May 13 - 18, 2018. The theme of the Conference is 'Public Libraries and Community Building'. For details visit: <https://metlib2018belgrade.com/>

Web Science Conference

The 10th International ACM Web Science Conference will be held in Amsterdam, Netherlands, during May 27 -30, 2018. For details visit: <https://websci18.webscience.org/index.php/2017/09/26/web-science-2018-2/>

LIBER Conference

The 47th LIBER Annual Conference will be held at Lille University, Lille, France, during July 4 - 6, 2018. The theme of the conference is 'Research Libraries as an Open Science Hub: From Strategy to Action'. For details visit: <http://liberconference.eu/>

World Library & Information Congress

Themes have been announced for deliberations at the meetings of the Committee on Standards and some more sections/special interest groups of IFLA to be organized before/during the 84th World Library and Information Congress scheduled to be held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, during August 24 - 30, 2018. The themes are: Science and Technology Libraries Section jointly with Continuing Professional Development and Workplace Learning Section and the Education and Training Section - *Tricks of the trade of a data librarian: learning it all*; Subject Analysis and Access Section - *Transforming libraries via automatic indexing: the impact on metadata creation, discovery, and staffing decisions*; Preservation and Conservation Section - *Planning digital preservation: in for the long run*. For more details visit: <https://2018.ifla.org/> (For themes of other sections and special interest groups see January and February 2018 issues of *IASLIC Newsletter*)

Conference on Semantics

SEMANTiCS 2018 - The Linked Data Conference and 14th International Conference on 'Semantic Systems' will be held in Vienna, Austria, during September 10 - 13, 2018. For details visit: <http://2018.semantics.cc>

ASIS&T Annual Meeting

The 81st Annual Meeting of the Association for Information Science and Technology will be held during November 9 - 14, 2018, at Vancouver, Canada. The theme of discussion in the meeting is 'Building an Ethical and Sustainable Information Future with Emerging Technologies'. For details visit: <https://www.asist.org/am18/>

Meets on Internet Preservation and Archiving

The National Library of New Zealand is hosting the International Internet Preservation Consortium General Assembly (GA) and Web Archiving Conference (WAC) in Wellington, New Zealand. The General Assembly will be held on November 12, 2018, followed by Web Archiving Conference during November 13 - 15, 2018. For details visit: <http://netpreserve.org/ga2018/>

Conference on Beyond Libraries

KIIT Deemed to be University, Bhubaneswar, is going to organize an International Conference on 'Marching beyond the Libraries: Managerial Skills and Technological Competencies' during November 16 - 17, 2018. For details visit: <http://event.kiit.ac.in/icmb12018/>

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

Newspaper Readership goes up

According to the Indian Readership Survey 2017 (IRS 2017), newspapers added more than 110 million new readers since the last survey in 2014, says a report by Uevi Malvania published in *Business Standard*. The total readership (includes readers who have read the newspaper in the last one month) in IRS 2014 was 295 million. This number grew by 40 per cent over the next three year to reach 407 million. The IRS is brought out by the Readership Studies Research Council of India (RSCI) and the Media Research Users Council (MRUC). 39 per cent of the population (above 12 years of age) read newspapers (all India). The bulk of this new readership has come from rural India. In urban India, 53 per cent consumed newspapers while in rural India, 31 per cent consumed newspapers. While in the 2014 survey, rural India recorded total newspaper readership of 143 million, in IRS 2017, rural readership of newspapers was 214 million. Urban areas also saw increase in readership from 152 million in IRS 2014 to 193 million in IRS 2017. A large part of the readership increase has come from the launch of new publications. The increase in readership in rural areas is also reflective of the literacy rates in these regions improving. Ashish Bhasin, chairman, MRUC, and chairman and CEO - South Asia, Dentsu Aegis Network says, "According to the findings of the report, 39 per cent of Indians (above 12 years of age) read newspapers, and 20 per cent of all newspaper readers in the 5 million plus population towns read newspapers online." The total universe for IRS 2017 expanded to 1.05 billion from 962 million in IRS 2014 (12 years and above), and of these, four per cent consumed news on digital as well. Nearly 5 million people read newspapers only through digital medium, while the rest consumed news using a combination of media. The survey shows that newspaper reading (hard copy) is still a habit among the young. Newspaper readership was 50 per cent in the 16-19 year age group, the highest in any age segment, followed by 42 per cent each in the 12-15 years and 20-29 year age groups. For more details visit: http://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/irs-2017-launch-of-new-publications-lifts-indian-readership-figures-118011801225_1.html

Benefits of Reading

One of the activities that make us healthier, smarter and more empathic is reading. The benefits are plenty, which is especially important in a distracted, smartphone age in which many people don't learn to read. This not only endangers them socially and intellectually, but cognitively handicaps them for life, writes Derek Beres, author of *Whole Motion: Training Your Brain and Body for Optimal*

Health, in "BigThink." He cites a 2009 study, according to which, reading creates new white matter in the brain, which improves system-wide communication. White matter carries information between regions of grey matter, where any information is processed. Not only does reading increase white matter, it helps information be processed more efficiently. Reading in one language has enormous benefits. Add a foreign language and not only do communication skills improve - you can talk to more people in wider circles - but the regions of your brain involved in spatial navigation and learning new information increase in size. Learning a new language also improves your overall memory, according to Beres. Because reading does in fact make us more intelligent. Research shows that reading not only helps with fluid intelligence, but with reading comprehension and emotional intelligence as well. You make smarter decisions about yourself and those around you. All of these benefits require actually reading, which leads "to the formation of a philosophy rather than the regurgitation of an agenda," normally found in reposts and online trolling. Recognizing the intentions of another human also plays a role in constructing creative philosophy. Novels are especially well-suited for this task. A 2011 study found overlap in brain regions used to comprehend stories and networks dedicated to interactions with others. For more details visit: <http://www.mydigitalfc.com/content/reading-helps-rewrite-brain>

New Research Information Platform

Global technology company Digital Science has recently launched *Dimensions*, a new platform that aims to democratize and transform scholarly search, according to a press release by Digital Science. A collaboration between six Digital Science portfolio companies (Altmetric, Digital Science Consultancy, Figshare, Readcube, Symplectic and ÜberResearch) and more than 100 research funders and universities, *Dimensions* offers a better, faster way to discover, understand and analyze the global research landscape, without wasting time searching for information across multiple poorly integrated tools. *Dimensions* breaks down barriers to discovery and innovation by making over 860 million academic citations freely available, and delivers one-click access to over 9 million Open Access articles. Within *Dimensions*, 124 million formerly siloed documents, including \$1.2 trillion in funding, 86 million articles and books, and 34 million patents, are linked through 3.7 billion connections and contextualized with metrics and altmetrics. Built using real-world use cases, it combines advanced concept extraction, natural language processing, categorization and complex machine learning to create a flexible and robust tool that meets the most demanding modern research needs. For details visit: <https://www.digital-science.com/press-releases/digital-science-launches-dimensions-next-generation-research-discovery-platform-linking-124-million-documents-providing-free-search-citation-data-across-86-million-articles/>

UK Borough abolishes library fines

Library members in Trafford metropolitan borough of Greater Manchester in England, who have mislaid their copies of Harry Potter or Stephen King, will no longer

have to fear financial punishment after the local council announced that it would be abolishing library fines altogether, says a report in *The Guardian* (UK). In a first for a UK borough, the Trafford Council said in a statement that fines can be “off-putting for customers”, and it hopes that the change, which will see library fines eliminated across Trafford for all ages from April, will lead to “a further increase in usage of libraries across the borough”. The Council said: “This change also aligns with the Vision 2031 ambition of ‘no one held back, no one left behind’ as there would be no barriers, either actual or perceived, of people accessing libraries and all they had to offer.” For details visit: <https://www.theguardian.com/books/2018/feb/09/trafford-council-library-fines>

Children hit by library closures in UK

More than 100 branch libraries closed in the last year in Great Britain, according to official figures, with library campaigners warning that the cuts hurt children in big cities such as Birmingham and Sheffield the most, says a report in *The Guardian* (UK). The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's annual survey of Great Britain's libraries paints familiar picture: for the seventh year running, the number of branches and paid staff declined. There are now 3,745 branches remaining in England, Scotland and Wales, down by 105 since 2016, while the number of paid staff has declined by 5% compared with a year ago. These falls come alongside a drop of £66m in total spend on council-run libraries, with visits down by 3% year on year, and by 14% over the last five years. The decline, according to the CIPFA figures, is almost across the board: book issues fell by 6.3% in the last year, and by 25.1% in the last five years. Book stock held is also down by 2.6%. For details visit: <https://www.theguardian.com/books/2017/dec/11/figures-show-children-worst-hit-by-library-cuts>

Chaupals to disseminate Agricultural Information

To strengthen linkage between scientists and farming community and provide science-based information at farmers' doorsteps, the Bihar Agricultural University (BAU) initiated 'Kisan Chaupal', which is now likely to be adopted across the country for disseminating scientific information to farmers, says a report by Kumar Rajesh published in *The Times of India*. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and the National Institution for Transforming India (NITI Aayog), have also sought detailed information about 'Kisan Chaupal' from the BAU so that it can be implemented at national level." The NITI Aayog and ICAR, after going through the success stories of 'Kisan Chaupal', have shown interest in the 'chaupal' and have advised the Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) across the country to implement it in their respective areas," said BAU director extension and registrar R K Sohane. BAU started 'Kisan Chaupal' in April 2012 in collaboration with 20 'Krishi Vigyan Kendras' (KVKs) and the colleges under it, which includes Bihar Agriculture College (Sabour, Bhagalpur), Mandan Bharti Agriculture College (Saharsa), Bhola Paswan Shashtri Agriculture College (Purnia), Dr. Kalam Agriculture College (Kishanganj), Bihar Veterinary College (Patna), Sanjay Gandhi Institute of Dairy Technology (Patna), College of Horticulture (Nalanda), VKS College of Agriculture (Dumraon,

Buxar). Since April 2012, 'Kisan Chaupal' is being organized every Saturday with the theme 'Bihar Krishi Vishwa Vidyalay Kisano ke Dwar - Kisan Chaupal' (Bihar Agricultural University at the doorstep of farmers). Dr. Sohane said that the 'Chaupal' was introduced to motivate the farmers to adopt modern farming practices besides providing area specific information to the farmers at their doorsteps through videos on cropping practices and allied activities. "It aims to collect feedback from the farmers' fields and communicate it to the researchers for formulating research priorities," added Sohane saying, "our efforts are to revive the tradition village Chaupal to help farmers solve their problems on their own." For original report visit: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/patna/government-to-provide-science-based-information-to-farmers-in-state/articleshow/62685789.cms>

Rush to grab books of dying library

On a Monday afternoon this January, a huge crowd of people waited outside the Eloor Lending library in T Nagar, in Chennai, leading to a traffic jam on the road outside, says a report by S Poorvaja in *The Hindu*. The library, which was shutting down, had announced an 'everything-must-go' discount sale on the books, which had attracted the large crowd. There were so many people that the library staff had to regulate entry. “People have been coming to buy books ever since word got out that the library was going to shut. If we had even half this number as members, may be the library wouldn't have to close down,” a former member of the institution remarked. Among the few existing lending libraries in the city, Eloor had wooed book lovers for over 27 years in T Nagar. With an increase in people opting to buy books online at lower prices and e-readers offering formats which are easier to access, it has been a mixed bag for libraries in the city, which have seen a decline in newer patronage. At Senthil Lending Library, a smaller facility in R A Puram, which has been functioning for decades, a few members are checking out books. S Punitha, a homemaker from the area, who has been a member for 13 years, said that she preferred borrowing books and magazines from the library to e-readers and other online options. “With living spaces getting more cramped and book stores in the city shutting down as well, the library will remain my first option,” she said. Patrons like her, who have been members for years, and a number of children who frequent the library during summer holidays are what keep it running, said A Usha, the in-charge there. “While we haven't seen a steep decline in patronage, we do not get as many new members as we used to,” she said. For full report visit: <http://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/chennai/waning-clientele-leaves-libraries-in-a-bind/article22400060.ece>

Earliest Surviving Bible Manuscript

A giant Bible is returning to Britain after more than 1,300 years to go on display in October this year, alongside the oldest surviving will written by a woman, in an exhibition on treasures of the Anglo Saxon world, according to a *The Telegraph* (UK) report. Codex Amiatinus was made in a monastery in Wearmouth-Jarrow in Northumbria, in the early 8th Century. Measuring a foot thick, the

“extraordinary object” was described by the British Library's chief executive Roly Keating as “one of the great acts of creative book production of the entire millennium”. It is the earliest complete surviving manuscript of a Bible in Latin. Announcing the Library's 2018 highlights, Keating said: “It was gifted to the Pope in the year 716 and has been in Italy ever since.” The Biblioteca Medicea Laurenziana in Florence has “agreed to lend it back to the UK for the first time in 1,302 years”. The abbot who took the Bible to Rome died en route, but the book still made it to Italy. “It has never been back to Britain since it set off 1,302 years ago. “It is one of the greatest treasures of Anglo Saxon England and the earliest complete surviving manuscript of the Bible in Latin,” Keating said. For full report visit: <https://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/entertainment/news/giant-bible-returns-to-britain-after-1300-years-for-british-library-show-36367851.html>

Healthcare Research Documents Made Accessible

John Wiley and Sons Inc has announced that students, practitioners, researchers, and patients in India will now have access to more than 7,000 published systematic reviews in healthcare interventions through one-click access to the Cochrane Library. Cochrane is a leading resource in evidence-based research across areas including pregnancy, mental health, surgical procedures, and public health. Cochrane Reviews provide independent high-quality evidence to aid healthcare decision making. The collaboration between Wiley, Cochrane, and the National Medical Library in India offers free access, through IP recognition, to the Cochrane Library across India. This opportunity has been made possible thanks to the National Medical Library and will provide more than 1.3 billion residents of India availability to the gold standard in evidence-based healthcare research. The license will run from 2017 to 2020. Dr. K P Singh, Director of the National Medical Library, welcomed the move: “This national license will have a great impact on the quality of evidence and research used in healthcare interventions across India. We are very committed to future-proofing our healthcare system and by enabling one-click free access to the Cochrane Library we are looking after our population.” More than 1,300 Indian researchers have contributed to Cochrane research. This demonstrates the importance of the new national license. For details visit: <http://www.cochrane.org/news/new-national-license-agreement-provides-india-unlimited-access-cochrane-library>

Library IT Institute to come up in Kerala

A Library Information Technology Institute will be established by the Kerala State Library Council (KSLC) adjacent to the State Central Library in Thiruvanthpuram, says a report in *The Hindu*. The government has leased out a plot of 20 cents for a period of 30 years for the purpose. The Revenue Department, in its order issued a few months ago, handed over the plot for an annual lease rent of ₹1,000. An office complex will also be constructed by the council on the 'poramboke' land. The government decision has come in the backdrop of a long-drawn legal battle between the council and the Thiruvananthapuram Public Library Protection Council over the course of almost two decades. The E K Nayanar government had first decided to

transfer the land over to KSLC for constructing its office complex. While the construction of the complex had got underway, it came to a grinding halt after the Kerala High Court issued a stay order on the basis of a plea submitted by the protection council. It also reserved the authority of the government to hear the parties concerned and adopt appropriate decision. On the basis of the instruction, the government had conducted hearings in early 2016 and arrived at its subsequent decision. For details visit: <http://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Thiruvananthapuram/library-information-institute-to-come-up-near-central-library/article22785406.ece>

TECHNOLOGY NEWS

Towards Unhackable Internet

A new breakthrough in testing Einstein's 'spooky action at a distance' could soon pave the way for ultra-secure quantum communication, says a report by Cheyenne Macdonald available on *Daily Mail* website. Scientists have been investigating how pairs of photons can be used to form a link across great distances, in a phenomenon known as quantum entanglement. It could allow for networks that are essentially 'unhackable' - but, losing photons through absorption or scattering as they travel could threaten the security of the system. In new experiments, researchers have demonstrated how quantum teleportation could be used to overcome the problem, to reveal if the light particle has made it through or not, and exclude any failed links at the get go. The new study from researchers at Griffith University's Centre for Quantum Dynamics in Australia demonstrates how pairs of photons, or particles of light, can be tested rigorously even in conditions that mimic those outside of the lab. Entangled photons create what's known as a quantum link. In this state, the actions of one affect the behaviour of the other even across great distances. And, when sent along a communication channel, these could make for secure networks. In order to confirm that photons in different locations demonstrate what's known as 'quantum nonlocality', the researchers developed a demanding new test method using quantum teleportation. 'Failing the test means an eavesdropper might be infiltrating the network,' said team leader Professor Geoff Pryde. 'As the length of quantum channel grows, less and less photons successfully pass through the link, because no material is perfectly transparent and absorption and scattering take their toll. For original report visit: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-5240641/Scientists-develop-new-quantum-teleportation-test.html>

SPECIAL FEATURE

Give and Take Library!

Suppose you are have a morning stroll on a street in your locality and come across a small book-case hung on the fens of a neighbouring house or even on the footpath. What will be your reaction? You must be curious to know what it is all about. You go nearer and find a note attached to the book-case which states 'Take one give one'. For such experience you need not be in a foreign country like USA or Australia. It

can now happen in India too.

According to a report by Sujit Nath for *News18.com*, an educational organisation iLEAD is setting up such libraries on footpaths of Kolkata to inculcate reading habit among students and slum children across the city. iLEAD has started a project to set up a chain of 'Street Libraries' where bookworms can collect books without even bothering for a formal registration. The first such library was inaugurated at Tangra area of the city recently on the occasion of Saraswati Puja. The organization plans to soon come up with two more, including one at the Tiljala Shed slum area. "We will request people to take one book at a time and keep them back on the shelves once they are done. The system would work purely based on trust within the community. At every street library there will be a notice board stating book manners and a certain set of do's and don'ts. This library is for the people and it is for them to follow the rules. I hope people will participate in this initiative in large numbers," said Pradip Chopra, Chairman of iLEAD.

The idea of street library is, nevertheless, not new. The idea owes its origin to Little Free Library (LFL) movement started in USA 2009. The founder of the movement Todd Bol first installed a library inside a miniature model of a school house on his front lawn in Hudson, Wisconsin, as a tribute to his mother, a former teacher and bookworm. When it became a neighbourhood hit, he realized that people were craving conversation as much as books. He then shared his idea with his partner, Rick Brooks, and the idea spread rapidly, soon becoming a "global sensation". Little Free Library organization was officially incorporated as a non-profit organization in 2012. More than 60,000 libraries are now registered with the organization. Such libraries are not only present in all 50 states of USA, they have spread to over 80 countries. Such libraries have sprung up on front yard fences of houses, garden verges, lawns, parks beaches, and even schools and through these millions of books are exchanged each year. The LFL movement is fast picking in our country too. The first LFL in India was started in Bangalore in 2012. Today, the cities that figure on LFL's global map include Delhi, Chennai, Chandigarh, Mumbai, Bangalore and Jaipur. Chennai alone has about 10 LFLs across the city (See special feature entitled *Trash for Treasure* published in September 2015 issue of this newsletter). Now the name of Kolkata has been added to this list with the opening of the street library in Tangra.

Australia is another country where the movement has taken deep roots. Known by 'street libraries' such libraries have been set up in 100 locations in that country since November 2016, according to a report by Pallavi Singhal in *www.smh.com.au* website. Ali Gripper, a journalist attached with *The Sydney Morning Herald*, has given an interesting account of such "a little heaven of civilized pleasure" located on the Oxford Street of Sydney which is tucked between a cafe and a computer shop surrounded by the roar of city traffic. Neighbours, commuters and people passing by are welcome to stop and browse an ever-changing selection of Russian novels, history textbooks, biographies, travel guides and haiku poetry, all stacked neatly on a four-decker bookcase. The books are free to borrow and can either be returned or exchanged for another book. Urban designer and avid reader Kylie Legge set up the free library

outside her office because she had accumulated so many books in her small apartment that she could no longer invite guests over for dinner. The book towers in her living room kept toppling over.

The street library movement in that country is being spearheaded by a charity organization called Street Library Australia set up by Nic Lowe to help people establish their own book exchange libraries. More than 250 people have registered with his organization for advice, tips and a support group through its Facebook page. Lowe described street libraries as "a symbol of trust and hope - a tiny vestibule of literary happiness" and exclaimed: "It's a bit like magic, I've only filled it once, but it'll get a bit low and then fill up again". Lowe set up the free service in early 2016 and his goal is to have 5000 members by 2020.

Interestingly, there is another variant of little free library or street library, viz. Public Bookcases. The original public bookcases were conceived as artistic acts. Very early examples are the creations of performance artist duo Clegg and Guttmann in 1991. Collections of bookcases were conceived as "free open-air libraries" in Darmstadt and Hannover in the late 1990s. In 2002, the Bonn Community Foundation awarded Trixy Royeck funding for her idea "outdoor books - books in the open" which she submitted while studying interior design in Mainz and since that time the concept has been widely replicated. A public bookcase was opened in 2010 in Vienna, Austria. In Basel, Switzerland, where many coffee shops and other venues host open bookshelves, a public bookcase was unveiled in June 2011.

One can find lots of ingenuity and creativity in designing and making of little free libraries or street libraries. There are libraries made from bird cages, billycarts wedged in gum trees, doll's houses and microwave ovens. Old cupboards, letterboxes and telephone booths have also been converted into little free libraries. In Berlin, a street library has been carved into the trunk of a tree. In Bhopal, a nine-year-old girl Muskan unable to afford a bookshelf or box opened a street library for the disadvantaged by stringing ropes against a wall and hanging books on them (See Special Feature entitled *For the Joy of the Underprivileged* published in July 2016 issue of this newsletter).

Though little free libraries or street libraries are potentially beneficial to the community members, specially children of poorer section of people, the movement to set up and run such libraries had to face many a hiccup. Officials in Los Angeles and Shreveport, Louisiana, in USA, told the owners of such libraries in those cities that "they're in violation of city codes, and asked them to remove or relocate their small book collections", wrote Michael Schaub in *Los Angeles Times*. Wikipedia entry on little free library has also mentioned about similar such crackdowns on little free libraries in other parts of the country. In late 2012, the village of Whitefish Bay, Wisconsin, denied permission to potential little free library projects and required that an existing little free library be removed because of a village ordinance that prohibited structures in front yards. Village trustees also worried about inappropriate material being placed in the boxes. However, in August 2013, the village approved a new

ordinance that specifically allowed little free library boxes to be put up on private property. In June 2014, city officials in Leawood, Kansas, shut down a little free library under a city ordinance prohibiting detached structures. The family of the nine-year-old boy who built the structure created a Facebook page to garner support for amendment of Leawood's city code. Another resident of the city, who erected a little free library, was threatened with a \$25 fine. In July same year, the city council unanimously approved a temporary moratorium to permit little free libraries on private property. On January 29, 2015, the Metropolitan Planning Commission in Shreveport, Louisiana, shut down a little free library. Zoning administrator Alan Clarke said that city ordinances only permitted libraries in commercial zones and that the one that was shut down had "bothered someone." The following month, the city council temporarily legalized book exchange boxes until the zoning ordinances could be amended to permanently allow them. But such incidents could not dampen the spirit and enthusiasm of the concerned people and the movement is vigorously moving ahead.

Unfortunately, the spread of street libraries in our country seems to be slow and concentrated only in big cities. We need such libraries in remote areas too where public library service is not easily available. Such libraries can be conveniently set up in local schools or Panchayat offices. It can be viable as cost involvement in setting up such libraries is very less. Let the authorities seriously think over this issue.

[Sources: <http://www.news18.com/news/india/nw-street-libraries-for-book-lovers-in-kolkata-1639941.html>, <http://www.smh.com.au/entertainment/books/how-the-street-library-revolution-is-bringing-neighbourhoods-together-20170620-gwusn4.html>, <http://www.smh.com.au/nsw/school-joins-street-libraries-movement-20160807-gqn9eu.html>, <http://novaholisticjournal.com/stories/free-street-libraries>, <https://www.theatlantic.com/national/archive/2015/02/little-free-library-crackdown/385531/>, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Little_Free_Library, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Public_bookcase]

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. CHAUDHURY (Sabuj). An Introduction to Fair Use and Copyright Management of Universities in India. Ess Ess Publications. 2017. New Delhi. ₹ 950. ISBN: 9788193359747

(Discusses the history and provisions of fair use in the Indian Copyright Act, 1957)

2. KAPOOR (Anil). Essentials of Library Management and Administration. Ess Ess Publications. 2017. New Delhi. ₹ 1100. ISBN: 9788193431115

(Discusses theoretical and practical aspects of leadership and management in library science education, library practice and library administration)

3. LIHITKAR (Shalini), *Ed.* Information Landscapes: A Scenario. 2017. Ess Ess Publications, New Delhi. ₹ 1650. ISBN: 9788193359730

(This is a festschrift volume in honour of Dr. PSG Kumar covering latest trend changing landscapes of library & information science)

4. SESHAGIRIRAO (V A). Step by Step Classification: A Formula Based Classification. 2v. 2017. Ess Ess Publications, New Delhi. ₹ 3500. ISBN: 9788193359792

(It is a classification scheme useful to all types of libraries)

5. SETHY (Surendra) and MAHAPATRA (R K). Managing Library in Electronic Era: Principles and Practice. 2017. ₹ 950. ISBN: 9788193359754

(It is a practice-based guide encompassing all areas of library and information management in the electronic era)

6. UMA (V) and SUSHEELA (V J). Automation of Library Integrated Operations: A How to Do Manual. 2017. Ess Ess Publications, New Delhi. ₹ 850. ISBN: 9788193359723

(Deals with all the current aspects of automation and the issues that need to be addressed while implementing automation in libraries)

OBITUARY

Prof. T N Rajan passes away*

Prof. Thyaga Natarajan, popularly known as T N Rajan, retired Senior Scientist of erstwhile INSDOC (now NISCAIR), New Delhi, passed away on May 5, 2017. He was associated with the training programme of INSDOC for a long time. He retired from INSDOC in 1988. He was also associated with various other renowned organizations in different capacities, such as Madras University; National Library, Kolkata; Library of Congress; IGNOU, North Eastern Hill University, Shillong; Japan Information Centre; FID, UNESCO; ESCAP; and ICRISAT. He published over 200 papers, reports, etc. Prof. Rajan was a Life Member of IASLIC, Delhi Library Association, and Society of Information Science. He was a resource person in NISSAT - IASLIC Course on Indexing Systems held during December 4, 1978 - February 2, 1979 and edited the course material entitled 'Indexing Systems: Concepts, Methods and Techniques' in 1981. Rich tributes were paid to the departed soul in a condolence meeting organized by IASLIC on February 8, 2018.

* It is regretted that this obituary could not be published earlier as the news of the death of Prof. Rajan reached us very late.

FORM IV

Statement about ownership and other particulars about newspaper (IASLIC Newsletter) to be published in the first issue every year after the last day of February.

1. Place of Publication: Indian Association of Special Libraries and Information Centres (IASLIC), P-291 CIT Scheme No. 6M, Kankurgachi, Kolkata - 700054, West Bengal, India
2. Periodicity of its publication: Monthly
3. Printer's Name: Microprint Graphics
Nationality: Indian
Address: 1A, Raja Lane, Kolkata - 700009
4. Publisher's Name: Dr. J N Satpathi
Nationality: Indian
Address: Indian Association of Special Libraries and Information Centres (IASLIC), P-291 CIT Scheme No. 6M, Kankurgachi, Kolkata - 700054, West Bengal, India
5. Editor's Name: Prof. Amitabha Chatterjee
Nationality: Indian
Address : Indian Association of Special Libraries and Information Centres (IASLIC), P-291 CIT Scheme No. 6M, Kankurgachi, Kolkata - 700054, West Bengal, India

Published by Dr. J. N. Satpathi on behalf of IASLIC, P-291, CIT Scheme No. 6M, Kankurgachi, Kolkata - 700054.
Printed at Microprint Graphics, 1A, Raja Lane, Kolkata 700 009.
Editor: Prof. Amitabha Chatterjee

BOOK POST

If undelivered please return to :

**Indian Association of Special Libraries
& Information Centres (IASLIC)
P-291, CIT Scheme No. 6M,
Kankurgachi, Kolkata 700 054**

Phone: (033) 2362 9651

Email: iaslic.india@gmail.com

Website: <http://www.iaslic1955.org.in>