

FEBRUARY
2018



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

IASLIC NEWSLETTER

For Members only



At a Glance

Conferences/Seminars/Workshops
Miscellaneous News
Special Feature
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

“One of the joys of reading is the ability to plug into the shared wisdom of mankind”

- Ishmael Reed,
American poet, novelist, essayist,
songwriter and playwright

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

CONFERENCES / SEMINARS / WORKSHOPS

National

Workshop on D-Space

The Central Library of Datta Meghe College of Engineering, Airoli, Navi Mumbai, is organizing a 'Workshop on 'D-Space Digital Library on Windows Platform' on February 3, 2018. For details email to: purimeera36@gmail.com

Conference on Next Generation Libraries

University College of Science Library, Tumkur University, Tumakuru, Karnataka, is organizing a National Conference on 'Librarianship in Next Generation Libraries' on February 21, 2018. For details email to: nccngl2018@gmail.com

Workshop on Use of Research Tools

The Department of Library and Information Science, Thiruvalluvar College, Papanasam, Vickramasingapuram, Tamil Nadu, is organizing an International Workshop on 'Optimal Use of Research Tools and Techniques' during February 26 - 27, 2018. For details visit: THICOLIBR%202018%20-%20BROCHUER-20.12.2018%20%28p%29.pdf

Conference on Open Data

A National Conference on 'Open Data and Data Repositories' (NCODDR), is being organized by the University Library, Cochin University of Science and Technology, Kochi, during March 6 - 8, 2018. For details visit: <http://library.cusat.ac.in/ncoddr/>

Conference on Copyright

J K Business School, Gurgaon, and the Society for Social Development and People's Action (SDPA), New Delhi, are jointly organising a National Conference on 'Copyrights, Patent and Plagiarism: Threat or Opportunity for Academia and Publishing Industry' on March 30, 2018 at J K Business School. For details email to: sdpa.conference@gmail.com

Seminar on Scholarly Communication: Brief Report

A national level seminar on 'Best Practices in Scholarly Communication and Library Services' was organized by the Department of Library and Information Science, Rabindra Bharati University, Kolkata, on December, 22, 2017. The seminar was inaugurated by Prof. Nirmalya Narayan Chakraborty, Dean, Faculty of Arts, RBU, after the welcome address delivered by Dr. Sudip Ranjan Hatua, Programme Director and Head, DLIS, RBU. Prof. Juran Krishna Sarkhel, Former Head, DLIS, Kalyani University, served as the Chief Guest, while the keynote address was delivered by Prof. Aditya Tripathi, Head, DLIS, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi. Three thematic sessions were conducted, which were chaired by Prof. Sarkhel, Dr. Soumen Sarkar, Deputy Director, RRRLF, and Dr. Narayan Chandra Ghosh, Librarian, CSIR-

IICB, Kolkata. Altogether 34 research papers were presented during the three sessions. Discussions, observations, and comments followed presentation of each paper. The valedictory session was chaired by Dr. Sneha Tripathi, Assistant Librarian, Banaras Hindu University, and Prof. Aditya Tripathi. Dr. Hatua reported the details of the seminar. Dr. Ziaur Rahman and Smt. Snigdha Naskar, Assistant Professors and Seminar Coordinators proposed the vote of thanks.

Workshop on Koha and RFID: Brief Report

The Central Library, Orissa University of Agriculture and Technology (OUAT), Bhubaneswar, Odisha, organized a National Workshop on 'Koha and RFID' during December 9 - 10, 2017. While inaugurating the workshop on December 9, Prof. S Pasupalak, Vice-Chancellor of OUAT, who was the Chief Guest, stressed on use of open source software in library automation. He opined that since Koha was the most suitable open source library management system, it should be adopted in all university libraries. Prof. LM Garnayak, Dean, College of Agriculture, OUAT, spoke on modernisation of libraries through automation, digitization and application of RFID technologies. He appreciated the measure taken by the Central Library of OUAT to automate its activities using Koha LMS. Earlier, Dr. R K Mahapatra, Chief Librarian, Central Library, OUAT, and Workshop Director, welcomed the guests and participants of the workshop. Dr. D R Meher, Librarian, OUAT, and Coordinator of the workshop, proposed a vote of thanks. The Resource Persons of the workshop were Shri Abhishek Kumar Shaw and Shri Debabrata Chatterjee from Avior Technologies Pvt. Ltd, Kolkata. Shri Shaw demonstrated how a library could be automated using Koha, while Shri Chatterjee gave a presentation on RFID technology. Shri Ravi Singh of Total IT Solutions, New Delhi, introduced their RFID product. The valedictory ceremony was held on December 10. Prof. B K Chaudhury, Ex-Professor, Department of Library & Information Science, Sambalpur University, in his valedictory address, described Koha as a dynamic open source software and said that it was most suited to meet all sorts of automation needs of the academic libraries. He also stressed on adoption of RFID technology for safety and security of library resources. The Workshop Director conducted a quiz programme on Koha and RFID. The workshop was attended by 50 participants from Odisha, Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal and Andhra Pradesh. The participants expressed the view that since the workshop was practical in nature, they could learn a lot.

International

Conference on Print Storage

The 6th Kuopio Conference on 'Aspects of Print Storage' will be held at Basel University Library, Switzerland, during March 14 - 16, 2018. For more details visit: <http://tinyurl.com/kuopio-6-basel>

Conference on Knowledge Management Systems

An International Conference on 'Knowledge Management Systems' (ICKMS2018) will be held at Florida Polytechnic University, Florida, USA, during April 9 - 11, 2018. For

details visit: <http://www.ickms.org/>

Conference on Information System

The 2nd International Conference on 'Information System and Data Mining' (ICISDM2018) will be held at Florida Polytechnic University, Florida, USA, during April 9 - 11, 2018. For details visit: <http://www.icisdsm.org/>

Conference on Information Technology

The 15th International Conference on 'Information Technology: New Generations' (ITNG 2018) will be held at Las Vegas, Nevada, USA during April 16 - 18, 2018. For details visit: <http://www.itng.info/>

Symposium on Health Informatics

An International Symposium on 'Health Informatics' (HInfo 2018) will be held at Las Vegas, Nevada, USA, in association with ITNG 2018, during April 16 - 18, 2018. For details visit: <https://sites.google.com/site/hinfo2018/>

Conference on Library as Gateway to Research

ANKOSLink International Conference will be held at Antalya Maritime Congress Center, Turkey, during April 17 - 20, 2018. The theme of this year's conference is 'Library as a Gateway to Research'. For details visit: <http://www.ankoslink.org.tr/2018/en/>

Symposium on Information Security

The 2018 Spring Global Symposium on 'Information and Network Security' will be held at University of Riverside, Los Angeles, USA, during April 19 - 20, 2018. For details visit: <http://www.uofriverside.com/conferences/management-conferences/global-symposium-on-information-and-network-security/>

Conference on Impact of School Libraries

The 47th Annual International Conference of International Association of School Librarianship and 22th International Forum on Research in School Librarianship will be held in Istanbul, Turkey, during May 6 - 11, 2018. The theme of the conference and forum is 'Information, Innovation and Impact of School Libraries'. For details visit: <http://iasl2018.org/>

Course on Open Source Software

The Central Library of Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur, is going to organize an International Short-term Course on 'Open Source Software for Library Management (OSSLM 2018)' during May 7 - 12, 2018. For details visit: <http://www.library.iitkgp.ernet.in/sites/ossml18/index.html>

Conference on Qualitative Methods in Libraries

The 10th 'Qualitative and Quantitative Methods in Libraries' International Conference (QQML2018) is being organized under the umbrella of International Society for the Advancement of Science and Technology at Chania, Crete, Greece during May 22 - 25, 2018. For details visit: <http://qqml.org>

Conference on Open Repositories

The 13th International Conference on 'Open Repositories' (OR2018) will be held during June 4 - 7, 2018 in Bozeman,

Montana, USA. The theme for the conference is 'Sustaining Open'. For details visit: <http://www.or2018.net/call-for-papers/>

Conference on Libraries in Digital Age

An International Conference on 'Libraries in the Digital Age' (LIDA 2018) will be held at University of Zadar, Croatia, during June 13 - 15, 2018. For details visit: <http://ozk.unizd.hr/lida/>

Conference on LIS

An International Conference on 'Library and Information Science' (LIS 2018) will be held in Bangkok, Thailand, during August 8 - 10, 2018. For details visit: <http://soci-science.org/lis/>

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: Committee on Standards - *Impact of recently approved IFLA Standards*; Knowledge Management Section - *Is knowledge management the new library science?*; Library Theory and Research Section jointly with Information Literacy Section - *Information Literacy: from practice to research and back again*; Library and Research Services for Parliaments Section - *Transforming Library & Research Services for Parliamentary Impact and Transforming parliamentary libraries and research services to meet clients' needs*; Environment, Sustainability and Libraries Special Interest Group jointly with Library Services for Children and Young People Section - *Catalysts for environmental and social sustainability: libraries supporting young adults' quest for a better future*; Cataloguing Section - *Rethinking data models and formats for better-informed citizens*; Bibliography Section - *National bibliographies: forging a path to access to information*; Access to Information Network - Africa (ATINA) Special Interest Group - *Mechanisms and metrics for mainstreaming knowledge, libraries and information services in democratic governance and development programmes*; Metropolitan Libraries Section - *Sanctuaries in the city: the public library as a safe space*; New Professionals Special Interest Group - *IFLAcamp#6*; New Professionals Special Interest Group jointly with Management of Library Associations Section and Public Libraries Section - *Librarian Fashion: what does the way we dress say about us?*; Government Libraries Section jointly with Library and Research Services for Parliaments Section - *UN Sustainable Development Goals: transforming societies through informed policy*; Reference and Information Services Section - *Reference and information services shifting gears*; Reference and Information Services Section jointly with Information Technology Section - *Reinventing reference with technology transformation*; Acquisition and Collection Development Section - *Being guided by our users: using assessment to build user-focused collections*; Art Libraries Section - *Art libraries versus*

their users: who is transforming who? and Global Arts and the Islamic World: Documenting Islamic Arts Worldwide; Management and Marketing Section - *Expand your reach in a digital world: how to be in 1000 places at once*; Serials and Other Continuing Resources Section - *Empowering scholarly communication transforms societies*; Government Information and Official Publications Section - *Global eGovernment: trust, transparency and transformation*. Law Libraries Section - *Teaching legal research: innovations and trends*; Library Services to People with Special Needs jointly with Libraries for Children and Adults, in collaboration with the National Library Board, Singapore - *Inclusive library services for children and young adults*; Asia and Oceania Section jointly with Education and Training Section - *Transforming the society: libraries as torch-bearers of change* (this meeting will be held at DLIS, University of Calcutta); Women, Information and Libraries Special Interest Group - *Collections, ethics, perspective and voice: the importance of context*; Genealogy and Local History Section with Asia and Oceania Section - *Local histories and genealogies in multicultural Asia*; Africa Section - *Libraries as centres of community engagements for development*; Management of Library Associations Section - *How strong is your association? Advocacy in action*; Evidence for Global and Disaster Health Special Interest Group - *Evidence for global and disaster health: Where are we now and where do we need to be?*; Social Science Libraries Section - *Digging deeper, reaching further: libraries empowering users to mine the Hathi Trust Digital Library resources*; Indigenous Matters Section - *Diverse indigenous voices, decolonizing, transforming, centering practices and Hard to reach libraries and users: indigenous perspectives*; LIS Education in Developing Countries Special Interest Group - *Collaboration in curriculum development: A focus on ASEAN countries*; Document Delivery and Resource Sharing Section - *Transforming resource sharing*; Cataloguing Section jointly with Information Technology and Subject Analysis and Access Section - *Metadata specialists in the machine age*; School Libraries Section - *School Libraries Guidelines implementation*. For more details visit: <https://2018.ifla.org/> (For themes of other sections and special interest groups see January 2018 issue of IASLIC Newsletter)

Conference on Digital Information Management

The 13th International Conference on 'Digital Information Management' (ICDIM 2018) will be held in Berlin, Germany, during September 24-26, 2018. For details visit: <http://www.icdim.org>

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

Nominations Sought for IFLA Awards

IFLA has called nominations for the following honours and awards: (1) *Honorary Fellow*, which is IFLA's highest award, and is conferred on the basis of merit on a person who has delivered long and distinguished service to IFLA; (2) *IFLA Medal*, which is conferred on a person who has

made a distinguished contribution either to IFLA or to international librarianship; *IFLA Scroll of Appreciation*, which is awarded annually by the IFLA Governing Board to the IFLA World Library and Information Congress (WLIC) National Committee for that year. The deadline for receipt of nominations is February 23, 2018. For details visit: <https://www.ifla.org/honours-awards/call-for-nominations>

Library Gifted to Kids

One is a Potter-head, the other a Roald Dahl fan. But the sisters were on the same page when it came to sharing their collection of books with less privileged children in their neighbourhood. Manaswi and Suhasini Dugar had a special gift to offer last Christmas when they opened a library for kids, most of whom don't go to school and can barely read, says a report by Farah Khatoon published in *The Telegraph* (India). The two students of Sushila Birla Girls' School hope to make the children fall in love with books and get learning in the process. A large share of the books is from the girls' personal collection. "We had so many books that were just lying on the shelves after a read or two. We didn't want to just give them away," said Manaswi, a student of Class VII and a huge Potter fan. When Manaswi and her little sister shared the idea of starting a library with their mom, she was encouraging. Thus was born Reader's Planet on the first floor of the Dugars' home at Dover Road in Kolkata. The 300sq feet library has more than 1,000 books and around 20 children aged five to 15 from nearby localities have already registered. The library is open from 2pm to 7pm on all days, except Sundays. Suhasini, who is eagerly waiting to start reading *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban* and get ahead of elder sister Manaswi in reading the Potter series, said, "We get around 10 books from our school library every month. We also borrow from the American and British libraries. So we end up reading a lot. But we want to share the joy of reading with others." For full report visit: <https://www.telegraphindia.com/calcutta/sister-act-library-for-less-fortunate-198464>

Eye-shaped Library Opens in China

A futuristic library which has opened in China on October 1 last year is something of a bookworm's dream, says a report by Mark Molloy published in *The Telegraph* (UK). The library was built in Tianjin, a coastal metropolis located around 100km outside of the Chinese capital of Beijing. Dutch architects MVRDV, in collaboration with local designers TUPDI, created the library to resemble a giant eye. The five-storey building features a floor-to-ceiling bookcases cascade, which acts as "everything from stairs to seating". "The Tianjin Binhai Library interior is almost cave-like, a continuous bookshelf," says Winy Maas, co-founder of MVRDV. "Not being able to touch the building's volume we 'rolled' the ball shaped auditorium demanded by the brief into the building and the building simply made space for it, as a 'hug' between media and knowledge." In the middle of the building, built in a "record-breaking time" for the company of only three years, sits a magnificent spherical auditorium. "We opened the building by creating a beautiful public space inside; a new urban living room is its centre," added Maas. "The

bookshelves are great spaces to sit and at the same time allow for access to the upper floors. "The angles and curves are meant to stimulate different uses of the space, such as reading, walking, meeting and discussing. Together they form the 'eye' of the building: to see and be seen." For original report visit: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2017/11/14/futuristic-eye-shaped-library-12-million-books-opens-china/>

Mystery of Missing Books Solved

A New Zealand library has finally solved the mystery of why some books were going missing from its shelves, says a report by Mark Molloy published in *The Telegraph* (UK). Auckland Library staff were bewildered after finding some books were being hidden in random places. They initially thought kids playing pranks were to blame, but later discovered it was the city's rough sleepers who were actually stashing the books so they could return the next day to continue reading. "A lot of our street community were wanting to put them underneath the couches or underneath bookshelves and kind of hiding them in various places," librarian Sean Taylor told TV NZ. "Anywhere they thought was theirs and they can keep it there. And for a librarian it's really weird, we're like 'oh what's this book doing here?' and we've put it back." Staff found out some of city's homeless population were hiding the books, explaining without a permanent address they were unable to sign up for a library card that would allow them to take the literature away. As a solution, Auckland Library created a new section where books can now be left overnight and picked back up again the next morning. For original report visit: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2017/10/18/new-zealand-library-solves-mystery-missing-books/>

270m Facebook Accounts 'Illegitimate'

Facebook has admitted that up to 270m accounts on the social network are illegitimate, says a report published in *The Telegraph* (UK). It disclosed that there are tens of millions more fake and duplicate accounts than it had previously thought. Around 2-3 per cent of its 2.1bn monthly users in the third quarter of 2017 were "user-misclassified and undesirable accounts", Facebook said, up from the 1 per cent it had estimated in July last. Another 10 per cent of its accounts are duplicates of real users, almost doubling its estimate of 6 per cent from last quarter's results. This suggests that in total, up to 13 per cent of its 2.1bn monthly users - almost 270m accounts - are illegitimate. It said that improvements to the data used to identify fake accounts was behind the increase, rather than a sudden surge in fake users, although the company added that there may have been "episodic spikes" in some countries. Facebook, which requires users to use their real names and in some cases prove their identity, has sought to position itself as being less polluted than other social networks. For full report visit: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/technology/2017/11/02/facebook-admits-270m-users-fake-duplicate-accounts/>

Cataloguer Donates Savings to Library

Robert Morin dedicated his life to books which is why he donated his life's savings to education. He worked at the

University of New Hampshire library in U S for more than 50 years as a cataloguer. Throughout his life he watched 22,000 movies and read nearly 2,000 books in chronological order published in the U S from 1930 to 1940. By living a simple life, over the years he accumulated a \$4 million dollar estate. When he died, he gifted the money to the university. Watch video on this donation at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PyTvu6nxS3c>

Librarian Rescues Missing Elderly Lady

A kind-hearted librarian has been praised by police and local council bosses after helping a missing elderly person with dementia. The assistant at Central Milton Keynes Library in UK recently spotted a “very confused” lady in the reference section. Clearly distressed and clearly suffering from dementia, the lady wanted to get to Age UK, a charity organization. The assistant went out of her way to phone Age UK and then called a taxi to take the lady there - even paying for it out of her own pocket. Meanwhile, unbeknown to her, city police had issued a missing persons alert for the same lady, who had been missing from her home in Newport Pagnell since 6.30 am same day. Age UK informed police and the lady is now safely home. “The outcome could have been very different had this lady not come into MK Library,” said a local council source. For original report visit: <https://www.miltonkeynes.co.uk/news/caring-librarian-comes-to-rescue-to-newport-pagnell-pensioner-reported-as-missing-person-1-8260071>

New Qatar National Library Building

The new Qatar National Library (QNL) building in Education City district of Doha opened its doors to the public for the first time recently, giving residents access to more than one million books, periodicals, and special collections, as well as the QNL Heritage Library, says a report in *The Peninsular Qatar*. Members can now check out books and other media from the main collection, access the Children's and Teen's Library, and begin using QNL's creative and collaborative facilities, such as the Writing Center, Innovation Stations, and study rooms. The building is open to all members of the public, with free membership available to anyone with a Qatari ID. “The opening of the QNL building is a landmark achievement for the cultural and education landscape in Qatar. QNL is a place where everybody can learn, collaborate, and create,” said Dr. Sohair F Wastawy, Executive Director, QNL. “With the Heritage Library at its heart and innovative technology throughout, the QNL building is truly a bridge between Qatar's past and its future,” added Dr. Wastawy. QNL has also launched its new website at www.qnl.qa, allowing users to register for membership, search the library's collection, reserve meeting and event spaces in the building, and access the dozens of online digital resources available to members. QNL will celebrate the building's opening with a range of events, all of which are open to the public. The full schedule of events is available on the QNL website. Designed by renowned Dutch architect Rem Koolhaas, the building is fully accessible to visitors with special needs. It features numerous custom-

designed innovations, including an automatic book sorting system, several interactive media walls, and self-check-in and check-out machines that make borrowing books easier for members. A full range of exhibitions and services will be launched at the official inauguration ceremony in April, 2018. For more details visit: <https://thepeninsulaqatar.com/article/06/11/2017/Qatar-National-Library-opens-for-public-from-Tuesday>

HC Prefers Library at Shimla Town Hall

To preserve the heritage value of the famous Town Hall of Shimla city, the High Court has directed the Chief Secretary to file a personal affidavit with regard to proper use of the building after its restoration, says a report by Vijay Arora published in *The Tribune*. A division bench comprising acting Chief Justice Sanjay Karol and Justice Sandeep Sharma observed: “We notice that the building, which hitherto before known as the 'Town Hall', used as the office of the Municipal Corporation, Shimla, was actually designed as the “New Library & Offices” by Scottish Architect James Ransome. Except some public utility offices, essentially the building was used for the purposes of a library. The original building, designed as a library, was constructed in 1908. It was only subsequently, much later on that offices were shifted and after Partition, some offices of the Municipal Corporation were housed therein.” The Bench further said: “Considering the “priceless architectural marvel” of the building, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) funded restoration of the building. The character and status of the building, undoubtedly, is that of a heritage property.” For the last two years, the work of preservation and restoration of the building has been in progress. More than Rs 8 crore stands invested by the ADB for the purpose. It observed: “Undoubtedly, the building, which is commonly known as the 'Town Hall', is an important and significant landmark of the town. Intrinsicly, it is part of its heritage.” “It is in this backdrop, we are of the considered view that a decision must be taken with regard to proper use of the building after its restoration. Perhaps, it can be used for housing a library and other public conveniences, rather than leaving it at the mercy of “babus” for nailing restored wooden panels and work of art only for the purposes of hanging the annual calendars or pasting the same all over the walls.” For full report visit: <http://www.tribuneindia.com/news/himachal/convert-iconic-town-hall-into-library-or-museum-hc/513299.html>

Audio Library for Blind by Blind

Mahantesh G Kivadasannavar was just six months old when he lost his eyesight due to typhoid. But, as he grew, the loss of sight never came in the way of his vision to educate himself and be independent. He completed his M Phil and became a lecturer. But, this was just the beginning, says a report by Shreya Pareek uploaded on www.thebeterindia.com. In a farsighted move, Mahantesh started the Samarthanam Trust for Disabled in 1997 in Bengaluru, which focuses on providing facilities, infrastructure, technology, and all possible need-based support to disabled and underprivileged students. Being visually impaired, Mahantesh knew the problems faced by people with

disabilities. Though he had completed his higher studies, he remembered how difficult the process had been. "I had to depend upon others to study. It was difficult for me to understand the lessons because not every book was available in braille and audio format," recalls Mahantesh. Keeping the woes of visually impaired students in mind, Mahantesh started a digital book library in May 2008 to reach out to print-disabled students (visually impaired, slow-learners and dyslexic children). The library has over 5,000 audio books to help students with disabilities achieve their educational goals. More are being added every day by an army of volunteers because the goal of the founder, Mahantesh, is to have the entire university syllabus available in audio format. For more details visit: <http://www.thebetterindia.com/38730/digital-library-helping-visually-impaired-students-excel-studies-samarthanam-mahantesh/>

Brighter Side of Book Sharing

For most book lovers sharing books is not very easy. It is not that they don't want to share their precious treasures, but simply that they know that books are too good. They fear that the borrower may be tempted to keep it and may never return it. Worse still, they fear that someone else may steal the book from the borrower. Most book lovers find it difficult to part with their books. But a man in Manila was surprised when he shared his books, according to a story by Kate McGeown available on blog.woodpie.com. His reads didn't only come back, but they also increased in number. Plus, he made new friends who shared the same interests and beliefs as him. He is now planning to take his book sharing idea to other cities. One of his new friends also plans to start a "book boat" and plans to travel to islands, sharing books. Hernando Guanlao is a sprightly man in his early 60s, with one abiding passion - books. They're his pride and joy, which is just as well because, whether he likes it or not, they seem to be taking over his house. Guanlao, known by his nickname Nanie, has set up an informal library outside his home in central Manila, to encourage his local community to share his joy of reading. The idea is simple. Readers can take as many books as they want, for as long as they want - even permanently. As Guanlao says: "The only rule is that there are no rules." It's a policy you might assume would end very quickly - with Guanlao having no books at all. But in fact, in the 12 years he's been running his library - or, in his words, his book club - he's found that his collection has grown rather than diminished, as more and more people donate to the cause. "It seems to me that the books are speaking to me. That's why it multiplies like that," he says with a smile. "The books are telling me they want to be read... they want to be passed around." Guanlao started his library in 2000, shortly after the death of his parents. He was looking for something to honour their memory, and that was when he hit upon the idea of promoting the reading habit he'd inherited. "I saw my old textbooks upstairs and decided to come up with the concept of having the public use them," he says. So he put the books - a collection of fewer than 100 - outside the door

of his house to see if anyone wanted to borrow them. They did, and they brought the books back with others to add to the collection - and the library was born. Such is the current turnover that Guanlao confesses he has no idea how many books are in his possession, but there are easily 2,000 or 3,000 on the shelves and in the boxes stacked outside his front door. And that's before you move inside, where books are rapidly encroaching into every available space. You can hardly get into the front room, the car has long since been moved out of the garage, and books are even stacked all the way up the stairs. The library is not advertised, but somehow, every day, a steady stream of people finds their way there. For full story visit: <http://blog.woodpie.com/the-man-who-shared-his-books-and-multiplied-them/>

Pune Library Brings Service at Doorstep

To cater to its patrons living across the city, Pune Nagar Vachan Mandir, which was set up at the height of the British Raj 170 years ago, has opened branches in Bibvewadi, Kothrud and Warje, according to a report by Avijit Chatterjee published in *The Times of India*. "It is difficult for members living in different parts of the city to come to our library. So we decided to go closer to them," said Arvind Ranade, secretary. For senior citizens, the library has started a scheme called 'Library at Your Doorstep'. "We offer the service for Rs 120 per month for one book. Readers can read two books for Rs 150 and three for Rs 180 each month. Every week, a library worker visits each member with 70-80 books. The member can either choose from these books or place a request over the telephone for a particular book," added Ranade. The library also sends a list of books purchased in the last three months to its members. "A request can be placed on the basis of this list. Altogether, 100 members have enrolled in this scheme. We believe more will enroll if we publicise this scheme," he said. The Pune Nagar Vachan Mandir has 70,000 Marathi books and 12,000 English books on a variety of subjects - health, astronomy, economics, mathematics, history, philosophy, drama, travel, politics, botany, etc. Besides, there are books on competitive exams. Each of its branches has a collection of about 6,000 books. "Whenever we get a request about any particular book, we immediately purchase it. It has never happened that we don't have a book that has been recently launched in the market. We have such good relationship with the suppliers that even before a book is launched, it is sent to us," says Ranade. For full report visit: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/pune/for-the-love-of-reading/articleshow/62494483.cm>

SPECIAL FEATURE

Library Founders of Different Kind!

There has been a time when libraries were being set up by the royals and the rich. But in most cases those libraries were private libraries i.e. not open to general public. Then

came the period when local clubs, associations, and NGOs came forward to set up libraries for the general public. The state also came forward to set up public libraries as a welfare measure. Today there are all types of libraries set up by educational institutes, research organizations, public bodies and even corporate houses, beside of course the state. But have you heard a library being set up by a waste cleaner? It may seem impossible, but at least two such incidents have come to our notice, which are being shared with the readers in these columns.

The first story by Smriti Daniel, Gabriel Garica Marquez Cultural Journalism Fellow 2017, available on www.aljazeera.com website, relates to Jose Alberto Gutierrez, a rubbish collector of Bogota, the capital city of Colombia. It was 20 years ago, but Jose still remembers first glimpsing the Russian classic *Anna Karenina* by Leo Tolstoy in the rubbish outside a home in Bogota's Bolivia neighbourhood. The rubbish collector loaded his truck with the rest of the waste, but took the book home. It was the start of a wonderful obsession, says Daniel.

Today, the 55-year-old lives on a steeply sloping road in the La Nueva Gloria barrio, in the southern reaches of Colombia's sprawling capital. The outside of his modest two-storey house blends in with its neighbours, but inside, it couldn't be more different. This is the home of La Fuerza de las Palabras, Spanish for "The Strength of Words", a community library. Jose's family lives on the first floor. All the three rooms in the ground floor are bordered with stacks of books which brush the ceiling - the last time Jose counted, there were some 25,000 - and it feels like every day more books find him. The library has begun to send tendrils into the upstairs family space as well. An entire wall and some new shelves in their dining area are covered in novels.

Jose has worked for four different public and private waste management outfits in the last 20 years and his duties have taken him all over Bogota. In his mind, he holds a map of the best places to find books. Generally, rich and prosperous northern Bogota is good for hard-covers and rare editions; the south is where he finds the paperbacks. No one ever seems to mix the books with organic waste; instead, they are left out in separate boxes or bags, says Jose.

As Jose's collection has grown, so too has his fame. The other drivers at the municipality used to think that Jose was crazy, but now they help out, bringing him whatever books they discover in the rubbish. Local newspaper headlines hailing him as "Colombia's Lord of the Books" have brought more donations pouring in. He has been invited to share his story at events in Colombia and abroad, including at the Guadalajara International Book Fair in Mexico, the largest of its kind in Latin America.

Jose has become a conduit connecting book lovers - La Fuerza de las Palabras has donated reading materials to some 235 schools, institutions and community libraries

across Colombia. In fact, one of their first contributions was to his neighbourhood's only school, which is down the road from his house. The school did not have a library until Jose rolled up. Jose loves reading and credits this to his mother, who would put him to bed with a book every night, even though they were too poor to keep him in school. Jose's vision is shared by volunteers from other countries, such as Denmark, Norway, France and South Korea, who have come to spend time at La Fuerza de las Palabras. Colombian writers and poets also have made a point of visiting his library. Recently La Fuerza de las Palabras received a donation of an ambulance for Jose to convert it into a mobile library. One sponsor has donated land and the Gutierrez family is collecting funds to build a real library for the community on it.

His oldest child, 29-year-old Maria Angelica, takes on most of the responsibility of running the library, he says with pride, adding that his son Johann Sebastian, 25, helps with the administration and budget. His youngest daughter, Merylin Marcela, 19, drives the ambulance and helps pick up and deliver books. Jose's most reliable partner, however, is his wife Luz Mery. She answers the phone, helps children find their books and organizes book readings and other events at the library. "Lots of people mocked me. They would laugh when they found out about my project. But now 20 years later, they are amazed," says Jose, adding that "my dream is to exchange my garbage truck for a truck full of books, and travel the country."

According to the second story by Aadel Haleem available on www.trtworld.com website, old books salvaged from the garbage have a new lease of life in an abandoned brick factory in Turkey's capital Ankara. A group of garbage collectors in Ankara's Cankaya district has set up a unique library open to all visitors. "When I was working on my shift, we found some bags next to the [trash] containers. We opened and looked into it. We found a lot of different books. So we talked to our bosses. After that, we started to take them with us," one of the garbage collectors, Dursun Ipek, said. In the coming months, they are planning to turn a rubbish truck into a mobile library to get books to children in need in village schools. Meanwhile, the library has also received a donation of a good number of books from a resident of the city Halil Ibrahim Demir, who, referring to books found in garbage, said "I'm very sad, very sad that these books are thrown to garbage like bread. Our society needs to show more awareness. This is a huge loss. It is a big thing when a child reads one book and learns one word from it." The effort of the garbage collectors has also been hailed by many on the facebook.

Surprisingly, in a vast country like ours we have not heard of any such story, where garbage cleaners have come forward to set up a library of this kind. Even kabadiwallas, who often collect old books at throwaway prices, have not come forward to set up a library of such

books. Let us hope that some of these people will come forward and emulate the above examples and help the people in need.

[Sources: <http://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/features/2017/05/bogota-bibliophile-trash-collector->

[rescues-books-170522084707682.html](http://www.rescues-books-170522084707682.html),
<https://www.trtworld.com/life/from-the-bin-to-the-bookshelves-ankara-bibliophiles-get-a-new-library-13754>, <https://www.facebook.com/trtworld/posts/2033720000231479>]

OBITUARY

Prof. B Guha is no more

Prof. Bimalendu Guha, popularly known as B Guha, a well-known LIS educator and author of the popular textbook 'Documentation and Information: Services, Techniques and Systems', passed away on January 21, 2018. He was 92. He is survived by his two sons. He lost his wife in 1977 in a tragic accident. Being one of the first batch students of M Lib Sc course of Delhi University, Prof. Guha had the privilege of studying under Dr. S R Ranganathan. Prof. Guha started his career at Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata, in 1950 and shifted to the erstwhile INSDOC in 1956, where he worked for next 28 years. He taught in Associateship in Information Science course and also edited *Annals of Library Science* (renamed as *Annals of Library Science and Documentation* and later as *Annals of Library and Information Studies*), which is known for its high quality. He was also associated with several other publications of INSDOC such as *INSDOC List - Current Scientific Literature* and *Bibliography of Publications of South and Southeast Asia*. Prof. Guha joined the Department of Library & Information Science, Banaras Hindu University, as a Professor in 1984. After his retirement in 1991, he settled down in Delhi but remained active in professional field. He was associated with many professional associations such as IASLIC, Bengal Library Association, Delhi Library Association and Indian Association of Academic Libraries. He served as a vice-president of IASLIC during 1980-81. In *Indian Library Science Abstracts*, 1992 - 2010 volume, published by IASLIC, he contributed around 7000 abstracts out of around 9000 contained in the volume and also classified all the 9000 abstracts by Colon Classification, Ed. 7, and assigned subject headings to all of them. His death is a great loss to the library and information profession. IASLIC deeply mourns his death.

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>