

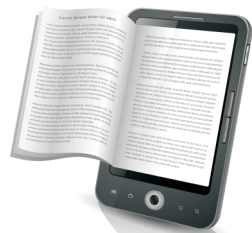
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IASLIC NEWSLETTER

For Members only



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Prof. K P Majumder

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Quote of the Month

“Reading a book gives us the habit of solitary reflection and true enjoyment.”

– Late Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan,
renowned philosopher and
former President of India

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

28th National Seminar of IASLIC

Venue: Visva Bharati University, Santiniketan

Dates: November 18 - 20, 2018

Theme: L I S Education in India: Present Scenario and Future Strategies*

Themes for SIG Meetings:

SIG1: Rabindranath Tagore's Vision on Libraries and its Relevance in New Era*

SIG 2: Data Management in Libraries*

(*For Sub-themes and facets see *IASLIC Newsletter* July 2018 issue or visit IASLIC website.
The last date for submission of full papers *has been extended upto September 15, 2018*)

Ranganathan Lecture on Technical Writing: Brief Report

The 21st IASLIC-Ranganathan Memorial Lecture was held at IASLIC Seminar Hall on May 21, 2018. Prof. S. Seetharama, Former Professor, DRTC, Bangalore, delivered the lecture on the topic 'Why, What and How of Technical Writing'. Prof. Amitabha Chatterjee, Former Professor, DLIS, Jadavpur University, Kolkata, and Editor, IASLIC Newsletter, presided over the programme. At the outset, Dr. Nitai Roychoudhury, Joint Secretary, IASLIC, introduced the Speaker. Prof. Chatterjee, in his introductory remarks said that though Ranganathan did not write much on technical writing, he himself was a master technical writer. Through his writings he demonstrated how technical papers should be written and how the text of the paper should be organized and how different sections and sub-sections of a technical paper should be numbered. He also mentioned how late Prof. A. Neelameghan, in his book 'Presentation of Ideas in Technical Writing' had shown that most of the principles enunciated by Ranganathan for working in different planes in the context of classification could be profitably employed in technical writing too.

In his introduction, Prof. Seetharama shared the memories of his golden days at DRTC, Bangalore, both as a student and as a teacher, specially his experiences of working with Ranganathan. He said that Ranganathan was a man who was always very keen about perfection in every work. He could easily motivate others, specially the students and colleagues. Ranganathan used to go for a morning walk everyday in the DRTC campus and some students used to accompany him. A couple of rounds within the campus used to take two hours as discussions continued.

While speaking on the theme of his lecture, Prof. Seetharama referred to Rudyard Kipling's idea of six honest friends - What, Why, When, How, Where and Who - and

said that answers to these would help one to plan an effective and appropriate technical communication. He then went on to discuss the characteristics and principles of technical writing and the problems that might be faced by a writer in using appropriate language in a technical communication. He mentioned about aberrations that might occur in technical writing and the reasons behind them. Prof. Seetharama also provided some tips for good writing and stressed on ensuring content reliability in the writing. He suggested rules to be followed in relation to style of presentation and provided basic guidelines for preparing a technical paper. He also explained various steps in technical writing and the structure of a technical paper. Finally, he presented some important points that should be seriously considered by a writer of technical paper.

In his concluding remarks, Prof. Chatterjee stressed on the importance of technical writing for LIS professionals. He gave references of some useful books written by Prof. Seetharama and also informed about Prof. Seetharama's recent book published by IASLIC. He suggested that IASLIC should conduct short-term courses on technical writing. Prof. Arjun Dasgupta, Former Professor, DLIS, University of Calcutta, proposed a vote of thanks. A good number of students, research scholars, library and information professionals and LIS teachers, including some former students of Prof. Seetharama, were present on the occasion.

Librarians' Day Celebration: Brief Report

IASLIC, jointly with Bengal Library Association (BLA) and West Bengal Public Library Employees Association (WBPLEA), and in collaboration with Raja Rammohan Roy Library Foundation (RRRLF), Kolkata, and Heritage Institute of Technology (HIT), Kolkata, observed Librarians' Day to commemorate 126th birth anniversary of Dr. S R Ranganathan through a function held on August 12, 2018 at the Vivekananda Auditorium of HIT.

The inaugural session started with the opening song by Smt. Madhushree Ghosh followed by lighting of ceremonial lamp by Hon'ble Chief Justice (Retd.) Shri Chittotosh Mookerjee and other dignitaries present on the dais. All the dignitaries were then felicitated on behalf of the organizers as also on behalf of Heritage Institute of Technology. Prof. B B Paira, Advisor, Higher Education, Kalyan Bharati Trust, welcomed the dignitaries and the participants. Shri Gautam Goswami, General Secretary, Bengal Library Association, in his address, highlighted the role of BLA in library movement and reminded the responsibilities of librarians in developing reading habit in the ever changing society. Shri Sajal Kanti Goswami, General Secretary, IASLIC, explained the significance of Librarians' Day and mentioned the contributions of Dr. S R Ranganathan in the development of library profession. Shri Shibaprasad Chakraborty, General Secretary, West Bengal Public Library Employees Association (WBPLEA), threw light on the present condition of public libraries in the state and how library services were being hampered for want of staff. Justice Mookerjee, in his inaugural address, stressed on the importance of reading books. He said that libraries in

our society were developed not only as learning resource centres but also as places for exchange of ideas and sharing of views among the citizens. The Guest of Honour, Dr. Barun Mukherjee, former MP and former President BLA and IASLIC, in his address, stressed on the contributions of Ranganathan in the field of LIS. Another Guest of Honour, Dr. Arun Kumar Chakraborty, Director General of RRRLF and National Library, gave a brief account of the activities of RRRLF. Prof. N. R. Satyanarayana, Former Professor, DLIS, University of Lucknow, and Vice-President of IASLIC, threw light on some incidents in the life of Dr. Ranganathan. Dr. Binod Bihari Das, Advisor, Library, HIT, Kolkata, in his address, highlighted the steady growth and development of a good library system in the Heritage Group of Institution with the support of the concerned authorities. In his presidential address, Dr. J N Satpathi, President of IASLIC, gave a brief account of Librarians' Day celebrations since 1990. He also mentioned about the reading habit, reading culture and reading environment in libraries abroad as observed by him in some countries. Prof. K P Majumder, Vice-President, IASLIC and BLA, proposed a vote of thanks.

The inaugural session was followed by a discussion session, chaired by Dr. Bimal Chattopadhyay, President, BLA, in which three eminent speakers, viz., Prof. Subal Chandra Biswas, former Professor, DLIS, Burdwan University, Burdwan; Dr. Arun Kumar Chakraborty, Director General, RRRLF and National Library; and Shri Arup Roychoudhury, former Deputy Librarian, Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata; expressed their views on the theme 'Librarianship in Information Age'. Initiating the discussion, Prof. Subal Chandra Biswas, highlighted the role of ICT in day-to-day life as well as in library and information profession. He also pointed out the role of smart phone in making our daily life easier. Dr. Arun Kumar Chakraborty shared his experiences about readers' behaviour and attitude in the National Library and some other research institute libraries. Shri Arup Roychoudhury spoke on the topic from three different angles - application of technology, information obesity and librarianship in the present economic-political system. According to Shri Raychaudhury, library automation was a regular activity involving huge expenditures. On the other hand there was severe fund crunch in libraries affecting purchase of books and periodicals. He pointed out that with exponential growth of information, a good amount of junk information were appearing affecting the library and information system and turning information rich to information obese. Finally, he said, in most of the education institutes teaching-learning was not at all library oriented and parents were more concerned about grades than the knowledge obtained by their children. In this situation the librarians could hardly do anything, he added. At the end Shri Bimal Chattopadhyay summarised the views of different speakers and also thanked them for enlightening the audience. He also thanked all concerned for the success of the programme.

More than 400 LIS professionals, including teachers, librarians and students attended the function.

Study Circle Meeting on LIS Subject Descriptors

The 333rd IASLIC Study Circle Meeting was held on May 17, 2018 at 6 pm in the Seminar Room of the Association. In this meeting, Dr. Sonali Dapsi, Librarian, Raja Peary Mohan College, Uttarpara, Hooghly, delivered a lecture on 'Study of Subject Descriptors in LIS articles published in India: a folksonomical approach'. The meeting was chaired by Shri Biswabaran Guha, Former Deputy Director, Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation, Kolkata.

In her lecture, Dr. Dapsi discussed about the keyword usage in articles published in Indian LIS journals during 1998-2012. The analysis of keywords was based on 3604 articles in 322 volumes of 13 journals published by LIS associations and institutions, and LIS departments of reputed universities in India. Her study revealed that out of 3604 keywords, 1958 were uncontrolled. This included the popular terms like - Information Communication Technology, Authorship Pattern, Scientometrics, Bibliometric Studies, Citation Analysis, Information Literacy, Institutional Repository, etc. Dr. Dapsi opined that after repeated use of the same keywords, uncontrolled terms would be accepted as controlled terms in due course of time.

In the question-answer session, some members of the audience raised different points. Dr. J N Satpathi, President, IASLIC, said that use of terminology in science subjects was not a problem, but it was a common problem in social science subjects. Ms. Moumita Ash, Convener, Library Service Division, IASLIC, stated that selection of uncontrolled keywords was not always due to the negligence on the author's part. There was also lack of tools to control the vocabulary. A few more members of the audience also mentioned about lack of mechanism to control vocabulary in LIS. Dr. Sudip Ranjan Hatua, Convener, Study Circle Division, said that folksonomy was an interesting and new topic in the field of LIS research. Dr. Dapsi, had been awarded Ph D degree in 2017 by Rabindra Bharati University on the same topic, he added.

In his presidential remarks, Shri Biswabaran Guha thanked the speaker for her interesting presentation and expressed his concern over use of uncontrolled keywords. The meeting ended with a vote of thanks proposed by Dr. Gurudas Ghosh, Convener, Information Service Division, IASLIC. The meeting was attended by a good number of library and information science professionals and a large number of LIS students.

CONFERENCES / SEMINARS / WORKSHOPS

National

Workshop on Koha

A National Workshop on Koha is being organized by the Institution of Librarians and Information Scientists, Kerala, at LBS Women's Engineering College Poojappura, Trivandrum, during September 8 - 9, 2018. For details visit: <http://api.ning.com/files/KvDjcRIP>

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Seminar on Academic Social Networks

To celebrate Librarians' Day a National Seminar on 'Academic Social Networks in Knowledge Sharing' is being jointly organized by Indian Institute of Management and Commerce (IIMC), Hyderabad, and Telangana Library Association, on September 9, 2018 at IIMC. For details visit: <https://www.facebook.com/tsla2014>

Librarian Leadership Summit

The first Librarian Leadership Summit will be held at Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs, Manesar, on September 15, 2018. For details visit: <https://librariansummit.com/>

Librarians' Day Seminar in Delhi

A seminar is being organized by Prof. G Ram Reddy Library, IGNOU, New Delhi, in association with IASLIC, to observe Librarians' Day on September 17, 2018 on the theme 'Library Professionals at the crossroad'. For details mail to vkjjeevan@email.com

Bengal Library Conference

The 53rd Bengal Library Conference is being organized by Bengal Library Association, Purulia District Branch, at Nistarini College, Purulia, during September 22 - 23, 2018. The theme of the conference is 'Library Services in the light of New Technology'. The last date for submission of papers is September 16, 2018. For more details visit: <http://www.blacal.org>

Workshop on Libraries on Cloud

A National Workshop on 'Libraries on Cloud' is being organized by INFLIBNET Centre, Gandhinagar, during September 26 - 28, 2018. For details visit: http://inflibnet.ac.in/hrd/docs/library_cloud18.pdf

Conference on Gandhiji's Vision on KM

Gandhi Peace Foundation, New Delhi, and Society for Social Development and People's Action (SDPA), New Delhi, are jointly organizing a national conference on 'Relevance of Mahatma Gandhi's Vision in Knowledge Management and Digital Libraries Today' on October 13, 2018 at Gandhi Peace Foundation. For details visit: <http://www.sdpaindia.org/>

International

Congress on Data Management

The Institute of Librarianship and Information Research of the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, is organizing 'The Congress of Information Studies: Data Management' during November 14 - 16, 2018, at the facilities of the Institute of Library and Information Research located in Ciudad Universitaria, Mexico City. For details visit: <http://iibi.unam.mx/>

Symposium on Smart Libraries

The 15th Stellenbosch University Library Symposium will be held at Stellenbosch Institute of Advance Studies, Stellenbosch, South Africa, during November 15 - 16, 2018. The theme of the symposium is 'Smarter Libraries:

User Experience (UX) in Action'. For details visit: <http://library.sun.ac.za/en-za/announcements/Lists/Posts/Post.aspx?ID=74>

Conference on Convergence of Content, Media, etc.

An International Conference on 'Convergence: Content, Media and Technology' is scheduled to be held at the Faculty of Informatics, Mahasarakham University, Thailand during November 22-23, 2018 in honour of Dr. Sujin Butdisuwan, Dean, Faculty of Informatics, Mahasarakham University. For details email to: siddahss@gmail.com or enukondar@gmail.com

Intellectual Property Convention

The 11th Global Intellectual Property Convention will be held during January 17 - 19, 2019 at Sheraton Grand Bengaluru Whitefield Hotel & Convention Center, Bengaluru. For details visit: <https://www.iprconference.com/gipc/2019/>

Multi-Conference on Informatics, etc.

The 10th International Multi-Conference on Complexity, Informatics and Cybernetics (IMCIC 2019) will be held, jointly with the 10th International Conference on Education, Training and Informatics (ICETI 2019) and the 10th International Conference on Society and Information Technologies (ICSIT 2019), during March 12 - 15, 2019 in Orlando, Florida, USA,. For details visit: <http://www.2019iisconf.org/cfp-spring2019.asp>

Evidence-Based LI Practice Conference

The 10th International Evidence-Based Library and Information Practice Conference (EBLIP10), hosted by the Department of Computer and Information Sciences and Strathclyde iSchool, University of Strathclyde, Glasgow, Scotland, will be held during June 15 - 16, 2019. The theme of the conference is 'Using evidence in times of uncertainty.' For details visit: <https://eblip10.org/>

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

Librarians' Day Celebration at Kota

The Government Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Divisional Public Library, Kota, celebrated the 126th Birth Anniversary of S R Ranganathan, the father of Library Science in India, as Librarians' Day on August 12, 2018. Shri Om Prakash Garg, Retired Librarian, College of Education, Rajasthan, Jaipur, served as the chairperson, while Shri Gopal Vipra, Librarian, Rajasthan Technical University, Kota, served as the chief guest. Shri Lakkho, Librarian, Government Polytechnic College, Kota, and Shri Shambhu Dayal Verma, Retd. District Librarian, Language and Library Department, Government of Rajasthan, Jaipur, were the special guests. The keynote paper was presented by Dr. D K Shrivastava, Divisional Librarian and Head, Government PDDU Divisional Public Library, Kota, on 'Vision 2022 for Public Libraries'. Three other papers were presented by Dr. Michael Esey, Former Head, Digitization Unit, ABU Zaria University, Nigeria, on 'How the Digitization is important to the Public

Libraries'; Dr. Suleiman Sambo, Former Head, Quality Assurance, ABU Zaria University, Nigeria, on 'Quality Assurance and Public Libraries in Indian Context' and Smt. Shashi Jain, Assistant Librarian, Government PDDU Divisional Public Library, Kota, on 'Green Libraries'. A total of 30 librarians from the country and abroad, library interns, library science researchers, library volunteers and non-government libraries working in various state and local institutions of Kota city were honoured with Awards of Excellence and Certificates of Appreciation. Among them were Shri Om Prakash Garg, who was honoured on behalf of Government PDDU Divisional Public Library, Kota, with Lifetime Achievement Award and Dr. Deepak Kumar Shrivastava with Best Librarian Award. Dr. Michael Esey's paper was selected for the Best Paper Presentation award by the jury. On this occasion the young library professional Dr. Pritima Vyas' book 'ISB - The Information Retrieval Practices of Clinicians' was released in the presence of co-author Dr. D K Shrivastava. The programme was compered by Shri K B Dixit. At the end of the programme a 'Zero Session' was arranged for answering queries from participants by chairperson, chief guest and special guests. The programme coordinator Smt. Shashi Jain proposed a vote of thanks.

New Body of School Librarians

An association of librarians of school libraries in India named School Library Association (SLA India) has been recently set up with Ms. Madhu Bhargava, Dean of Libraries, G D Goenka World School, Gurgaon, as president and S L Faisal, Librarian, Kendriya Vidyalaya Pattom, Thiruvanthapuram, as general Secretary. This national level association of school librarians was registered on June 26, 2018 in Delhi under Societies Registration Act, 1860. For more details email to: secretary.slaindia@gmail.com

Web Courses on Library Collection

Association for Library Collections & Technical Services, a division of American Library Association, is organizing the following web courses:

- (1) Fundamentals of Acquisition: September 10 - October 19, 2018 and November 5 - December 21, 2018.
- (2) Fundamentals of Cataloguing: September 10 - October 19 and October 29 - December 14, 2018.
- (3) Fundamentals of Metadata: October 22 - December 7, 2018.
- (4) Fundamentals of Collection Assessment: October 1 - November 9, 2018
- (5) Fundamentals of Electronic Resources Acquisition: October 1 - 26, 2018 and November 26 - December 21, 2018.
- (6) Fundamentals of Preservation: October 22 - November 16, 2018

For details visit: http://www.ala.org/alcts/confevents/upcoming/webcourse/foa/ol_templ

Little Free Library at Trichy

After initiatives like 'wall of happiness' and open gym, the City Corporation of Trichy is going to launch 'Little Free Library', an initiative aimed at nurturing reading habit and exchange of books among locals, says a *The Times of India* report. The civic body will establish a roadside facility for the public to sit and spend time reading books on a land in Officers Colony Road near Trichy General Hospital. The facility will have at least 13 benches for visitors to spend time reading books and 2.3m wide walking tracks. The corporation officials said that shelves would be placed in the open library for residents to deposit the books available in excess. "The open library-cum park concept in residential localities will help residents connect with each other. Preliminary work has begun for opening the library", said N Ravichandran, Commissioner, Trichy Corporation. For more details visit: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/trichy/opening-soon-a-little-roadside-library-for-bookworms/articleshow/64500611.cms>

Thousands of Library Documents Missing

Over 11000 books and rare document have gone missing from the Karnataka Legislature Library house in Vidhan Soudha in Bengaluru, says a report by B V Shivashankar in *The Times of India*. Auditors from the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) have found that records of proceedings of the Mysore Representative Assembly of the erstwhile princely state, debates of the House of Commons and House of Lords of the British Parliament, and debates in the Karnataka Assembly in its early years of 1950s, are missing. While Legislature Secretary S Murthy confirmed the audit objection about the missing books, library officials, including the just-retired chief librarian Anusuya Devadiri, disputed the number. For more details visit: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/bengaluru/books-documents-missing-from-vidhana-soudha-library/articleshow/65192366.cms>

Library IT Institute for Kerala

A Library Information Technology Institute will be established by the Kerala State Library Council (KSLC) adjacent to the State Central Library at Thiruvananthapuram, 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. For more details visit: <http://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Thiruvananthapuram/library-information-institute-to-come-up-near-central-library/article22785406.ece>

Effect of Library Automation

Librarians are being replaced by machines, causing

children and the elderly to miss out on books, the leading industry body, Association for Public Service Excellence (APSE), has warned, according to a report by Helena Horton in *The Daily Telegraph* (UK). A new CCTV and PIN code entry system, Open Plus, requires users to already have a library card before they can enter libraries, which allows them to open without staff. The amount of public libraries using the new technology has increased from 24 in 2016 to at least 109 today. There are worries that the new technology is replacing librarians, which could lock out children and those who are not tech-savvy. Over half of councils using Open Plus have reduced staff hours, according to an APSE report. For more details visit: <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2018/05/09/rise-unmanned-library-means-elderly-children-shut/>

App for TN Public Libraries

Knowing where your nearest public library is located will soon be just a click away. A mobile app, 'Public Library: Finding community libraries', was launched as a part of the first regional public library conference at the M S Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF) in Chennai recently, says a report by S Poorvaja published in *The Hindu*. The e-app, which is being launched as a pilot project, will initially cover 25 district libraries and will soon be scaled up to include all the 4,600 public libraries in the State. MSSRF, the International Network of Emerging Library Innovators and the Indian Public Library Movement are jointly working with public libraries across the State for the app. With public libraries across Tamil Nadu becoming active centres for events ranging from story-telling for children, classes for civil services aspirants and even providing services such as soil testing for farmers nearby, the app will help make its users aware of what is happening in the libraries near them. "We are also working on building a database of the books that each library has so that members can browse through them on the app. We plan to make this information available in phases," said K Srinivasan from the MSSRF, who is one of the app developers. For full report visit: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/tamil-nadu/an-app-to-tell-you-where-the-nearest-library-is/article24446802.ece>

Labourers help set up Library

They call it "shiksha ka inquilab", or the education revolution. On the faded walls, with bits of plaster peeling off, are posters of Bhagat Singh and Maxim Gorky. There's a board outside that reads: "Behtar zindagi ka raasta behtar kitaabon se hokar jaata hai (The road to a good life passes through good books)." This is Shaheed Bhagat Singh Pustakalaya, a one-room library established nine months ago by workers and daily-wage labourers employed at factories in the industrial heart of Ludhiana, the hub of cycle-makers, auto-parts manufacturers and textile units, says a report by Divya Goyal in *The Indian Express*. With over 500 books, in Hindi and Punjabi, it's a 25-sq-yd island of change for children from the Lower Income Group (LIG) flats and slums of Jeewan Nagar, Rajiv Gandhi Colony, Dhandhari and Jamalpur, mostly populated by migrant workers and their families, and where clean drinking water

and toilets are part of a daily struggle. Set up by the Karkhana Mazdoor Union, which took the lead in collecting nearly Rs 3 lakh last year to purchase LIG flat No 498 in December 2017, with two fans and a worn rug on the floor, the library was built on individual contributions ranging from Rs 100 to Rs 5,000. "A majority of the factory workers and daily-wage labourers who contributed have not studied beyond Class 8. But they want to inculcate the reading habit in their children. Most of them earn less than Rs 10,000 a month," says Lakhwinder Singh, who heads the union and manages the library. "The idea remained a dream for years because there was no space. This small flat was bought from contributions... sometimes it gets difficult to accommodate everyone but that's all we could afford. Once the flat was purchased, we started buying books, we got some through donations," he says. There are no reading charges at the library- just Rs 50 for an annual card that will let readers take books home, two at a time. "The charge is to ensure that they are responsible and return the books on time. For these children, a library card is a prized possession, they preserve it like a trophy," says Singh. For original report visit: <https://indianexpress.com/article/india/in-ludhiana-a-one-room-island-of-hope-for-children-of-migrant-workers-5293048/>

NDLI to collaborate with top DLs

The National Digital Library of India (NDLI) is all set to collaborate with several top digital libraries from across the world. Giving this information in a written reply in Rajya Sabha recently, Minister of State (HRD), Dr. Satya Pal Singh, said that NDLI had entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with British Library for integrating contents of its "Two Centuries of Indian Print Project", says an NDTV report. Apart from this, NDLI is also working closely with European Foundation (Digital Library of EU) in creating a platform for content and technology interchange between over a dozen digital libraries of the world. NDLI has also become a member of *RightsStatements.org* and sits on its Steering Committee to promote proper dissemination of copyrighted and non-copyrighted digital heritage items. Besides NDLI has also integrated contents from several international sources like OECD -Library, PubMed, WHO and a few leading global publishers. For full report visit: <https://www.ndtv.com/education/national-digital-library-to-collaborate-with-top-digital-libraries-of-world-1894511>

Remains of Oldest German PL Discovered

The remains of the oldest public library in Germany, a building erected almost two millennia ago that may have housed up to 20,000 scrolls, have been discovered in the middle of Cologne, says a report by Alison Ford in *The Guardian*. The walls were first uncovered in 2017, during an excavation on the grounds of a Protestant church in the centre of the city. Archaeologists knew they were of Roman origin, with Cologne being one of Germany's oldest cities, founded by the Romans in 50 AD under the name Colonia. But the discovery of niches in the walls, measuring approximately 80cm by 50cm, was, initially, mystifying. "It took us some time to match up the parallels - we could see the niches were too small to bear statues inside. But what they are - a kind of cupboards for the scrolls," said Dr. Dirk

Schmitz from the Roman-Germanic Museum of Cologne. "They are very particular to libraries - you can see the same ones in the library at Ephesus." It is not clear how many scrolls the library would have held, but it would have been "quite huge - may be 20,000", said Schmitz. The building would have been slightly smaller than the famed library at Ephesus, which was built in 117 AD. He described the discovery as "really incredible - a spectacular find". "It dates from the middle of the second century and is at a minimum the earliest library in Germany, and perhaps in the north-west Roman provinces," he said. "Perhaps there are a lot of Roman towns that have libraries, but they haven't been excavated. If we had not just found the foundations, we wouldn't have known it was a library. It was because it had walls, with the niches, that we could tell." The building would have been used as a public library, Schmitz said. For original report visit: <https://www.theguardian.com/books/2018/jul/31/spectacular-ancient-public-library-discovered-in-germany>

Library opens Door to Transgender

In a ground-breaking move, Government Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay Divisional Public Library of Kota has become the state's first and the country's second public library to open its door for the LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender) community, says a report by Aabshar H Quazi in *The Hindustan Times*. The first public library to offer membership to LGBT community is in Kerala. The Kota library, which has added a column for the third gender in its membership form, has already issued its lifetime membership to a transgender, Sahiba (42), a resident of the city. "Education is a right which had been always denied to us. We suffered discrimination the most at educational institutions. To gain membership in a library and to borrow books had been my long-cherished dream," said Sahiba, who has passed Class 7 and reads newspapers daily. "It is a huge recognition for us to be part of a library and many people would be benefited by this decision," Sahiba added. Sahiba said that had the library opened its door for the community earlier, many of them would have joined it by now. For more details visit: <https://www.hindustantimes.com/jaipur/kota-s-govt-library-opens-its-door-for-lgbt-community/story-32btJEC9KGKm3m7I2VYDpL.html>

TECHNOLOGY NEWS

New One Way Broadcast App

A new one way broadcast mobile app - YouWe -- enabling users to send text, images, video and audio clips to large number of followers has been launched, says a report by V Sajeevkumar in *The Hindu*. "The messages can be sent to the followers publicly as well as shared with a variety of other social networking platforms. It is a one way broadcast app and no one can post anything against it. At the same time any number of followers can read the messages," said K Shankar, the founder of the app. After downloading the app, people can choose to create a group with their select panel from the different type of topics

suggested by the app like news, updates, celebrities, entertainment, sports, etc. and post messages on that subject. Unlike the Twitter, here multiple persons of panel can post messages with video, audio or images. The followers can view all created pages and can follow pages of their interest, Shankar, a Kochi based media professional, said. It is secure as the followers cannot get the phone numbers of the admin or panel members, who, in turn, cannot access the phone numbers of the followers. The admins can know only the number of followers and they cannot block or remove any user who has the freedom to follow or un-follow. The app works on the android platform, he said. For original report visit: <https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/info-tech/broad-cast-app-youwe-launched/article24624063.ece>

WhatsApp Grants for Studying Fake News

WhatsApp and its parent company Facebook are having a tough time battling fake news on the platform and now the messaging platform is taking some outside help, says an ANI report published in *Deccan Chronicle*. WhatsApp is offering researchers up to USD 50,000 in grants to study fake news on the platform and also find ways to detect problematic content, *Engadget*, the technology blog network, has reported. However, amidst the whole process of analyzing content, WhatsApp won't provide any data and all study results will be owned by the researchers. For details visit: <https://www.deccanchronicle.com/technology/in-other-news/070718/whatsapp-to-pay-researchers-usd-50000-to-study-its-fake-news-epidemic.html>

SPECIAL FEATURE

Library Animals!

As a librarian will you allow any animal to enter your library or issue a library card in its name? Your answer will be an emphatic 'No-o-o-o-o!'. You may even think that it is a ridiculous question. But it is not so in many libraries. For example, library cats are very common so much so that these have even got an entry in Wikipedia, which says that 'library cats' are domesticated cats that live in public libraries worldwide. The association of cats with libraries dates to antiquity, when libraries in temples of ancient Egypt had cats-in-residence for rodent control. The association continued in the Middle Ages, into the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, and up to the present day. Among the bookish feline, a cat known as Dewey, a resident of Streator Public Library in Illinois, USA, is possibly the most famous personality of its kind, on whom a documentary film has been made in Japan.

Another animal species that can be found in libraries in many western countries is canines i.e. dogs. Some dogs accompany their masters who are differently-abled, such as persons who are blind or have visual disability, persons who are deaf or hard of hearing, persons having autism, persons with mobility or dexterity disabilities, and persons with psychiatric disability. These dogs, known as

service dogs, guide, protect and give different kinds of support to their masters. Several libraries in USA have formulated guidelines for patrons visiting libraries with service dogs. There are some other dogs known as reading education assistance dogs, which are invited to the library, specially for children readers, who read stories with dogs serving as companions or listeners since children are psychologically attached to the pet dogs.

Nevertheless, cats and dogs are not the only animals which are found in libraries. Erin Barnett, a Brooklyn based fiction editor, has mentioned about "ten animals which have broken into the library" in a post on *electricliterature.com* website. Among these, she has mentioned about a British owl which had a very special relationship with the library at the University of Bath. Its job was to keep other birds out of the way. Territorial seagulls were nesting on the university campus, and many feared for the safety of the humans on the ground. Professor Yoda the Owl, as it was named, swooped onto the campus a couple of times a week with its handler, and cleared out the seagulls. In exchange for its services, it was given its own library card embellished with its photograph.

Julie H Case, in her post on *travelandleisure.com* website, mentioned about two libraries in Portugal where bats are welcome guests, allowed to stay for the bug-eating - and, by extension, manuscript-preserving - services they provide. One such library is Joanina Library of the University of Coimbra, where a colony of common pipistrelle bats has made its home behind the bookshelves of the library, emerging at nightfall to consume flies and gnats and other pests before swooping out of the library windows in search of water. The service they provide is indispensable: They eat insects in the library that might otherwise feed on manuscript pages, Ms. Case says. Some 200km to the south, just northwest of Lisbon, another colony of indoor-outdoor bats is in residence at the 300-year-old Library at the National Palace of Mafra. Come nightfall, they swoop among the monastic-royal library's valuable collection of *incunabula* (books printed prior to 1501 AD).

But not all animals that ventured into some libraries were welcome guests, nor were they of any benefit to the libraries, in which they landed, or their users. For example, as mentioned by Ms. Barnett, a majestic hawk was unwelcome when it entered into the Library of Congress. This "juvenile female raptor" stayed in the main reading room of the Jefferson Library for a week until it got hungry. The trick for getting it out? Bringing more birds into the library and setting them up in a trap. Similarly, another unwelcome guest to a library was a black bear that "bumbled its way" into a tree to hang out outside the Hilton Branch of the Metropolitan library in New Jersey, USA. Fortunately, it could be safely relocated as not to be an object of fear for the users entering the branch library.

In our country too there might have been some animal

“guests” in some libraries, but they were mostly unwelcome. There is also possibly no rules or guidelines even for service animals for the differently-abled people. Should we also not frame a policy for allowing animals into a library for helping and supporting differently-abled users or for giving company to willing children when they read?

[Sources: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/library_cat, http://www.ala.org/ascla/sites/ala.org.ascla/files/content/asclaprotools/accessibilitytipsheets/tipsheets/8-Service_and_Suppor.pdf, <https://www.slj.com/?detailStory=libraries-invite-dogs-to-storytime>, <https://electricliterature.com/10-animals-who-have-broken-into-the-library-6becf510db5>, https://www.travelandleisure.com/animals/bats-living-in-libraries-portugal?xid=PS_smithsonian]

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

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

2. NARAYANA (G J). *The Roses and the Thorns in the*

Career of an Information Scientist: A Managerial Insight. 2018. Ess Ess Publications, New Delhi. ₹ 625. ISBN: 9788193431146

(It is based on experiences, thoughts and reflections drawn from the working life of the author in the domain of library and information service, and teaching management science)

Foreign

1. ASHRAF (Tariq) and NARESH KUMAR, *Ed. Interdisciplinary Digital Preservation Tools and Technologies*. 2017. Information Science Reference, Hershey. \$ 190. ISBN: 9781522516538

(Discusses the processes that encompass digital conversion and preservation of information into electronic formats)

2. BUCKLAND (Michael). *Information and Society*. 2017. The MIT Press. \$15.95. ISBN: 9780262533386

PERSONALIA

Dr. Prabhat Pandey, Librarian and Head, DLIS, Sarojini Naidu Government Girls PG Autonomous College, Bhopal, and President, Madhya Pradesh Library Association, has been facilitated for the year 2018 in recognition of his excellent service for the upliftment of library profession in Madhya Pradesh by Ranganathan Society for Social Welfare and Library Development and Indian Library Association on the occasion of the National Workshop on 'Open Source Solutions for Libraries: tools and techniques' on June 8, 2018 at BIMTECH Greater Noida .

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