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Quote of the Month

" *Books are the means by which we build bridges between cultures.* "

- Dr. S 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

Librarians' Day Seminar at Hyderabad

A seminar on 'Current Trends in LIS' was organized by IASLIC Zone-1 on September 9, 2017 at ICSSR Mini Conference Hall, Osmania University, Hyderabad, on the occasion of Librarians' Day. Shri T Ashok Babu, Vice-President, IASLIC Zone - I, welcomed all the participants. Dr. T K Thiruvengada Mani, Librarian (Retd.), Madras University, gave a presentation on 'Online Education in India', while Dr. A Amruth Serikar, Deputy Librarian & Head Virtual Learning Resource Centre and Digital Library, Gulbarga University, delivered a talk on 'Impact of Smart Technology and Digital India on Libraries'. Prof. S Sudarshan Rao, former Principal, University College of Arts and Social Sciences, and Head, DLIS, Osmania University, Hyderabad, talked about the relevance of Dr. S R Ranganathan in modern era, while Dr. P Divakar, Librarian (Retd.), Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology, Hyderabad, discussed about Dr. Ranganathan's contribution to Library and Information Science. Dr. R K Pavan Kumar, Librarian, Osmania University, also talked about Dr. Ranganathan's work.

A meeting of the members of IASLIC Zone-1 was also convened on the occasion. The members discussed various issues confronting the library profession. The suggestions/recommendations that emerged in the meeting were: vacancies in university libraries should be filled up urgently; retirement age of library staff should be uniform in all universities; recommendation to remove disparity between teaching faculty and librarians should be sent to the pay commission; GST of 18 per cent imposed on electronic/online databases should be removed; disparity in designations of LIS professionals in different states should be removed; IASLIC website should be updated regularly and social media should be integrated with it; IASLIC conference/seminar proceedings should be published regularly before or during the conference or as soon as the conference concludes; a full-fledged South India chapter/Zone-1 office, with Vice-President, Secretary, Treasure and one member from each state of Zone-I should be set up and regular activities should be conducted; special membership drive should be conducted by all the Vice-Presidents of IASLIC in their respective Zones; special discount in membership fee may be give for a specific period and NET qualification should not be insisted for the post of librarian, if the incumbent is not supposed to teach. Dr. Achala Munigal, Assistant Professor (LIS)/ Assistant Librarian, NERTU, Osmania University, was the convener of the meeting. Shri Manoj Kumar Sahu, Technical Officer, ASL, DRDO, proposed the vote of thanks.

Librarians' Day Seminar at Aligarh

Maulana Azad Library, Aligarh Muslim University, in collaboration with DLIS, AMU, organized a National Seminar on 'E-Resources & E-Access for Study,

Teaching & Research' on August 12, 2017 on the occasion of Librarians' Day. Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Guest, Prof. Tariq Mansoor, Vice-Chancellor of AMU, said that the central facilities like Maulana Azad Library was the heart of the university activities. He supported the initiatives taken by the University Librarian for upgrading the facilities in the library and arranging orientation and training of its faculty, staff and students so that they could contribute more in academics, research and teaching. Dr. G Mahesh, Guest of Honour and Senior Principal Scientist from NISCARE, New Delhi, highlighted the importance of scholarly publications, especially journals. Dr. Sudharma Haridasan, Head, DLIS, Prof. Naushad Ali PM and Mr. Mustafa Zaidi also spoke on the occasion. Legendary Professor of LIS, Prof. Sabir Husain, who was the Special Guest, was felicitated for his outstanding services to the IASLIC and the profession in general. The seminar was attended by about 200 persons, comprising of teachers, researchers, students and professionals, from different places. Mr. Asif Fareed Siddiqui compered the programme and Ms. Asma Khan proposed the vote of thanks.

On this occasion, the first meeting of the IASLIC members of Zone-3 was convened by the Vice-President of the Zone, Dr. Nabi Hasan, University Librarian, AMU. The following persons were elected as members of the Governing Body of IASLIC, Zone-3: Mr. Aslam Mehdi, Assistant Librarian, JN Medical College, AMU; Dr. Sudharma Haridasan, HOD, DLIS,AMU; Mr. Roshan Khayal, Professional Assistant, Dept. of Chemistry, AMU; Dr. Md. Yusuf, Deputy Librarian, A K Tibbiya College, AMU; Md. Aftab Ahmed, Patna; Dr. Chandrakant Swain, IIM Raipur; Dr. Partha De, Librarian, IIT-ISM, Dhanbad; Dr. Sandeep K Pathak, Deputy Librarian, IIER, Bhopal; and Ms. Anjali Gulati, Lucknow. The office-bearers elected in the meeting are: Secretary - Dr. Sudharma Haridasan, Assistant Secretary - Mr. Aslam Mehdi, and Treasurer - Mr. Roshan Khayal.

Librarians' Day Panel Discussion at Guwahati

IASLIC Zone-5, in association with Assam Library Association (ALA), Assam College Librarians' Association (ACLA) and DLIS, Gauhati University, observed Librarians' Day on September 14, 2017 at Sangitacharya Lakshmiram Barua Sadan, Guwahati. The programme started with floral tributes to Dr. Ranganathan followed by the Gauhati University anthem and Saraswati Bandana rendered by the students of DLIS, Gauhati University. The inaugural session was chaired by Dr. J N Satpathy, President of IASLIC, while Shri Rabendra Kumar Das, IAS (Rtd), former Commissioner and Secretary, Government of Assam, was the Guest of Honour. In his address, Shri Das explained the role of librarians in the civil society. Dr. Rajendra Mohan Dev Sarma, Librarian of Moran College, shared his experience of developing a ward library in Moran Town of Sibsagar district of Assam. Three books viz., 'Let's Read Book', 'College Libraries of Assam: Issues and Challenges', and 'Comparative Librarianship' published by Assam Library Association;

Assam College Librarians Association; and DLIS, Gauhati University; respectively were released on the occasion. The main attraction of the day was a panel discussion on 'Revisiting Ranganathan', which was chaired by Prof. Alaka Buragohain. Prof. N N Sharma, Prof. Narendra Lahkar, Prof. R K Barman, and Prof. S K Singh served as panelists. A meeting of the IASLIC Governing Body members of Zone-5 was held in the evening, where several life members were present, besides President Dr. Satpathy and Vice-President, Zone-5, Prof. Lahkar.

R C Gupta Endowment Lecture: Brief Report

Shri Soumyajit Mahapatra, Chairman, Public Relations Society of India, Kolkata Chapter, delivered the 28th IASLIC - R C Gupta Endowment Lecture 2015 on September 21, 2017 at the Seminar Room of the Association. The topic of the lecture was 'Beyond the Classroom'. Prof. Juran Krishna Sarkhel, Adjunct Professor (Hony.), Department of Library & Information Science and former Director, Directorate of Open and Distance Learning, Kalyani University, was in the chair. In his introductory remarks, Prof. Sarkhel shared his views regarding the importance of learning beyond classroom. With statistics, he asserted that students spent more time outside the classroom compared to the time they involved themselves in classroom teaching. "Most importantly, after formal education, life-long learning continues beyond classroom", he said.

Delivering the lecture in an interactive way, Shri Mahapatra shared his own experiences and personal realizations regarding the learning scopes and possibilities that the people might have beyond formal education. He mentioned that he learnt Engineering from Jadavpur University which he enjoyed. Afterwards, he joined Surendranath Law College as his father was a Judge who wanted him to be in the same profession. However, he found no interest in law. His mother brought an application form for him, which changed his life altogether, he remembered. He joined BSNL in 1986 and served the Telecom Industry since then. He learnt public relations only from his experiences, by meeting people and from many other sources beyond classroom. He mentioned that practical exposure was very important for any kind of work - whether office job or household work. Learning from people, who were more successful in their fields, was very important, he stressed. An important aspect of learning from the people was to observe the way they approached. Acceptability depended on the way of approach, he opined. Conflict regarding any issue was good to justify the existing stand. He said, "everybody has his/her 'own story' in mind which is different from that of others and it remains so throughout his/her life". Adaptability was another quality of human beings that helped in learning more, he added. Presently, with technological advancements, smart phones were being used which enabled people to collect information, learn, shop, watch movies, TV shows and so on. This expanded

the scope of learning, he said. Shri Mahapatra further opined that "motivation does not come from outside, it comes from within and inspires one to meet difficult challenges in life". The learning process, however, should be logical and not influenced by evil intensions, he said. The humourous comments from time to time during the lecture by Prof. A R D Prasad, from DRTC, Indian Statistical Institute, Bengaluru, one of the distinguished members of the audience, made the lecture more enjoyable.

In his concluding address, Prof. Sarkhel observed that Open University courses were facilitating further learning beyond the classroom with audio-visual lectures through Internet and TV programmes. "Learning is a continuous process that starts when a child is in the mother's womb", he said. Learning was inherent in human beings and classroom teaching was only one of the ways of learning, he added. Dr. Gurudas Ghosh, Associate Editor, IASLIC Newsletter, proposed the vote of thanks. The lecture was attended by many IASLIC functionaries and members.

CONFERENCES / SEMINARS / WORKSHOPS

National

Conference on Medical Librarianship

Health Science Library Association (HSLA) is organizing its National Conference - HSLACON2017 - on November 18, 2017 at Pandit Dindayal Upadhyay Medical College, Rajkot, Gujarat. The theme of the conference is 'Advancements and Challenges in Health Science Librarianship: Need of Transformation of Medical & Allied Sciences Librarianship in Digital Era'. For details visit: *https://hslacon2017.blogspot. in/*

Workshop on Library on Cloud

INFLIBNET Centre, Gandhinagar, is going to organize a Workshop on 'Library on Cloud' during December 4 - 8, 2017 at INFLIBNET Centre. For details visit: *https://www.inflibnet.ac.in*

Conference on Transformation of Libraries

The Health Sciences Library and DLIS, Manipal University, Manipal, Karnataka, is organizing 3rd National Conference on 'Management of Modern Libraries' (NACML) - 2018 during February 9 - 10, 2018 on the theme 'Transformation of Libraries for Tomorrow'. For details visit: *http://conference.manipal.edu/NACML*

International

Conference on Health Informatics

The 11th Australasian Conference on Health Informatics and Knowledge Management will be held at Brisbane, Australia, during January 29 - February 2, 2018. For details visit: *http://www.hikm.net.au/*

Conference on Reshaping Libraries

To celebrate Silver Jubilee of DELNET, an International Conference on 'Reshaping Libraries: Emerging Global Technologies and Trends' (ICRL - 2018) is being organised by DELNET and Ambedkar University Delhi, in association with Society for Library Professionals (SLP) and Special Libraries Association (SLA, USA), Asian Chapter, during February 1 - 3, 2018 at Hotel Royal Orchid, Jaipur. For details visit: *www.delnet. nic.in/ICRL2018*

Conference on Information Management

The 4th International Conference on 'Information Management and Industrial Engineering' (ICII 2018) will be held during February 10 - 13, 2018 at Cape Town, South Africa. For details visit: *http://www.icii.org/*

Bioinformatics for Big Data Conference

Bioinformatics for Big Data Conference will be held in San Francisco, USA, during February 12 - 14, 2018. For details visit: *http://www.triconference.com/ Bioinformatics -Big-Data/*

Conference on Information, Networks

The 2018 International Conference on 'Information, Networks and Communications' (ICINC 2018) will be held in Barcelona, Spain, during March 9 - 11, 2018. For details visit: *http://www.icinc.org/*

Conference on Informatics

The 7th International Conference on 'Informatics, Environment, Energy and Applications (IEEA 2018) - Ei Scopus, ISI' will be held in Beijing, China, during March 28 - 31, 2018. For details visit: *http://www.ieea.org* .

Conference on Qualitative Methods in LIS

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

Symposium on Information Management

The 8th International Symposium on 'Information Management in a Changing World' (IMCW2018) will be held during November 1 - 3, 2018, in Ankara, Turkey. For details visit: *http://imcw2018.bilgiyonetimi.net/*

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

IFLA Statement on UNESCO

On October 16, 2017, following the announcement by the governments of the United States and Israel of their intention to leave UNESCO, IFLA released the following statement:

Education, Science and Culture: Shared Objectives Need Shared Effort

"The International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) regrets the announcement by the US and Israel of their withdrawal from UNESCO, and encourages all parties to work together to find a positive solution.

"Libraries play a vital role in promoting education, advancing science, and preserving and celebrating culture. IFLA, as a global network, is built on the basis that our institutions, and our activities, gain from discussion, and cooperation, across borders. We advance faster and in a more sustainable way towards these objectives - as institutions and as societies - when we do it together.

"IFLA, as the global voice of libraries, therefore, affirms the value of UNESCO as a global inter-governmental organization in the field of education, science and culture, working with libraries to achieve our common goals. We encourage all governments to join us in this".

To view original declaration visit: *https://www.ifla.org/node/11888*

Poetry Library's Endeavour

The National Poetry Library of UK is launching a project to collect the poetry in thousands of languages now in danger of dying out, and preserve them for future generations, informs a *The Times of India* report. According to Unesco, around 7,000 languages are spoken in the world. More than half of these are endangered - with one dying every two weeks - reports *The Guardian*. The library launched an international appeal for well-known poems in endangered languages on National Poetry Day celebrated recently. It will collect the works sent by members of the public for its archives, working with Soas University of London, to preserve at least one poem from each language, alongside an English translation. As well as hunting for poems in at-risk languages, the National Poetry Library has commissioned four poets to write new poems in threatened languages, or languages lost to them personally. For details visit: *https://timesofindia. indiatimes.com/life-style/books/features/uk-library-appeals-for-collecting-poetry-in-endangered-languages/articleshow/60879972.cms*

AMU Cybrary enters Record Book

The Social Science Cyber Library of Aligarh Muslim University has entered the Limca Books of Records for being the only library that collects and updates daily the web based, e-resources in public domain available in the form of e-books, e-journals, in-house lectures, video lectures of eminent scholars, databases and software pertaining to Social Sciences, according to a post in the blog of AMU Public Relations Office. Vijaya Ghose, Editor of Limca Book of Records, after a thorough enquiry, issued a certificate of National Record to the library. The 'Cybrary' provides access to the social scientists across the globe through a user friendly interface and is presently being accessed in 142 countries for research and scholarship. The 'Cybrary' was awarded ISO9001:2008 certificate in 2015, and is registered in the

'Directories of Open Access Repositories of UK' called DOAR and ROAR. For the original post visit: *http://amupro.blogspot.in/2016/11/*

Indian Trust gets LC Award

A Bengaluru-based non-profit trust has received the prestigious Library of Congress Literacy Award for creating open access multi-lingual storybooks for children, says a *The Hindu* report. Pratham Books is among the three organizations that received the award in the international prize category and bagged it for their story-weaver initiative which is an open-source, digital repository of multilingual stories for children. This has over 4,500 stories across 84 languages with a repository of 7,000 openly licensed images, accessed from over 190 countries. A press release from the Library of Congress states that these awards recognize organizations in the United States and worldwide. "The awards recognize groups doing exemplary, innovative and replicable work, and they spotlight the need for the global community to unite in striving for universal literacy," the release said. For details visit: *http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/karnataka/pratham-books-bags-library-of-congress-international-literacy-award/article 19612559.ece*

German Library wins IFLA Award

A German public library - Library of Bad Oldesloe - (Stadtbibliothek Bad Oldesloe) has won the 2nd IFLA Green Library Award 2017. The award has been recently announced by IFLA's Environmental Sustainability and Libraries Special Interest Group (ENSULIB). The award has been given for the library's three-year project 'Harvest Your City' urban gardening with makerspace and activities of citizen's participation. The project was selected out of 35 projects from India, Ukraine, Serbia, China, USA, Columbia, Italy, Kenya, Iran and Nigeria.

The award was established in 2016 by ENSULIB and is sponsored by De Gruyter Publishing. The prize money amounts to 500 Euros. For more details visit: *http://www.ifla-deutschland.de/2017/07/25/auszeichnung-2nd-ifla-green-library-award-2017-an-bad-oldesloe/*

Palace to house National Library

Palestinian officials have taken on them a mission to transform a presidential palace into a national library near the city of Ramallah, situated in the occupied West Bank, according to the Culture Minister of Palestine, says a *The Times of India* report. Palestinian President Mahmud Abbas and his administration had been on fire over the construction of palace worth 17.5 million USD, which was initially decided to be erected as the presidential headquarters where foreign dignitaries could be attended and entertained. President Abbas has now resolved to transform the 4,700-square-metre complex into the Palestinian National Library, reported AFP. The large complex covers some 27,000 square metres of land. "The president believes the palace should be used for public

benefit by turning it into a huge national library supervised by a board of trustees," said Mohammed Shtayyeh, head of the Palestinian Economic Council for Development and Reconstruction (PECDAR). Construction of the palace began some five years ago, in the village Surda, which is now almost complete. For details visit: *http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/life-style/books/features/palestinian-presidential-palace-to-be-developed-into-national-library/articleshow/60271606.cms*

Runway for Children in Library

There is a now a runway on the floor at the Saddletowne Library in Calgary, USA, meant for kids to run and play on, and the mess and noise that come with it is encouraged not forbidden, says a report by Carolyn Kury de Castillo for *Global News*. It is part of the Calgary Public Library's Early Learning Centre, which could be confused with an indoor playground loaded with hands-on activity centres. "Reaching children, aged birth to five, sets the course for their future," said Paul McIntyre Royston, President and CEO of the Calgary Public Library Foundation. "This is not a shush place. That is very deliberate". The idea behind Early Learning Centres is that learning and play go hand in hand. For original report visit: *http://www.designing libraries.org.uk/index.asp?PageID=1451*

Reinventing of Public Libraries

The public library movement in India probably started with our ancient education centres in Taxila and Nalanda, where valuable manuscripts became a source for modern scriptures and books. A new initiative of the Government of India, in collaboration with the Bill and Milinda Gates Foundation, aims to re-invent public libraries as knowledge and community hubs, says a *The Tribune* report. The Indian Public Library movement, an impact group created by the foundation, aims to select 50 libraries across 23 states, develop infrastructure and give a holistic aspect to a public library. For detailed report visit: *http://www.tribuneindia.com/news/amritsar/giving-a-holistic-aspect-to-publiclibraries/428135.html*

Gandhi Library sans Gandhi

The library is named after Mahatma Gandhi, but you can't read about him here that's the irony of Gandhi Library in Tarn Taran, according to *msn news* website. As Mahatma Gandhi, 'Bapu' or Father of the Nation, was remembered on his 148th birth anniversary on October 2, this library reflected a larger ground reality. Constructed by the municipal council in the 1980s - the foundation stone was laid by the then Punjab Assembly Speaker, Brij Bushan Mehra in 1983 - it now has 175 books, a lot of which are stacked in three cupboards that remain locked. The keys remain with the municipal council employee tasked with caretaking. No wonder, no book was issued in the last five years, shows the record. Around 50 people visit everyday who read newspapers and some old books. "A decade ago, the library had proved a boon for the people here, for it had many latest books," said 55-year-old Dharambir, who was

reading newspapers at the library. "Now it is on the verge of closure." For details visit: *https://www.msn.com/en-in/news/newsindia/no-book-on-gandhi-in-gandhi-library-%E2%80%98on-the-verge-of-closure%E2%80%99/ar-AAsNL1Y*

Access to Internet Archive expanded

OCLC and Internet Archive are working together to make the Archive's collection of 2.5 million digitized books easier to find and access online and through local libraries, according to an OCLC news release. OCLC will process metadata from the Internet Archive for its digital collection, matching to existing records in WorldCat, the world's most comprehensive database of information about library collections, or adding a new record if one does not exist. The WorldCat record will include a link leading back to the *Archive.org* record. From there, searchers can examine or potentially borrow the related digital item. The Internet Archive (archive.org) is a non-profit entity that was founded to build an Internet library, with the purpose of offering permanent access for researchers, historians, and scholars to historical collections that exist in digital format. Founded in 1996, the Internet Archive has a historical web collection (the Wayback Machine) of over 150 billion web pages, about 240,000 movies, over 500,000 audio items (including over 70,000 live concerts), over 1,800,000 texts, 1,600 education items, and over 30,000 software items. For details visit: *https://www.oclc.org/en/news/releases/2017/201727dublin.html*

Number of ISBNs for self-published titles up

Since 2011, International Standard Book Numbers (ISBNs) for self-published titles have climbed 218.33%, according to the latest report from ProQuest affiliate Bowker, says a post on *librarytechnology.org* website. A total of 786,935 ISBNs were assigned to self-published titles in 2016; in 2011, that number was 247,210. This new study from Bowker highlights the latest self-publishing trends in print and ebook formats. For 2016 vs. 2015, the numbers indicate a continuing growth trend for print (+11%), though at a slower rate than a year ago (+34%). Ebooks show a slight decline in the number of title registrations (-3%), but this is a significantly smaller decrease compared to the prior year (-11%). "Overall, we believe that these numbers point toward an ongoing maturation and stabilization of the self-publishing industry," notes Beat Barblan, Director of Identifier Services at Bowker. The report also indicates that the self-publishing industry is dominated by three service providers which, combined, account for over 84% of all print and ebook titles published last year. For details visit: *https://librarytechnology.org/news/pr.pl?id=22958*

A Comic Fare

A comic book library has been set up in Kochi as comic books, unlike novels, are hard to find and buy and almost unavailable in the city, says a report by Vikram Vinod published in *The Times of India*. The two key people involved in putting together this large collection of comic books, Tony Davis and San Ramshankar travelled to

multiple book fairs and flea markets across the country in search of books for the library that opened in August. "You will not find specific comic books that are popular in flea markets because nobody would want to sell them, so those we had to buy online," said Tony, the library founder. San, a software engineer who used to review comic books on his Facebook page, *Kerala Comic Brotherhood*, used to collect them to augment his personal collection. Later, he met Tony, who had been collecting comics to set up a library in the city. Currently, Comic Collective has stocked popular series from the major western comic book publishers such as Marvel, DC, Vertigo, Image and Dark Horse. For details visit:*https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/kochi/ kochi-gets-a-comic-library/articleshow/6077 4156.cms*

School library set ablaze

Miscreants torched the library of a government upper primary school at Raipole village in Ibrahimpatnam, Andhra Pradesh, recently, according to a report by Mahesh Buddi published in *The Times of India*. "1200 books in the room and furniture were gutted due to the arson. In the past we found broken liquor bottles in the school premises and the miscreants often used to damage plant guards at the school during night time," the head mistress of the school said. The school was closed for Dussera holidays. Locals alerted the head mistress about the mishap. Based on the complaint lodged by her, police registered a case of arson under section 435 of the IPC. For details visit: *https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/hyderabad/miscr eants-set-ablaze-school-library/articleshow/ 60928610.cms*

100 new learners join digitally literate club

A Community Information Resource Centre (CIRC), established in Noida (Uttar Pradesh) in partnership with Capgemini, organized a ceremony in July to give away certificates to 100 learners who have completed their course in basic digital literacy, according to *Digital Empowerment Foundation Newsletter*. Young girls and boys took this opportunity to share their learning experiences, and talk about the theoretical concepts and practical activities that they were exposed to. Some girls emotionally expressed, "we were hardly allowed to get out of our homes but CIRC made it possible for us to get out and learn. We hope this centre never shuts down."

Move to Revamp Public Libraries in Telangana

The Telangana Government has inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Indian Public Library Movement (IPLM) to transform public libraries in the state into vibrant and inclusive knowledge spaces with the help of technology, according to a *The Times of India* report. The MoU was signed as part of IPLM's quarterly partners' meeting held in June last. It will be hosted by the National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM). "Times are changing fast, but our libraries are not changing at the same pace. Telangana understands the importance of connectivity in digital era as is evident from the HyFi project. There is an opportunity for public libraries to benefit by being a part of this digital initiative," said Dileep Konatham, director of digital media for the state IT department. For details visit: *http://timesofindia .indiatimes.com/city/hyderabad/libraries-in-t-to-get-tech-revamp-soon/articleshow/59276700.cms*

Digital Library of Rare Tamil Books

More than 4,000 rare Tamil books maintained at the medieval Saraswathi Mahal Library have been digitized and uploaded in digital format in the digital library, created by the Tamil Virtual Academy (TNVA), says a post in *dailyhunt.in* website. In the first phase, one lakh books are to be digitized. So far, about 10,000 books and magazines from all the participating institutions have been uploaded in the digital library website. In the medieval Saraswathi Mahal Library, formed during the Thanjavur Nayak Kingdom (1532-1673) and developed during the Maratha Kingdom (1674-1855), there are as many as 60,000 books. Of these, 3,800 books are part of the personal collection of Rajah Serfoji II (1787-1832)**.** About 1,900 books from his personal collection have been scanned and uploaded recently in the library website. The catalogue of these books is available for free on the website, the officials said. For details visit: *https://m.dailyhunt.in/news/india/ english/edexlive-epaper-edex/book+lovers+rejoice+ tamil+nadu+virtual+academy+digitises+and+uploads +around+10k+rare+tamil+books-newsid-73655306*

Associates Program for Librarians

The Associates Program of the Mortenson Center for International Library Programs will continue in 2018 with the theme, "*Imagine, Design, Engage, Act*,". The programme will be conducted during May 23 - 19 June 19, 2018 at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. The 2018 program will offer library leaders, innovators, and professionals working outside the United States an opportunity to explore current issues and trends in the library field and to engage with librarians implementing cutting-edge programs and services. The last date of receiving application is January 4, 2018. For details visit: *https://www.library.illinois.edu/mortenson/associates/*

TECHNOLOGY NEWS

AI programme to write novel

Avid fans of writer George R R Martin's fantasy epic "A Song of Ice and Fire" - brought to the screen in the HBO series "Game of Thrones" - are facing a bit of a wait before they can find out what happens next in Westeros. The TV series just concluded its seventh season, broadcasting the finale on August 27, and the last novel was published in 2011, with no release date yet announced for the final tome. But until the story officially resumes, perhaps artificial intelligence (AI) can hint at what's to come, says a post in *livescience.com* by Mindy Weisberger. Software engineer and self-professed "Game of Thrones" fan Zach Thoutt has programmed AI to write an original "novel"

using the characters from the Seven Kingdoms of Westeros, generating five chapters that follow the events of the first five novels and are available to read online, *Vice's Motherboard* reported. For details visit: *https://www.livescience.com/60275-ai-writes-next-game-of-thrones-novel.html*

SPECIAL FEATURE

Library atop a tree!

The very idea of a house on a treetop is indeed fascinating. But the idea is not new. It is said that in ancient times people used to build such houses for their living. Even today, tree houses are built by some indigenous people in order to escape the danger and adversity on the ground. In some parts of the tropics, houses are either fastened to trees or elevated on stilts to keep the living quarters above the ground to protect occupants and stored food from scavenging animals. The Korowai, a Papuan tribe in the southeast of Irian Jaya, live in tree-houses, some nearly 40 metres (130 ft) high, as protection against a tribe of neighbouring head-hunters. In modern days even without such necessity tree-houses are built for different purposes.

A tree-house, which is also known as tree-fort or tree-shed, does not only indicate a house on the tree. In expanded meaning, it is a platform, room or building set up around, next to or among the trunk or branches of one or more mature trees above ground level. Tree-houses are good option for building eco-friendly houses in remote forest areas, because they do not require a clearing of a certain area of forest. The materials used to build tree houses are also often eco-friendly such as coir mats, bamboo, wood, hay straw, live trees (as pillars), etc.

The idea of living in a tree-house is very captivating not only to the children but even to the adults. One can find a very good pen-picture of a tree-house from well-known Swiss-German artist Paul Klee's description of such a house as quoted by art writer Ernest Lloyd Raboff: What a magnificent tree. On it are built ladders that reach from the ground, up and around the trunk, to little houses set on the branches. Someone is standing at the bottom of the ladder with one hand on it, ready to climb. When you live in a tree-house, you are high in sky. The birds flying past your door are so close that you can almost count the feathers on their wide spread wings and the spots on their bodies. A tree-house is a good place to watch the sun set turn all the sky a brilliant red. At night time the stars are so big that they seem to hang like sparkling Christmas Tree ornaments.

Nevertheless, today tree-houses are often not used for regular living. They are mostly used for recreational purposes: as resorts, as tourist lodges or restaurants. Since the mid-1990s, recreational tree houses have enjoyed a rise in popularity in countries such as the United States and parts of Europe. Such tree-houses can now also be found in many other parts of the globe. In Asia, these can be seen in Japan, Cambodia, Indonesia, Sri Lanka and even India. Tree-houses in India are mostly located in the southern state of Kerala. There are, of course, tree-houses in some other states too located near forests.

It was the ingenuity of some people to think about housing libraries in tree-houses, specially for children. An enthusiastic designer Pet and his associates had the best time designing and building the Owl's Nest Tree-house Library for students at the Omni Montessori School in North Carolina, USA. "Inspired by the school's connection with nature, Pete designed the platform in accordance with the Fibonacci Spiral. This sequence of numbers, wherein each number after the first two in the sequence is equal to the sum of the two preceding numbers (e.g., 1, 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, etc.), approaches the golden spiral, which is often found in nature. Leaves, flowers, pinecones, seeds, and shells are just a few of the natural objects that embody the golden spiral. Pete loved the idea of incorporating this naturally-occurring pattern into the tree-house, and made sure that the curve of the platform and the spiralled reading bench inside followed Fibonacci ratios. To top off this nature-loving tree-house, Pete integrated owl features into the facade with two rounded windows and a wooden beak". Thus from outside the tree-house harbouring the library looks like an owl that attracts the children. The tree-house "seems as playful and curious as the students within! The crew loved creating a space for kids to read, play, and discover, and wish the students many years of joyful learning!"

Another interesting example of tree-house library is the Tree-house Gallery Library - a temporary library set up in London's famous Regent's Park. The gallery has been built among a triangular formation of trees using predominantly naturally sourced materials and reclaimed city waste. All timber and building materials were obtained through donation. "The site, situated on the banks of the Boating Lake, has an array of tree-top structures divided into six named areas: a Spherical Reading Gallery; a Budding Hub Gallery; the Sound Garden; the Medicinal Herbal Gardens; the Round Table and the Orbidesic Dome Stage". Throughout August and September these spaces host a diverse programme of exhibitions, interactive workshops and daily talks.

Interestingly, the idea of tree-house library has caught the fascination of the people behind Take-a-Book-Leave-a-Book libraries known as Little Free Libraries. One such Tree-House Little Free Library is located at Rio Blanco County in the US state of Colorado. The sponsors, Jeff and Nancy Madison, had a dead tree cut to about 6 feet and set up a small box on it with tapering roof to house the library. A similar Little Free Library is going to be started soon in a tree-house located in a beautiful little natural play ground in Auburn city in Alabama, USA, which is frequented by kids daily.

In India, existence of any tree-house library has not been heard of. But there are libraries attached to some tree-house lodges and resorts which are meant for tourists staying in those lodges and resorts and not for general public or children. Can we not also think of starting tree-house libraries for our children? If such libraries come up, these will surely be an instant hit.

[Sources: *https://www.nelsontreehouse.com/blog/owl-treehouse-library*, *https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tree_house*, *http://irisholidays.com/keralatourism/15-best-treehouse-resorts-in-kerala/*, *https://www.architectsjournal.co.uk/news/treehouse-gallery-regents-park-london-by-the-treehouse-collective/5206013.article*, *http://www.theheraldtimes.com/treehouse-little-free-library/meeker/*, *https://www.improvisedlife.com/2014/07/22/random-find-klees-tree-house-via-little-free-library/*, *https://www.kickstarter.com/projects/daisywrites/treehouse-library*]

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. KUMAR (P S G). Light and shades of my life. 2016. Ess Ess publications, New Delhi. Rs. 850. ISBN: 9788170008064

    (In this autobiography, the authors records his life and work in general and particularly his role as a teacher of LIS, as a University Librarian, and his role in professional organizations and as an author)

Foreign

1. DOWNEY (Jennifer). Public library collections in the balance: censorship, inclusivity, and truth. 2017. Libraries Unlimited Inc. $ 55. ISBN: 978 1440849640.

    (Addresses contemporary issues in censorship and intellectual freedom)

2. MATASSA (Freda). Valuing your collection: a practical guide for museums, libraries and archives. 2017. Facet Publishing, London. £54.95. ISBN: 978-1783301881.

    (Addresses the issue of valuing objects in cultural collections, ranging from high-value to low or no-value and featuring a range of collections including fine arts, archives, science and photography)

3. SNOW (Karen). A practical guide to Library of Congress Classification. 2017. Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, Lanham, Maryland. $ 29. ISBN: 978-1538100677.

    (A hands-on introduction to LC Classification, it shows how each part of the LCC call number is constructed and assembled, and guides the reader through each step of finding and constructing LCC class numbers in Classification Web)

4. WANG (John). Supply chain management for collection services of academic libraries: solving operational challenges and enhancing user productivity. 2017. Chandos Publishing, Oxford. $ 79.95. ISBN: 9780081020319.

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