



IASLIC NEWSLETTER

Indian Association for Special
Libraries and Information Centres



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Quote of the Month

"Libraries are not mere storehouses; they are rich springs from which knowledge flows out to irrigate the wide field of education and culture"

- Dr. S R Ranganathan

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

IASLIC 32nd All India Conference, 2019

December 3 - 5, 2019

Organized by

Cochin University of Science and Technology, Kochi

Main Theme - Future of Library and Information Profession in India.

SIG 1 - Digital Archiving (Computer)

SIG 2 - Performance Appraisal of Libraries / Information Centers

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For Call for Papers see May 2019 issue of IASLIC Newsletter or visit:

<http://www.iaslic1955.org.in/fckeditor/userfiles/file/Call%20for%20Papers%202019.pdf>

Librarians' Day Programme

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 Kalyani University, Kalyani, will celebrate Librarians' Day at a function to be held on August 11, 2019 at Kalyani University, Kalyani. On this occasion eminent speakers will express their views on "Use of library space for social development". A panel discussion will also be held. Intending participants may contact Shri Sajal Kanti Goswami, General Secretary, IASLIC (Ph: 23629651, Mob. 9433426495), or Dr. Krishnapada Majumder, General Secretary, BLA (Mob. 7980914707); or Shri Shibprasad Chakraborty, General Secretary, WBPLEA (Mob. 9433927863) or Dr. Partha Sarathi Mukhopadhyay, HOD, DLIS, Kalyani University (Mob. 9434416674) by August 7, 2019.

CONFERENCES / SEMINARS / WORKSHOPS

National

Training on Library Automation

CSIR-NISCAIR will be conducting a training course on 'Library Automation and Digitization' during August 5 - 9, 2019. For details visit: <https://www.niscair.res.in/ActivitiesandServices/HRD/LibAuto-and-Digitization5-9Aug19.pdf>

Workshop on e-Resources Access

The INFLIBNET Centre is organizing a National Workshop on 'e-Resources Access, Management, and Usage Analysis' during August 5 - 10, 2019. For details visit: https://hrd.inflibnet.ac.in/docs/ERM_2019.pdf

Workshop on Plagiarism Software

Dr. S R Ranganathan's 117th Birthday Celebration - cum - Workshop on 'Plagiarism and Reference Management Software: A Comprehensive Hands on Training' is being organized by the Central Library, Sri Balaji Vidyapeeth Deemed to be University, Puducherry, on August 9, 2019. For details visit: <http://www.madraslibraryassociation.com/files/MGMCRI%20Workshop%20Brochure.pdf>

Workshop on Koha

The Department of Library, Alagappa University Model Constituent College of Arts and Science, Paramakudi, Tamil Nadu, is organizing a National level Workshop on 'Koha' - An Open Source Software for Library Management' on August 10, 2019. For details email to: siddha_nathan@yahoo.co.in

Seminar on Transformation of Library Resources

Madhya Pradesh Library Association, in association with National Institute of Fashion Technology, Bhopal, is going to organize a National Seminar on 'Transformation of Library Resources and Services in Digital Era' on August 11, 2019 at Madhya Pradesh Bhoj University campus, Bhopal. For details visit: <http://mpla.org.in>

Conference on IT and Knowledge Society

The Chandigarh Librarians' Association (CLA) is organizing its 6th National Conference on 'Information Technology & Knowledge Society: Role of Libraries' on August 22, 2019, at Dev Samaj College for Women, Sector 45, Chandigarh.

Workshop on Research Methodology

An ICSSR sponsored Workshop on 'Research Methodology in Social Science' will be held at DRTC, Indian Statistical Institute, Bangalore, during November 20 - 29, 2019. Details will be available soon at <http://www.isibang.ac.in>

International

IFLA Big Data SIG Meet

The IFLA WLIC 2019 pre-conference satellite meeting on 'Data Intelligence in Libraries: The Actual and Artificial Perspectives', organized by IFLA Big Data Special Interest Group, will be held during August 22 - 23, 2019 at Deutsche National Bibliothek (DNB) Frankfurt, Germany. For details visit: <https://sites.google.com/view/wlic2019-big-data>

IFLA Satellite Meet on Library Design

A Satellite Meeting organized by Roma Capitale / Sistema Biblioteche Centri Culturali, together with four IFLA Sections on Academic and Research Libraries; Library Buildings and Equipment; Metropolitan Libraries; and Public Libraries, will be held in Rome during August 21-22, 2019. The theme of the meeting will be 'The evolving concept of 'library' and its impact on library design'. For details visit: <http://www.symanteccloud.com>

Conference on Access to Govt. Information

The Central Government Library Association (Delhi Branch), in collaboration with Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) and IFLA-Asia and Oceania & Government Libraries Section, is organizing its 2nd International Conference on the theme 'Equitable Access to Government Information and Data : Role of Government and Public Libraries in South Asia' during October 17 -19,

2019 at IGNCA, New Delhi. For details visit: <http://cglia.org.in/activities/international-conference.html>

Conference on Information Systems

The 2nd International Conference on 'Information Systems & Management Science' (ISMS) 2019 is being organized by Tripura University, Agartala, in collaboration with International Association of Academicians (IAASSE), USA, during December 6 - 7, 2019. For details visit: <http://www.isms2019.iaasse.org/>

Conference on Small Libraries

The 16th Conference of the Serbian Library Association on 'Small Libraries in Big Dialogue for Changes' will be held at the National Library of Serbia, Belgrade, during December 12 - 13, 2019. For details visit: slaconference2019.wordpress.com

Conference on Transformation of Academic Libraries

As part of the Diamond Jubilee celebrations of the National Institute of Technology Karnataka, Surathkal, the Central Library of the institute is going to organize an International Conference on 'Digital Technologies and Transformation in Academic Libraries' (DigiTTAL 2019) during December 26 - 28, 2019. For details visit: <http://digittal2019.Wixsite.com/index>

IFLA Preservation SIG Meet

The next IFLA Preservation and Archiving Special Interest Group (PASIG) meeting will take place in Madrid on May 19 - 21, 2020. For details visit: <http://www.pasig2020memoriademadrid.es>

New IFLA SIG Proposed

A new Special Interest Group of IFLA on Food, Agriculture and Nutrition Information to Sustainable Development has been proposed. An exploratory meeting will be held in Athens on August 26, 2019 to see if there is sufficient interest and commitment to develop the proposal further and to specify the potential purpose and activities of the group. For details email to: dereddy@tamu.edu

IFLA WLIC 2020

The International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) and the Library Association of Ireland, have announced that the IFLA World Library and Information Congress (WLIC) 2020 will be held in Dublin, Ireland, during August 15 - 21, 2020. For details visit: <https://www.ifla.org/node/92327>

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

Book Ripper Strikes

A literary vandal is stalking the streets of Herne Bay in Kent, U K, ripping pages in half in dozens of books in a charity shop and library before replacing them on shelves, says a report in *The Guardian*. Ryan Campbell, the chief executive of the charity Demelza, which runs a bookshop on Mortimer Street, told *The Guardian* that since April, around 100 books in the shop have had their pages torn in half horizontally before being re-shelved. "We think it's been going on for a few months but it's hard to tell - if you find a ripped book in a secondhand shop you don't think too much about it, so it's taken us a while to piece it together. But whatever this person

has been doing has been escalating,” said Campbell. “I’m trying not to be too Sherlock Holmes about it, but if there’s such a thing as a quite distinctive rip, well, he or she rips the page in half horizontally and sometimes removes half the page.” Campbell said that the damage has been stepped up over the last few weeks to “quite a few” copies a week, estimating that this has cost the charity, which provides care for children with serious and terminal conditions, several hundred pounds. “Of course people donate these books towards the care of children with terminal illness, so it’s almost like taking the collection box,” he said. The culprit, who has been dubbed the “book ripper”, targets books out of sight of the till - particularly in the true crime section. Although signs have been put up to try to stop the vandal, and the police have been alerted, as yet there are no leads. Herne Bay library told *the Herne Bay Gazette* that it had also had books damaged over the last six months, with members of staff “now being extra-watchful to try to catch the person responsible or at least cut down on the opportunities to cause more damage”, according to a council spokesperson. Campbell said: “We’ve had to brief our staff that if you find someone doing it, then don’t apprehend them. The library has got CCTV and there’s no trace of who’s doing it. But at some point this will either stop - or if it doesn’t then at some point this person will be caught.” Campbell, who is also the former chair of mental health charity Mind, expressed his concerns about the psychology of the book ripper. “This is very systematic; it’s quite an anonymous, private thing to do, and it’s not the action of a happy person. So it makes you think a little bit about who’s doing this and why they feel the need to do it and what’s going on in their lives,” he said. “I’ve got images of vigilantes prowling the local bookshops and libraries waiting to pounce on whoever’s doing this, and although I’d really like it to stop and someone to be caught, I’m a little bit worried about the person.” For original report visit: <https://www.theguardian.com/books/2019/jul/11/book-ripper-on-vandalism-spreed-hunted-herne-bay>

Biggest Library of 16th Century

It sounds like something from Carlos Ruiz Zafón’s *The Shadow of the Wind* and his *The Cemetery of Forgotten Books*: a huge volume containing thousands of summaries of books from 500 years ago, many of which no longer exist. But the real deal has been found in Copenhagen, where it has lain untouched for more than 350 years, says a report in *The Guardian*. The Libro de los Epitomes manuscript, which is more than a foot thick, contains more than 2,000 pages and summaries from the library of Hernando Colón, the illegitimate son of Christopher Columbus who made it his life’s work to create the biggest library the world had ever known in the early part of the 16th century. Running to around 15,000 volumes, the library was put together during Colón’s extensive travels. Today, only around a quarter of the books in the collection survive and have been housed in Seville Cathedral since 1552. The discovery in the Arnamagnæan Collection in Copenhagen is “extraordinary”, and a window into a “lost world of 16th-century books”, said Cambridge academic Dr. Edward Wilson-Lee, author of the recent biography of Colón, *The Catalogue of Shipwrecked Books*. “It’s a discovery of immense importance, not only because it contains so much information about how people read 500 years ago, but also, because it contains summaries of books that no longer exist, lost in every other form than these summaries,” said Wilson-Lee. “The idea that this object

which was so central to this extraordinary early 16th-century project and which one always thought of with this great sense of loss, of what could have been if this had been preserved, for it then to just show up in Copenhagen perfectly preserved, at least 350 years after its last mention in Spain ...” The manuscript was found in the collection of Árni Magnússon, an Icelandic scholar born in 1663, who donated his books to the University of Copenhagen on his death in 1730. The majority of the some 3,000 items are in Icelandic or Scandinavian languages, with only around 20 Spanish manuscripts, which is probably why the Libro de los Epitomes went unnoticed for hundreds of years. It was Guy Lazure at the University of Windsor in Canada who first spotted the connection to Colón. The Arnamagnæan Institute then contacted Mark McDonald at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, who passed it on to Wilson-Lee and his co-author José María Pérez Fernández, of the University of Granada, for verification. “They sent me the photos. I was sitting on a beach at the time and I said ‘you’ve got to be flipping kidding me’. It’s *the* major missing piece from the library,” said Wilson-Lee. “It’s an amazing story. Instead of being a needle in a haystack, it was a needle in a bunch of other needles.” After amassing his collection, Colón employed a team of writers to read every book in the library and distill each into a little summary in Libro de los Epitomes, ranging from a couple of lines long for very short texts to about 30 pages for the complete works of Plato, which Wilson-Lee dubbed the “miracle of compression”. Because Colón collected everything he could lay his hands on, the catalogue is a real record of what people were reading 500 years ago, rather than just the classics. “The important part of Hernando’s library is it’s not just Plato and Cortez, he’s summarizing everything from almanacs to news pamphlets. This is really giving us a window into the entirety of early print, much of which has gone missing, and how people read it - a world that is largely lost to us,” said Wilson-Lee. Wilson-Lee and Pérez Fernández are currently working on a comprehensive account of the library, which will be published in 2020. They are also working to digitize the manuscript, in collaboration with the Arnamagnæan Institute. “It’s always thrilling as a scholar and a biographer to realize there is still stuff out there,” said Wilson-Lee. “It’s a question of getting out there, [and] looking in unobvious places.” For original report visit: <https://www.theguardian.com/books/2019/apr/10/extraordinary-500-year-old-librarycatalogue-reveals-books-lost-to-time-libro-de-los-epitomes>

Some UK PLs Offering Yoga Classes

Libraries are struggling because they are “trying to do too much” by becoming community centres that offer yoga classes and iPads rather than focusing on books, the former managing director of Waterstones has said, according to a report in *The Telegraph* (UK). Tim Coates criticized the “hopeless” direction libraries in the UK have taken over the past 20 years, attributing their declining use to the industry’s obsession with “rigging them out” with the latest technology and trendy activities. His comments come after recent research revealed that UK public and school library use is less than half of that in the US because “America stuck to just providing books,” he said. Mr. Coates, who was also the managing director of WhSmith, said British libraries have “lost direction”, adding: “The library profession has got too hung up on how important it is as a ‘social force’ and it is a

terrible mistake. "They are trying to do too much. They lost the skill at being able to do the one thing that people needed from them - to provide books. "They have been told endlessly that children don't read anymore, they just watch television and they use the Internet to find out anything that they want. So people within local governments started asking why should we provide libraries then? "There's a battle going on and it's about what the libraries are for. They are not there to provide a service for the local council as a community centre. They are there to provide reading." Mr. Coates polled 300 UK residents about their reading habits, with the figures showing that 87 per cent have made use of a book in the previous 12 months. However, the number of adults who had obtained their last book from a library stood at just 8 per cent for those aged, 10 per cent for 25 to 54-year-olds and 12 per cent for those aged over 54. In a survey of 1,100 people in the US, the use of libraries was far higher - with 32 per cent of those aged between eight and 17 accessing their last book from a library. "Public and educational libraries play a very significant part in the provision of printed books to readers" in the US, the survey concluded. "Twenty years ago, UK libraries insisted they were there to be community centres and started installing loads of computers and activities. But at that point millions of books from public libraries were removed," Mr. Coates said. "They have these halo around their heads, saying they are all about education and community - but actually they are not doing the one job that people want you to do," he added. For original report visit: <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2019/06/08/struggling-libraries-trying-to-much-offering-yoga-classes-ipads/>

Loneliest Library in Forest

One of the things we take for granted in our lives is a library. Perhaps it is because we can find one at a stone's throw in most cities, towns and even some villages across India. But for the Muthuvan tribal community living in Edamalakkudy, one of the remotest hamlets in Idukki district of Kerala, the possibility of borrowing books from a library or even have one in their locality was a distant dream. Until 2010. That year, two things happened in the hamlet: one, Edamalakkudy became the first hamlet in Kerala to have a tribal gram panchayat and second, a 'library' was established at a tiny tea shop at Irupukallu area of the hamlet, according to a story by Lekshmi Priya S available on thebetterindia.com website. With a total of 160 books when it started, this little library, quite literally in the middle of nowhere, charts a fascinating tale that revolves around the contribution and dedication of two individuals: a tea shop owner, P V Chinnathambi and a teacher, P K Muraleedharan. Muraleedharan is no less of a living legend amidst the Muthuvans, who made Edamalakkudy his home two decades ago to make education accessible to the Adivasi community. In conversation with *The Better India* (TBI), he shares the catalytic incident which led to the founding of the library. "One of my friends, Unni Prasanth, who used to work with Akashvani and RedFM in Thiruvananthapuram, had visited us in Edamalakkudy sometime between 2009 and 2010. Lodged at Chinnathambi's hut, we discussed the state of education here and the lack of reading habits. That was the first time the idea of creating a library here was first broached," recalls Murali Maash, as he is known amongst the locals (Maash is an endearment in Malayalam for teachers). "Together, we carried all these books and walked to Edamalakkudy, covering several hamlets along the way. Otherwise, there was

no other way to reach here. We planned to establish the library at Irupukallu, but we had no building or even an area to set it up. That's when Chinnathambi stepped up and offered to maintain a library in his humble tea shop," he says. Chinnathambi's logic was simple. "People would come to his shop for tea and snacks and they could either read the books or borrow them at a minimal fee. Shortly after, our library took flight, with more and more people in the community visiting the shop for books and not just tea," Murali Maash says. For full story visit: <https://www.thebetterindia.com/181572/kerala-tea-seller-teacher-forest-library-edamalakkudy-amazing-india/>

Penguin's Satyajit Ray Library

In some good news for Satyajit Ray fans, five previously unpublished titles of the master filmmaker author will be brought out from 2020 onwards. Penguin Random House India has announced an association with the Society for the Preservation of Satyajit Ray Archives (Satyajit Ray Society) and the legal estate of the Ray Family to publish these five titles under the aegis of The Penguin Ray Library, says a PTI report in *The Indian Express*. These works consist of previously unpublished essays by Ray, Tarini Khuro translations by Ray and a lot of his illustrated works remain unseen till date among many others. "The Penguin Ray Library will give Ray's works a unique look of their own. Establishing a series with a distinct identity, these new titles will be presented in a special layout with quintessential aesthetics inspired by Ray's sensibilities. The Penguin Ray Library will be an endeavour to capture the brilliance of a renaissance man and share his works with a wider readership", Penguin said in a statement. Ray was an ace designer, music composer, illustrator and gifted writer. This association will celebrate his contribution to the world of art, literature, cinema and music and take his work to the next level - opening them up to new platforms and readers", it said. Sandip Ray, member secretary of the Satyajit Ray Society and Ray's son says, "we are excited to be a part of the vision that Penguin Random House has for perpetuating Ray's luminous legacy". For full report visit: <http://www.newindianexpress.com/lifestyle/books/2019/apr/28/penguin-launches-satyajit-ray-library-to-bring-out-five-unpublished-works-1970130.html>

Library of Books by and for Women

The walls are bubblegum pink. The shelves are stacked with books of various shapes and sizes - all of which tell different stories with a common denominator - women. By, of, and most importantly for women, the Sister Library, which opened its doors on 15 May in Mumbai's Bandra, aims to be a community owned space, amplifying women's voices through literature written by them, says a story by Arushi Agrawal available on First Post website. Hailing from Darjeeling, Aqai Thami is a 29-year-old artist and activist spearheading the project, which took off a year ago as a travelling library of 100 books, touring several cities across the country. "Art is activism," she says, echoing the socio-political thrust behind her work through the years. Thami's projects include Bombay Underground with Himanshu S, an artists' collective focusing on the zine culture, and Dharavi Art Room, an experimental safe space to read and make art, creating a community archive in one of Asia's largest slums, Dharavi. With Sister Library, a one-of-a-kind venture in India, Thami wishes to make a difference in society through art and literature, yet again. "The only

thing that can bring about change is art. When we feel deeply and share vulnerably and honestly, that is when any change is possible,” the artist says. About five years ago, Thami noticed a gap in her personal collection of books, and recognized the reality it was symptomatic of. As little as 20 per cent of her shelves were occupied by female authors – a number heavily skewed and telling of the patriarchal set up that aids a male-dominated narrative of the world. “I made a very conscious decision to read women exclusively,” she says, following which a desire to take the stories beyond her bookshelves encouraged her to set up the Sister Library. It's Thami's personal collection that fills the library, housing books like Patricia Hill Collins and Sirma Bilge's *Intersectionality*, Clarissa Pinkola Estes' *Women Who Run With the Wolves: Myths and Stories of the Wild Woman Archetype*, Marjane Satrapi's *Persepolis*, Sheila Jeffreys' *Unpacking Queer Politics* and Uzma Aslam Khan's *The Miraculous True History of Nomi Ali*, among several others. For full story visit: <https://www.Firstpost.com/living/artist-aqui-thamis-sister-library-is-a-community-owned-space-bringing-together-books-by-of-and-for-women-6643181.html>

Corporate Men Open Library in School

In order to inculcate the habit of reading among underprivileged children of Noida, a library-cum-creativity centre has been opened at NEMP School in Sector 93 by Cadence Design Systems and Books for All NGO, says a *The Times of India* report. “Our company has a strong culture of giving back to the community and employees are encouraged to volunteer. We have been volunteering with BFA for the past 7-8 months and have done various sessions on art and craft including storytelling, mural painting, drawing and painting competitions,” said Sumeet Aggarwal from Cadence. Parvin Bhasin, the founder of BFA, says “This new centre will encourage children of classes 3 to 9 to discover the joy of reading and will also conduct programmes to expose children to new ideas and concepts through volunteer engagement, workshops and programmes by NGOs and Corporates”. For full report visit: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/noida/corporate-professionals-open-library-at-a-government-school-in-noida/articleshowprint/69396601.cms>

Kids Swap Surfing for Browsing

On a hot June afternoon this year, sisters Pooja, 14, and Kajal, 13, make their way through the narrow lanes of Sikanderpur village, rushing past water tankers and bikes, to volunteer at the Community Library Project, in Gurugram beyond the malls and highrises. Every day, these teen siblings, pupils of the government senior secondary school in Chakkarpur, confidently wear the badge of student counsellors, while also helping in member outreach through community walks. The library – free, open to all, and stocking a wide variety of books – presents a safe learning space for those who do not have access to literature, says a report in *The Times of India*.

The library has 1,100 members, of which 600 are active. Shubha, a staff member here, calls this their library movement. “Once other citizens realise the importance of libraries, there will be more of them, and we are demonstrating it through our models,” she tells TOI. So, there's Manisha, 11, who, recalls Shubha, would initially flip through books and admire illustrations. A year later, she has finished the Hindi translations of six of the Harry Potter series. And Kajal, who trains in a parlour before visiting the library. She wants to become a librarian when she grows up. Mohsin, 16, is another promising child, who yearns to be a cop when he's old enough – and, also, be useful around the library on his free Sundays. “I used to while away my summer holidays but now I feel I am learning more geography and history,” shares an eager Mohsin, whose mother works as a domestic help. Tech doesn't have the touch. At a time when millennials and kids are plugged into their smartphones and tablets, the space for libraries, both intellectually and physically, is shrinking. But seeing the success of Treasure Trove, you wouldn't think so. Recently, this quaint library, tucked into a basement of a daycare centre to the south of Gurugram, completed nine years. Quirky quotes and colourful posters welcome you to a paradise for the young bibliophile, which has hosted storytelling sessions with popular children's writer Jeeva Raghunath (who pioneered the storytelling movement in Tamil Nadu) and South African storyteller Bongiswa Kotta Ramushwana. “When we moved from Bangalore to Gurugram 10 years back, there was no children's library here. My daughter loved reading books and my son loved solving jigsaw puzzles. I would buy books but they would finish it in a day or two – that is when I conceived the idea of a library,” says founder Arvinda Bhatia. “You can order books online but there are so many new authors who are not read because they are not suggested online – that is where we come into the picture, (by) suggesting you explore a new book,” she adds. For full report visit: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/gurgaon/from-online-to-the-library-when-kids-swap-surfing-for-browsing/articleshowprint/69865968.cms>

Per Capita Expenditure on PLs

“We filed an application under the Right to Information (RTI) Act when we discovered, after analysing the data on public libraries, that there were no official documents available on per capita expenditure on public libraries”, say B Preedip Balaji, Mohan Raju J S, Vinay M S in a story available on <https://www.indiaspend.com> website. The RTI was redirected from the Ministry of Culture to several central libraries in the country, including the National Library, Kolkata, the Delhi Public Library, and the Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation (RRRLF), Kolkata. However, no information was forthcoming. While a few libraries were able to provide details of their individual expenditure, there was no information on annual national public library expenditure, they add. For full story visit: <https://www.indiaspend.com/how-much-is-india-spending-on-its-public-libraries/>

Award to Promote Libraries in Schools

A new award aimed to motivate and promote the library as a space for nurturing young students' imagination and critical thinking abilities and develop collaborative spirit and innovation has been instituted by One Up Library, Book Studio and Learning Lab, New Delhi, in memory of Bandana Sen, who was a leading figure in the field of children's libraries and reading programmes in India, according to a PTI report available on *manoramaonline.com* website. The Bandana Sen Library Award will be given to librarians and heads from schools across the country for excellence in best practices in nurturing learning environments. The award envisions the library at the heart of school communities. Entries for the awards will be accepted till September 15, 2019. For details visit: <https://english.manoramaonline.com/news/campus-reporter/2019/07/15/awards-to-promote-revive-school-libraries.html>

TECHNOLOGY NEWS

Google's App to Help Kids Learn Reading

Reading is one of the most important skills students will learn in their lives. After the third grade, students who have mastered reading use it to learn just about everything else. Struggling readers, on the other hand, are unlikely to catch up and four times less likely to graduate from high school. Unfortunately, 64 per cent of fourth grade students in the United States perform below the proficient level in reading. Rivet is a new reading app from Area 120, Google's workshop for experimental projects, that addresses the most common barriers to effective reading practice through a free, easy-to-use reading experience optimized for kids, says a post by Ben Turtel, Head of Tech and Product, Rivet on *www.blog.google*. Evidence shows that one of the major differences between poor and strong readers is the amount of time spent reading, so we're introducing Rivet to make high-quality reading practice available to all. With a rapidly growing digital library of over 2,000 free books, Rivet makes it easy to find interesting reading material at the right level. There are engaging books covering a wide array of topics, from planets in outer space to Harriet Tubman. Every book in our library is carefully reviewed and leveled by content quality experts to ensure young readers are shown appropriate content at the right level of difficulty. Rivet uses advanced speech technology to provide support on every word and give kids feedback on their reading, so they can practice independently without getting stuck. For original post visit: <https://www.Blog.google/technology/area-120/rivet-reading-app/>

AI for Cultural Heritage

Following multi-million programmes that use Artificial Intelligence (AI) for Earth, accessibility and humanitarian action, technology giant Microsoft will now channel \$10 million (nearly Rs 68.66 crore) into an AI project that focuses on tangible and intangible cultural heritage, says an Indo-Asian News Service report available on *gadgets.ndtv.com* website. The fourth pillar to Microsoft's

\$125 million (roughly Rs. 858.27 crores) AI for Good programmes - called AI for Cultural Heritage - was announced recently by the company's President Brad Smith. The new five-year programme has these core areas: people, places, languages and historical artifacts. It "will use AI to work with nonprofits, universities and governments around the world to help preserve the languages we speak, the places we live and the artifacts we treasure," Smith wrote in a blog post. He identified certain areas in New York where they are exploring how AI can make The Metropolitan Museum of Art's collection accessible to billions of people on the Internet. In the Parisian museum Musée des Plans-Reliefs, the company seeks to create an entirely new museum experience that pays homage to Mont-Saint-Michel, a French cultural icon. Also on the list is Mexico, where Microsoft is preserving and translating the Yucatec Maya and Queretaro Otomi languages using AI. "These projects have given us confidence that we can put AI to innovative uses that can help communities expand access to culture and explore new perspectives and connections through shared experiences," said Smith. The tech company also said that while it's their business to advance technology, "technology should respect and even help protect the world's timeless values". For full report visit: <https://gadgets.ndtv.com/science/news/microsoft-ai-for-cultural-heritage-programme-launched-2068648>

Passwordless Sign-Ins Being Tested

Microsoft is testing a passwordless future for Windows 10 PCs. The company has released a new build for Fast Ring insiders that adds a new option that enables passwordless sign-ins for Microsoft Accounts, says a report by Gaurav Shukla available on <https://gadgets.ndtv.com> website. Choosing this option will make Microsoft passwords useless on Windows 10 PCs and you will have to opt for PIN, facial recognition, or fingerprint detection. Microsoft says, the feature is limited to a select few Windows 10 Fast Ring insiders right now and it will take at least a week to reach all Fast Ring insiders. Separately, a security-only update released by Microsoft for Windows 7 is making waves for the wrong reasons. In a recent blog post Microsoft announced the rollout of Windows 10 Insider Preview Build 18936. The new build brings support for Phone Screen feature to more Surface devices, adds quick event create option to the taskbar, and most importantly, the ability to enable passwordless sign-ins. The Phone Screen feature allows users to mirror the screen of their Android phone to their Windows 10 PC. According to Microsoft, you can enable passwordless sign-in by going to Settings > Accounts > Sign-in options. "Enabling passwordless sign-in will switch all Microsoft accounts on your Windows 10 device to modern authentication with Windows Hello Face, Fingerprint, or PIN," Microsoft explained. The company also says that the users who don't have Windows Hello set up, the operating system will guide them to set it up at the time of their next sign-in. In addition to the aforementioned features, the latest insider build also packs a number of fixes, general improvements, and improvements. The full

list is available on the company's blog. For full report visit: <https://gadgets.ndtv.com/laptops/news/windows-10-passwordless-sign-in-insider-preview-build-18936-2067993>

SPECIAL FEATURE

Librarians' Unconference

Many librarians meet at different parts of the globe every year to discuss on topics of their interest, while some meet at *unconferences* with the same aim. But what is *Unconference*? The term has been coined by an organization called Cycling for Libraries to differentiate between a conference held in an auditorium where the speakers explain their views on the topic fixed by the organizers from a podium using PowerPoint presentation and the one organised by the librarians who participate in a cycle rally to promote libraries. The cyclist librarians themselves decide about topic and discuss among themselves and members of the partner organizations. They also visit libraries and library professionals on their way. The cycling *unconference* movement initiated by Cycling for Libraries, which was founded in 2011, is very interesting. The cycling conferences for librarians and library lovers, promoted by this organization aims to advocate libraries and increase awareness of the valuable services and resources that libraries offer to the community.

According to its website, “Cycling for Libraries is a politically and economically independent *unconference* and a bicycle tour. It builds physical and mental well-being of library professionals, grassroots networking, and internationalism and last but not least the crucial role of libraries for the society and for the intellectual and scientific education in general. Cycling for libraries also supports environmental values and ecological way of life. Cycling for libraries inherits many values from librarianship. Openness, liberalism, access to information, lifelong learning and innovativeness are among these values. Librarianship is also by its very nature humanist, internationalist, cross-boundary and concrete”.

How did it all start? The website recalled that “it all started actually more than 10 years ago as a dream to bike in continental Europe and to discuss informally in good company issues related to libraries and their future. In EBLIDA (The European Bureau of Library, Information and Documentation Associations) Conference in Helsinki in 2010 a group of enthusiastic Finnish librarians became interested in the idea and were willing to get involved in this adventurous experiment. The purpose was to organize an *unconference* while examining how the librarians could cope with the 650 km-long challenge. We wanted to believe that travelling together that long is a kind of a metaphor for the situation and challenges that libraries have to face today. The way in which librarian participants might survive tells whether we have a capacity to deal with the challenges as professional or not.

The organizers felt clearly that the digital age brings a challenge for survival of libraries and their services. Libraries would not be able to survive without major changes. But who is to take the challenge for change? That was the thing we wanted to find out. And we want it still, because the challenges become more and more concrete day by day...”

When did cycling start? According to the website, “The first real kick-off for the whole Cycling for Libraries took place during the IFLA World Library and Information Congress in 2010 in Gothenburg, Sweden. Quickly brainstormed idea of the cycling *unconference* for librarians was set into motion when it was just at the level of a dream. We organized a 70 km demo-Cycling-for-Libraries tour from Borås to Gothenburg and the next few days presented the idea without posters, stand or PowerPoint, simply by chatting with people and delivering 800 cataloguing card looking spoke card ADs to IFLA visitors. It was a kind of fun thing to do and in fact the method proved to be an excellent way to get inside the international IFLA community”.

And after that there was no stopping. Cycling for Libraries events have been organized in different parts of Europe and even in USA and Canada, in partnership with local libraries, librarians, library associations and library enthusiasts where discussions have taken place on different topics. The areas covered by Cycling for Libraries so far are 2011: Copenhagen - Berlin; 2012: Vilnius (Lithuania) - Tallinn (Estonia); 2013: Amsterdam - Brussels; 2014: Montpellier - Lyon (both in France); 2015: Basel (Switzerland) - Strasbourg (France) and Oslo - Aarhus (Denmark); 2016: Toulouse - Bordeaux (both in France) and Welland - Ontario (both in Canada); 2017: Oresund Tower (Denmark), Lake Geneva, Brasov - Sibiu (both in Romania) and Trois-Ponts - Genk (both in Belgium); 2018: Angers - La Rochelle (both in France); 2019: Le Havre - Paris. The librarians taking part in cycling for libraries were immensely benefitted by the discussions they had and received enthusiastic support from the partners in different countries - mainly national library associations. While at the Hague during its trip from Amsterdam to Brussels in 2013, the Cycling for Libraries team was invited to discuss current library issues with the Dutch Parliament. Staff of the IFLA HQ facilitated the table discussions and shared expertise on IFLA's current initiatives, with MPs and librarians. The discussions highlighted the role of libraries as access points to information, the importance of libraries as agents for community development, the need for cross sector cooperation and the pressing issue of the need for a balanced copyright framework.

In November 2013, the Cycling for Libraries team with its members set up an international association to support Cycling for Libraries tours as well as voluntary based library advocacy and library campaigns. The official name of the association is International Association for Library Advocacy, but it has also been called as “Voice for libraries” or “Passion for libraries” according to its mission.

Evidently, the *unconferences* of librarians taking part in Cycle for Libraries trips have a good opportunity to communicate among them and discuss the real issues and problems facing them and find out workable solutions. It also gives an opportunity to librarians to meet and communicate with the library communities and user communities of the places they pass through. But unfortunately this initiative has not yet been adopted by librarians of developing countries like India. Considering the utility of this initiative it is hoped that Cycling for Libraries will soon take off in our country too.

[Sources:

http://www.cyclingforlibraries.org/?page_id=3092,

<https://www.ifla.org/free-tags/cycling-for-libraries>,

http://www.cyclingforlibraries.org/?page_id=7110

https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cycling_for_libraries]

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. PRABHAKARAN (Rajaram) and LIHITKAR (Shalini). *Webometric Analysis of Library Websites: Emerging Research and Opportunities*. 2018. Today & Tomorrow, New Delhi. ₹ 1895. ISBN: 9781522572831
2. PANDEY (Madhav) and PANDEY (Akansha). *Agricultural Library Management in Digital Era*. 2019. Satish Serial Publishing House, New Delhi. ISBN: 9789388020350
3. SINGH (M Lokendra). *Application of ICT in Academic Library Services*, 2019. Akanksha Publishing House,

New Delhi. ₹ 800. ISBN: 9788183705516

4. TAMIZHCHELVAN (M) and DHANAVANDAN (S). *Open Access: Librarian's Perspectives*. 2019. Today & Tomorrow, New Delhi. ₹ 2995. ISBN: 9788170196327

Foreign

1. DE SAEZ (Eileen Elliott). *Marketing Concepts for Libraries and Information Services*. Facet Publishing; 3rd ed. 2019. Facet Publishing, London. ISBN: 9781856048705

(Introduces a wide range of marketing concepts and techniques suitable for library and information services and shows how it is essential for a library to be truly market oriented in order to ensure its survival and future prosperity)

2. FALLON (Helen) and WALTON (Graham). *Librarian as Communicator: Case Studies and International Perspectives*. 2019. Routledge, Abington. £36.99 ISBN: 9780367229733

(Suggests a variety of communication strategies for different user groups, taking into account the changing information landscape and the application and implications of social media developments)

3. CHOWDHURY (G G) and CHOWDHURY (Sudatta). *Data and Information: Organization and Access*. 2019. Facet Publishing, London. ISBN: 9781783302604

(Covers the theory, practice, research issues and contexts of information organization and interactive information retrieval)

4. VARNUM (Kenneth J). *New Top Technologies Every Librarian Needs to Know*. 2019. American Library Association, Chicago. \$ 64.99. ISBN: 9780838917824

(Throws light on the systems, software, and approaches most crucial to the knowledge institutions of tomorrow)

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