



IASLIC NEWSLETTER

Indian Association for Special
Libraries and Information Centres



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Quote of the Month

*“Read a thousand books and
your words will flow like a
river.”*

— Virginia Woolf
English writer

Appeal to Readers

News from different regions / states are solicited from IASLIC members for inclusion in the newsletter. Send such news to the Editor.

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IASLIC ACTIVITIES

Librarians' Day Celebrated in Virtual Mode

IASLIC, jointly with Bengal Library Association (BLA) and West Bengal Public Library Employees Association (WBPLEA), and in collaboration with Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation (RRRLF), celebrated Dr. S R Ranganathan's 128th birth anniversary as Librarians' Day 2020 on August 12, 2020. In view of COVID-19 pandemic, the programme was conducted in virtual mode with YouTube link. The theme of the programme was 'Ranganathan and LIS Profession'. Welcoming the participants and viewers, Prof. Narendra Lahkar, President of IASLIC, gave a brief account of Librarians' Day celebrations since 1990. Paying homage to Father of Librarianship in India, Prof. K P Majumder, General Secretary, BLA, mentioned about the contributions of Dr. Ranganathan towards library movement in India. He mentioned that Ranganathan was a very good policy maker, a great thinker and organizer, a successful teacher, an excellent writer and an unparalleled leader of the library movement - all rolled into one. He also elaborated on Dr. Ranganathan's association with BLA. Shri Tapas Sarkar, General Secretary, WBPLEA, gave a brief account of the present condition of public libraries in West Bengal. He expressed his anxiety over future of public library system in the state and also pleaded for raising collective voice for filling up a large number of vacant posts as well as overall development of public library system in the state. In his inaugural address, Prof. Ajay Pratap Singh, Director-General, RRRLF, recalled Ranganathan's way of life and said that we should assess our own contribution in the light of Ranganathan's approach. Prof. Singh highlighted the role of RRRLF in exploring the possibilities of pushing forward implementation of the Public Libraries Acts in the states which had enacted such Acts but not yet implemented them, and motivating those states which had not yet enacted public libraries law to enact them urgently so that we could have a good structure of public libraries in every state.

In the thematic session, the speakers were Prof. Amitabha Chatterjee, former Professor & Head, DLIS, Jadavapur University, Kolkata, and Dr. Medha Joshi, Vice-President, IASLIC, Zone-2 and Consultant (Information Services) at National Cancer Grid, Tata Memorial Centre, Mumbai. In his presentation entitled 'Ranganathan and Library and Information Profession in India', Prof. Chatterjee mentioned the main characteristics of a profession and narrated the contributions of Dr. Ranganathan in the development of those characteristics in the context of library and information profession in our country, viz. formulating the philosophy of LI professional in the form of Five Laws of Library Science, developing knowledge and techniques required for effectively running a library, introducing higher education and research in LIS and so on. He also mentioned about the role played by Ranganathan in developing professional organizations in the country like Madras Library Association and Indian Library Association. Prof. Chatterjee also highlighted the contributions of Ranganathan for the upliftment of the status of LIS profession in the country. Dr. Medha Joshi, in her presentation entitled 'Ranganathan's Philosophy & Librarianship in Digital Plus Era', mentioned that Five Laws of Library Science were the philosophical pillars of LI profession and said that culmination of these laws was reference service. She presented several quotations of Ranganathan and explained their implications in digital plus era. She also stressed on evidence based practice. The programme was well coordinated by Dr. Arun Kumar Chakraborty, Librarian, Bose Institute, Kolkata. He mentioned

that more than 1000 participants attended the programme and that a good number of them were from Bangladesh. The programme ended with a vote of thanks proposed by Dr. Jaydip Chandra, Treasurer, BLA.

IASLIC Zone-1 Celebrates Librarians' Day

IASLIC Zone-1 organized a Webinar on Google meet on August 12, 2020, to celebrate Librarians' Day and conduct Prof. S R Ranganathan Memorial Lectures. In his introductory speech, Dr. T K Thiruvengada Mani, Head, Taramani Campus Library & Coordinator Digitization (Retd.), University of Madras, and IASLIC Governing Body Member from Zone-1, mentioned about various activities and achievements of Dr. S R Ranganathan. This was followed by a lecture on 'Relevance of Ranganathan in Present LIS Scenario' by Dr. Amruth Sherikar, Librarian, Visvesvaraya Technological University PG Centre Library, Kalaburagi, Karnataka and IASLIC Vice-President, Zone-1. Dr. R. Sevukan, Associate Professor, Department of Library Information Science, Pondicherry University, Puducherry, and Governing Body Member of IASLIC from Zone-1, delivered a lecture on 'Today's Scenario of Indian LIS Education and Research as dreamt by Prof. S R Ranganathan', while Dr. Achala Munigal, Assistant Professor (LIS)/Assistant Librarian, Bharat Ratna Dr. B R Ambedkar Memorial Library, Osmania University, Hyderabad, and IASLIC Governing Body Member from Zone-1, spoke on 'Digital Literacy during COVID-19'. Around 45 professionals had registered for the webinar, of which around 25 came on live in Google meet and the programme went on very lively. The vote of thanks was proposed by Dr. Amruth Sherikar. Dr. T K Thiruvengada Mani, played very active role in successfully organizing the programme.

IASLIC Foundation Day Lecture

IASLIC Foundation Day Lecture 2020 on 'The Culture of Books' will be delivered in virtual mode by Shri Kanchan Gupta, Chairman, RRRLF, Kolkata, on September 3, 2020 at 5.30 pm. For details visit: <http://www.iaslic1955.org.in/Default.aspx?PageID=62>

CONFERENCES/SEMINARS/ WORKSHOPS

National

Webinar on Open Access

The Central Library, Synergy Institute of Technology, Bhubaneswar, in collaboration with the Innovation Council of the Institute, is organizing a National Webinar on 'Open Access of Scholarly Communication in Digital Era' on September 2, 2020. For registration visit: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdbDSVUYwnj5eDX0wGLWW-u0t-aabi9gLkErAMz0TIHiNdkDw/viewform>

Webinar on Preservation of Documents

A Webinar on 'Tools and Techniques for Preserving the Library Documents in the Present Situation' is being organized by Info-

Lib Academia, in collaboration with Sarsuna College, Kolkata, on September 3, 2020. For details visit: <http://sarsunacollege.ac.in/WebPages/Downloads/Notice/LibraryTools.pdf>

Webinar on Access to Library in COVID Context

A National Webinar on 'Access to Library beyond its Four Walls: A COVID-19 Context' is being organized by the Central Library and IQAC of Maynaguri College, Maynaguri, West Bengal, on September 12, 2020. For registration visit: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc01eOO9XbFZNtQaiYVK88Cnyctn_Hcx4IR0WgPkJhBmXsmqg/viewform

International

Webinar on Information Literacy

As a part of the Birth Centenary Celebration of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, a Webinar on 'Information Literacy and LIS Professionals: Roles and Responsibilities' is being organized by Library Association of Bangladesh on September 5, 2020. For details visit: <https://lab.org.bd/webinar-on-information-literacy-and-lis-professionals-roles-and-responsibilities/>

Workshop on Text Data Analysis

Manipur University Library is organizing an International Workshop on 'Exploratory Analysis and Visualization of Text Data for Research Using Open Source Tool' in virtual mode on September 21, 2020. For details visit: <https://www.manipuruniv.ac.in/upload/WebinarLibrary21Sept2020.pdf>

Conference on Changing Role of Libraries

An Online International Conference on 'Research, Innovation & Knowledge: Changing Role of Libraries' is being organized by Dr. Zakir Husain Central Library, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi, as a part of centenary celebrations of Jamia Millia during September, 15 - 16, 2020. For details visit: <https://www.jmi.ac.in/studyatjamia/library/zh/events>

Conference on Information Literacy: Brief Report

An International Conference on 'Reorienting Information Literacy in the Library and Information Centres (LIS-EDUVISION 2020)' was organized by the Department of Library and Information Science, University of Calcutta, Kolkata, during February 11-12, 2020, on the occasion of 75th anniversary celebration of the Department. The Conference was inaugurated by Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Academic Affairs), University of Calcutta, Prof. Asis Kumar Chattopadhyay, while Prof. Uday Bandyopadhyay, Director, Bose Institute was the Chief Guest and Shri Asis Kumar Samanta, Director, Zoological Garden, Alipore, Kolkata, was the Guest of Honour at the inaugural session. Prof. Paul Nieuwenhuysen, Professor, Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Brussels, Belgium; and Dr. M. Nazimuddin, Librarian, ICDDR, Bangladesh, were the guest speakers. Prof. P K Panigrahi, Head of the Department, presided over the inaugural session. Over 200 professionals participated in this conference. There were eight thematic sessions, in which 65 papers were presented. A cultural event, comprising of folk dance, dance drama and sitar recital, was held in the evening of February 11. The valedictory session was held on February 12. Prof. Krishnapada Majumdar, former

Professor and Head, Department of Library & Information Science, Jadavpur University, Kolkata, was the Special Guest at this session. The various focal areas of discussion during this conference were Information literacy and open education system, Information literacy and emerging technologies, Information literacy and community engagement, Role of associations in Information literacy, Information literacy and digital empowerment, Information literacy programmes in public, academic, and special libraries, Information literacy in the multicultural environment, etc. Prof. Swapna Banerjee and Dr. Pubalika Bhattacharyya Moitra served as Organizing Secretaries of the conference.

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

Librarians as COVID Contact Tracers

With many US libraries closed or offering limited services in the pandemic infecting nearly five million people nationwide, many librarians have found a useful outlet for their resourcefulness and fact-finding skills: volunteering as contact tracers to help track the spread of COVID-19, says a story by Elise Sole available on *Yahoo Life* website. Librarians who are city employees may be called upon to assist with weather-related disasters or even events like bioterrorism, John Szabo, the city librarian of the Los Angeles Public Library, tells *Yahoo Life*. "When hired, we sign a document acknowledging the potential of a disaster, but in March the mayor of Los Angeles declared that all city employees could be cast in some capacity." There are volunteer opportunities at homeless shelters, city meal distribution or virtual children's story hours. But some library staff in California, North Carolina and New York have become "contact tracers," mapping the path of exposure after an individual tests positive for an infectious disease with the goal of preventing further transmission. Because libraries currently don't serve as quiet and free spaces or restrooms for the homeless population, contact tracing is how Yamamoto, a librarian, helps. "Librarians are a natural fit for contact tracing because we're at customer service and crisis management," she tells *Yahoo Life*. For full story visit: <https://www.yahoo.com/lifestyle/how-librarians-became-secret-weapons-in-fight-against-coronavirus-130012140.html>

Library Staff connect Users in Lockdown

When Melbourne's Yarra Plenty regional libraries first went into lockdown in March, shut the doors and left the remaining unborrowed books on their shelves, staff were sent home with a phone. "One of the hardest things about lockdown was people being separated from their community," said Lisa Dempster, Yarra Plenty's executive manager of public participation, according to a *The Guardian* story. "The library is often a hub for the community, and we identified the most vulnerable cohort of our community would be the elderly." So the library staff pulled from their database the phone number of every library member over the age of 70 - a total of 8,000 records. Then the librarians started calling those members. All of them. "We called them to say hi, see how they were doing, and then see if there was

anything they needed help with, such as access to services, counselling support, tech help, that kind of thing. We would then refer them to a service that would help them," said Dempster. "What we've found mostly is that people are really up for the chat and love getting that call from the librarian. Some calls go for five minutes and some go for half an hour or more." Yarra Plenty's "caring calls" are just one of the ways that libraries around the state have been servicing community needs since the onset of COVID-19 shutdowns. From fine amnesties, to boosting the prominence of digital offerings, to simply putting books in the post, libraries have drastically changed the way they operate to accommodate the massive social changes imposed by governments during the pandemic, often with heartwarming results. Early in the lockdown period, Monash Libraries supplied reading material to accompany Meals on Wheels deliveries, calling recipients in advance to ascertain their reading tastes. Hobson's Bay delivered guitars to households thanks to a partnership with a local organization, Guitars Gathering Dust, which provides schools with reconditioned instruments for music students. Many libraries have transitioned in-person services, such as daily onsite story-time sessions for babies and toddlers, to the online space. Some offer it in languages other than English too, such as Monash, where they pre-record story-time in Mandarin, Italian, Greek and Auslan. For full story visit: <https://www.theguardian.com/culture/2020/aug/13/when-covid-closed-the-library-staff-call-every-member-of-victorian-library-to-say-hello>

Libraries host Online Classes

Online classes are being conducted for economically weak and backward students at libraries and anganwadis by the Kerala Education Department, in the wake of COVID-19 lockdown, says an ANI report available on *ndtv.com* website. "This year it's somewhat impossible to open schools but the state government has introduced a new method of online learning. On June 1, the state government introduced a trial run of online learning," Assistant Education Officer said. Students from poor and backward communities come to such centres due to unavailability of smartphones, the officer added. "This is a classroom in Maruthonkara of Kozhikode for tribals to facilitate them with online classes. The classroom facility with laptop, projector, and screen is provided by Maruthonkara grama panchayath," said Asokan CP, teacher. Classes are reportedly conducted by the Kerala Education Department through its education channel Victers, which is the first-ever education satellite channel in India. Class time has been scheduled from 10 am to 5 pm daily. Students from the "Kaattunayka" tribe also attend the online classes based on their class schedules. For original report visit: <https://www.ndtv.com/education/kerala-online-classes-conducted-at-libraries-for-economically-weak-students>

Old Library replaced by Digital Library

District Minister V Somanna recently inaugurated the new government library having a collection of 49,000 books at hill station town Madkeri in Kodagu district of Karnataka, says a *The Times of India* report. A digital library equipped with four

computers, which give readers access to 1.50 lakh books online, was also inaugurated on the occasion. The new facility, located at Industrial Estate of the town, was necessitated following the closure of the old library located in the fort premises in response to a request by the archaeological department. District librarian Leelavathi said that they were awaiting some more books to be added to the collection. Public library director Satishkumar Hosamani said that anyone could become a member of www.karnatakadigitalpubliclibrary.org General books, educational ones, including study materials for CBSE, IAS and IPS, can be read free of cost. Digital libraries have come up in 272 public libraries in different taluks and districts, he explained. "Readers can download E-Sarvajanika Granthalaya app on their smartphones and get access to over 1.5 lakh ebooks of various genres. The app is accessible only in Karnataka, and there are over 1 lakh subscribers in the state, including 1,359 in Kodagu alone. The government has collaborated with Mintbook (private company) for the purpose," said Aashish, project manager of Mintbook. For full report visit: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/mysuru/new-library-with-49k-books-opens-in-madikeri/articleshowprint/76248960.cms>

Public Libraries limiting footfall

If before the COVID pandemic, the purpose of public libraries was to bring in more people, now it is about limiting the footfall. The public libraries in Amritsar have reopened with a new set of safety measures in place, says a story by Neha Saini in *The Tribune*. Though it does not house many public libraries, the state does have a number of loyal readers. Now, after the lockdown, the libraries are forced to limit the walk-in of bookworms, while adopting digital media to increase their access. With mandatory precautions like sanitisation and masks in place, the libraries are also observing book quarantine and using maximum digital space for reaching out to the fellow readers and are expanding open educational resources. The Bhai Gurdas Library inside GNDU campus has reopened but limited its footfall to only staff, faculty and research scholars. The library, that has over five lakh books and rare literature to get your hands onto, has set up thermal temperature scanners at the very entrance and use of only disposables allowed inside the premises. The pantry is shut, not providing any beverage facility so as to avoid minimum contact infection risk. With a staff of 12-14 people, the five-storey study is maintaining distancing norms strictly. The library is also not imposing any late fee for students due to the special circumstances amid these trying times. The Moti Lal Nehru Library, the oldest and largest public library in the city, is also being sanitised frequently and has allowed staff to work in shifts. Still closed for its members, the library that is housed in the heritage Town Hall building, is mostly sharing reading materials with the readers through social media platforms created by some volunteer members of the library. The district library at the Rani Ka Bagh is no different. It has cut down on its footfall, only allowing visitors in during specific hours. It is also using its social media and digital platform to provide maximum services and educational programmes run under its aegis. For original story visit: <https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/amritsar/public-libraries-come-back-to-life-set-up-e-portals-observe-book-quarantine-115640>

[tribuneindia.com/news/amritsar/public-libraries-come-back-to-life-set-up-e-portals-observe-book-quarantine-115640](https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/amritsar/public-libraries-come-back-to-life-set-up-e-portals-observe-book-quarantine-115640)

Mobile Library for Unprivileged Students

A Chandigarh-based NGO has set up a small library in a minivan to distribute books among the unprivileged students in the wake of COVID-19 pandemic, says an ANI report by Srimoyee Chowdhury, published in *Hindustan Times*. Sandeep Kumar, founder of the NGO - Open Eye Foundation - had started collecting books from various places to help the students who cannot afford them amid the financial setback due to pandemic. While speaking to ANI, Kumar said, "When I completed my studies, I came up with an idea to reuse the books. In December 2016, I started this initiative and organized camps in schools. People responded positively, and came forward to help me with the study materials." From then to now, Kumar has organized a small library in his minivan, filled with books and writing materials collected from various houses, and started visiting slums and colonies to help students in need. "During the lockdown, people used to call for study materials but distribution via a scooter was not feasible. However, I have got a minivan now for the distribution. We also give away masks and sanitary napkins along with study materials," Kumar further said, adding that the motto of his foundation is 'Education from Trash'. Kumar has collected about 40,000 books in the last three years and distributed almost 10,000 books to the children in the area during the coronavirus induced lockdown. For original report visit: <https://www.hindustantimes.com/it-s-viral/chandigarh-ngo-sets-up-mobile-library-in-minivan-helps-underprivileged-students/story-XT0eDuWQETLZz6gNpVmpTM.html>

Surat Citizens demand reopening of PLs

With gyms and yoga classes reopening, the citizens of Surat have demanded that the public libraries too be opened, with strict adherence to the social distancing norms, says a *The Times of India* report. The Surat Citizen Council Trust (SCCT) has urged the Surat Municipal Corporation (SMC) to consider reopening of its public libraries to facilitate the book-lovers who are yearning to borrow their favourite books and titles. All the public libraries operated by the SMC, including the Narmad Library on Ghod Dod road, have been shut since the nationwide lockdown in March. President of SCCT, Sharad Kapadia told *TOI*, "We have urged the authorities to allow public libraries to open. At least, members of these libraries should be allowed to enter for borrowing and submission of books in the first phase." The SCCT also sent a detailed representation to the authorities with suggestions on safe operations. For original report visit: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/surat/reopen-the-libraries-too-citizens-urge/articleshowprint/77437485.cms>

Teachers take Libraries to Students

While online education is fraught with its own set of problems, the absence of physical schooling has robbed students of several other activities. One such engagement critical to the overall development of the children is story books, honing their reading habits. In a bid to keep their students hooked to books, Zilla Parishad (ZP) teachers in villages of Maharashtra have

taken to ensuring distribution of the books available in school libraries, reaching them to the doorstep of students, says a story in *Pune Mirror*. The teachers of Wablewadi ZP School in Shirur have apportioned the books in the library and distributed them to 34 groups of student who live close to each other, so they can read and circulate the books among themselves. “We've made groups of our students based on the area of the residence and also created bunches of books that are delivered to each group by volunteers or teachers. A system has also been developed so the books get rotated between the groups,” said Dattatray Vare, principal of the school. Zilla Parishad schools started their online classes since July 1, but the teachers soon felt the need to invest the students in more than just academics. Reading beyond the school textbooks, they acknowledged, was an important exercise for the overall development of the students, which was enabled by the school libraries. This got them started on the movement to take the library to the students' doorsteps. A teacher of Ahmednagar's Gopalnagar School personally takes the books to his students once a week or a fortnight, inducing them to read. “The APJ Abdul Kalam Library in our school is furnished with a lot of books beyond academic interest to help our students evolve an avid reading habit. Students were handed their academic books at the start of the academic year. But we felt the need to sustain the supply of these books too,” explained Narayan Mangalram, the teacher who has taken it upon himself as a personal task. Having embarked on this initiative, the teachers are also using the networking it has engendered to reach printouts of worksheets to students who are unable to access them online. “While we are taking books to students once every fortnight and motivating them to read by discussing the books at length after they've read them, we are also carting worksheets to students who have connectivity issues. Also, the regular change of books to read gives them a wider exposure,” pointed out Kalpana Bandgar, a teacher at Bandgar ZP School in Karjat. For original story visit: <https://punemirror.indiatimes.com/pune/civic/zp-teachers-bring-library-at-home-for-pupils/articleshowprint/77491536.cms?prtpage=1>

Parents setting up Home Libraries

Homemaker S Vijayalakshmi has always been keen on inculcating the reading habit in her children. But with the ongoing lockdown, it's difficult to keep going to the library to pick up books. That's when she decided to set up one at home, according to a story in *The Times of India*. “I wanted books for my younger daughter who is in Class IV as her online classes have started and she is spending a lot of time on the computer,” says Vijayalakshmi. With online learning becoming the norm, parents are setting up home libraries so that their children spend time with books instead of gadgets. Vinod Sridhar, who started Preloved Books Library in July 2018, says that he has been getting more requests during lockdown from families to set up libraries. “We have set up 35 out of which eight have been done during lockdown,” says Vinod. “Since online classes have started, many parents feel that their children are spending too much time on devices. Schools are also encouraging the trend, as they want children to keep in touch

with the habit of learning from books,” says the 25-year-old. Vinod started Preloved Books Library with an online subscription model. “People chose books online and we delivered it to them. But soon we got into the business of setting up libraries in offices and homes,” he says. “Before lockdown our clients included offices, cafes and homes.” The way it works is simple. Once customers register, they receive a call and are given a questionnaire. “We get an idea of their interests, the books they like to read and what may appeal to them,” he says. “All books are chosen based on their interest and 10% of it can be fully chosen by customer.” Customers can keep the book for four months and then have the option of returning it and getting new ones or adding new books to the existing set. “Before we send more books we take feedback, so that the service gets more personalised,” he says. Vijayalakshmi, for instance, opted to take 50 books. “We have kept aside a cupboard for the books and my daughter spends time every day picking out books she likes,” she says. Sathya Thiruvengadasamy set up her home library last month, opting to take 100 books per quarter. “My husband and I, both IT professionals, are now working from home,” says Sathya, whose son, Pranav Sriram, is five years old. “Our son gets bored of colouring or playing with toys. And we don't want him to be occupied with gadgets or TV. This way, I read books to him every night and also in the afternoon before nap time.” For original report visit: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/chennai/why-some-parents-are-setting-up-home-libraries/articleshowprint/77026777.cms>

Community Library in School Classroom

Competitive examination aspirants in Childag panchayat, Angara, in Ranchi are happy to have got their own community library on the premises of the S S Plus 2 High School, which has been functional since July 15, says a report by Antara Bose in *The Telegraph*. The library, known as the Panchayat Pustakalay, was set up in a classroom of the school, and aims to equip aspirants with required knowledge and skills. The Panchayat Pustakalay was originally a proposed project of the erstwhile state government's Department of School Education and Literacy in 2017, but the plan never took off. Thus, principal Awanindra Kumar Singh decided to take initiative and help the aspiring students, with assistance from former students and social workers. The library already has got 10 members. Books on several entrances, including the JEE, medical, banking, XAT, CAT, UPSC, SSC and railways exams, will be stocked. “These books are too costly and almost impossible for students of any village to afford. We have managed to buy some books and have been asking for donations. We will buy some more through voluntary donation. This is a library of the community and by the community,” said Singh who has also contributed finances to the library. Library membership requires a student to fill a form, and get recommendation from a known person of the village along with a photocopy of an identity card. The library is run by volunteers and is usually open for two hours on weekdays, post-school hours, from 3 pm to 5 pm. “There is no membership fee and we work based on mutual trust. The volunteers take care of the books. We have collectively managed the infrastructure. In the future we hope to get more

stock covering all areas of competitive exams,” said Singh, adding that he is hopeful the library will help competitive exam aspirants. The library also has a reading corner just outside the room where people can come and read, all the while maintaining social distancing norms. The library is also looking forward to providing e-content, and a part-time teacher of the school has agreed to help students access the same. Residents of the villages nearby see the library as a ray of hope. For full report visit: <https://www.telegraphindia.com/jharkhand/government-school-turns-classroom-into-community-library/cid/1787240>

TECHNOLOGY NEWS

Hacker leaks 5 lakh Passwords

A hacker has leaked usernames and passwords of over five lakh servers, routers and Internet of Things (IoT) devices on the Dark Web which can be used to install malware on Internet-connected devices at home or at work, says an Indo-Asian News Service story quoting a ZDnet report, available on gadgets.ndtv.com website. Attackers could use those credentials to gain remote access to the affected devices, like we have seen recently in some home cameras and devices, including Amazon-owned Ring security cameras. According to a ZDNet report, the list of Telnet credentials has been published on a popular hacking forum that includes each device's IP address, along with a username and password for the Telnet service. Telnet is one of the earliest remote login protocols on the Internet. It is a client-server protocol that provides the user a terminal session to the remote host from the telnet client application. "Hackers scan the Internet to build bot lists, and then use them to connect to the devices and install malware," said the report. The list has been published online by the maintainer of a Direct Denial of Service (DDoS) botnet operator. However, some of these devices might now run on a different IP address, or use different login credentials. "Some devices were located on the networks of known Internet service providers (indicating they were either home router or IoT devices), but other devices were located on the networks of major Cloud service providers," the report mentioned. The five lakh devices still remain at hacking risk as a hacker can use the IP addresses included in the lists and then re-scan the Internet service provider's network to update the list with the latest IP addresses. For full report visit: <https://gadgets.ndtv.com/internet/news/hacker-leaks-passwords-for-500000-internet-connected-devices-report-2166997>

More New Features of WhatsApp

WhatsApp is working on a host of new features and now we hear that Facebook-owned messaging app is likely to add colours to Dark Theme and enable calling on WhatsApp web, says a story by Ankita Chakravarti available on indiatoday.in website. Earlier, the reports have suggested that the company will soon release the multi-device support for beta users and it is also testing a few features including a Search by date message, redesigned storage etc. As per the latest reports by WAbetainfo, WhatsApp is likely to add new colours to the Dark theme and would allow users to make video and voice call through

WhatsApp web. It was earlier being reported that WhatsApp was working on implementing Dark Theme for their web and desktop users. Now the Facebook-owned messaging app might add different colours to the dark theme. "Today, thanks to the 2.2025.5 update, we have discovered that WhatsApp is working on a different Dark Theme using alternative dark colours (they are doing the same for the dark iOS bubbles)," the WAbetainfo report read. As per the screenshots, the gray, bright yellow and green colours are visible. Once the feature is implanted, users can enable the feature on WhatsApp settings using WhatsApp Settings > Theme. The feature is still under development and it will be available for iOS, Android and WhatsApp Web in the future. Apart from this, the WAbetainfo has also told us that WhatsApp is working on implementing Voice and Video calls in the WhatsApp Web. The feature is available on Android and iOS app. The company is also planning to allow users to make group calls from the WhatsApp web as well. If the feature comes to the web soon, it might take on the video-conferencing apps Zoom and Google Meet. Earlier, it was revealed that WhatsApp was planning to integrate Messenger Rooms into the app. The Messenger Rooms by Facebook that allows up to 50 people to join a video call might come to WhatsApp as the screenshots by WAbetainfo shows a messenger icon on the share sheet. Interestingly, you don't even need to have a Facebook account to join a call on Rooms. The WhatsApp features tracker states that the Android beta update had traces of Messenger Rooms being integrated to WhatsApp and the messaging app is also working to add Messenger Rooms Shortcut in the 2.2019.6 Web update. For original story visit: <https://www.indiatoday.in/technology/news/story/whatsapp-to-add-more-colours-to-dark-theme-allow-group-voice-and-video-calls-on-web-1689850-2020-06-17>

Now Voice Twitting is possible

Twitter recently announced that it is rolling out a new feature that would allow users to tweet using their voice. The feature would let users capture audio up to 140 seconds in a single tweet, says a story by Ankita Chakravarti available on indiatoday.in website. The company has been rolling out new features one after the other. It earlier rolled out an Instagram-like feature called Fleets, which received mixed reactions from people. Announcing the feature Maya Patterson and Remy Bourgain, Staff Product Designer and Senior Software Engineer said in a blog "Twitter is where you go to talk about what's happening. Over the years, photos, videos, gifs, and extra characters have allowed you to add your own flair and personality to your conversations. But sometimes 280 characters aren't enough and some conversational nuances are lost in translation. So starting today, we're testing a new feature that will add a more human touch to the way we use Twitter your very own voice." The feature is being gradually rolled out for users. It would first arrive for iOS users. So when you compose a tweet, you would find a wavelength icon next to the camera icon. When you tap on the icon, you will find your profile photo with the record button at the bottom. In order to start recording your tweet, you will have the icon to record your voice. You can continue singing, say up to 140 seconds and once you reach the time limit, a new voice tweet would start automatically and

create a thread on Twitter. When you are done recording, tap on the Done button to end the recording. Remember, if you don't turn the recording off, it will keep on creating a thread. Just like normal tweets, the Voice tweets will also appear on the timeline of the people who follow you. To listen to a Voice tweet, you will have to tap on the image and listen. The audio would start playing at the bottom of your timeline and while listening to tweets, you can browse other things as well. As of now, the feature will be rolled out only for a limited group of iOS users on Twitter but the company claims that in the weeks to come, every iOS user across the globe will be able to post voice tweets. Users can retweet, listen, and reply to them just like normal tweets. For full story visit: <https://www.indiatoday.in/technology/news/story/twitter-announces-new-voice-tweeting-feature-all-you-need-to-know-1690202-2020-06-18>

Loopholes in Internet of Things Devices

Security researchers have found as many as 19 zero-day vulnerabilities that affect not one or two but hundreds of millions of Internet of Things (IoT) devices globally, according to a story by Jagmeet Singh available on gadgets.ndtv.com website. The vulnerabilities that are given the name Ripple20, exist in connected devices offered by various companies including Caterpillar, Cisco, HP, Intel, Rockwell Automation, Schneider Electric, among others. Also, the gadgets that are impacted by the security loopholes are powering operations at various industries — from medical and transportation to telecom and retail. Israeli security research firm JSOF has revealed that Ripple20 vulnerabilities were identified in code offered by Ohio-based software company Treck, which provides its solutions to a large number of IoT device manufacturers. JSOF researchers found the issues in Treck's low-level TCP/IP software library. The loopholes were detected through an extensive, in-depth analysis of over many months, the firm wrote in a detailed post on its website. The vulnerabilities discovered by JSOF are claimed to allow attackers to bypass Network address translation (NAT) and firewalls and take control of devices remotely, without requiring any explicit permissions from users. "This is due to the vulnerabilities' being in a low-level TCP/IP stack, and the fact that for many of the vulnerabilities, the packets sent are very similar to valid packets, or, in some cases are completely valid packets," the security researchers at JSOF said. A proof-of-concept has been provided in a video showing how the Ripple20 vulnerabilities can be exploited by an attacker. For full story visit: <https://gadgets.ndtv.com/internet/news/ripple20-iot-vulnerabilities-jsof-treck-security-issues-2247644>

SPECIAL FEATURE

Pleasant Surprise!

When I was a school-going boy in the '70s, I started visiting Chatterjee Public Library located near the Nagori Gate, Hisar.

Its owner was an old gentleman, Babu Atmaram Chatterjee. He was fair-complexioned, of medium height, and almost 80 years old. I always saw him dressed neatly in a Nehru jacket, kurta and pyjamas. He wore Gandhi style spectacles, with simple round lenses, and used hearing aid to communicate. When luck smiles on us, we meet good people. He oozed gentleness in every word he spoke, and everybody fondly addressed him as 'Bauji', says Raj Bahadur Yadav in a first-person story published in *The Tribune*.

When I met him for the first time, he asked me my name. 'Quite nice, quite nice,' he remarked, and then, paused, groping into a small bag lying on the table. He took out an apple. 'Please, accept it and munch on it merrily!' In those formative years, my knowledge of Queen's English and urban etiquettes was poor. When I finished eating the delicious apple, Bauji looked at me quizzically, as if he expected me to say something. But I remained quiet. 'Never forget these magic words — 'thank you' and 'please'!' I folded my hands and thanked him, says Yadav.

I had come from an obscure village, where children were never taught to thank indulgent family elders or relatives when they got sweets or fruits from them to eat. Rather, they would continue standing and staring, avidly waiting to be served once more! When Bauji asked me what my aim in life was, being a prattler, I told him it was to be a writer. I saw a flicker of interest in his eyes, 'Good, very good! Why don't you become a member of the library then? We charge only Rs. 20 per head annually.' I was sad to tell him the truth. I didn't even have that amount. To my great surprise, he assured me, 'Don't worry, I will enrol you as a member without any subscription fee. But you will have to submit a short summary of every book you borrow from me.' He lent me hundreds of books in English and corrected spellings and grammatical mistakes of my submitted abstracts, Yadav recalls.

Bauji firmly believed, 'Many of us argue like helpless flibbertigibbets without reading good books!' He encouraged me to contribute my short stories and poems for a Hindi magazine, *Vishwa Jyoti*, edited by Sant Ram, a leading figure of the Jat-Pat Todak Mandal of Lahore — founded in 1922 — from Hoshiarpur in Punjab. Sant Ram had invited Dr. B R Ambedkar to read out his famous paper, 'The Annihilation of Caste', at the Mandal's Lahore conference in 1936. Bauji grew sad, referring to the historical fact that Baba Saheb was urged to dilute the contents of his proposed speech, but he declined to do so and cancelled his visit. Later, Sant Ram translated it into Hindi, adds Yadav.

Babu Atmaram was a great admirer of Gandhi, Nehru and Ambedkar, and a friend of Sant Ram. He is no more, but his beloved library, now known as Chatterjee Memorial Library, has survived the ravages of time, Yadav concludes.

[Note: *This interesting pen-picture of an ideal librarian was published in The Tribune. As it may be liked by the readers of this newsletter, the same is being reproduced here with due acknowledgement to the author and the newspaper concerned.*

For original story visit: <https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/musings/a-library-that-opened-a-new-world-99806>]

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. BHARADWAJ (Pankaj K). Innovative Research in Library and Information Science. 2019. Ess Ess Publications, New Delhi. ₹ 1350. ISBN: 9789387698017

(The book addresses very current and relevant topics such as knowledge management, role of ICT in library services, library classification, digital libraries, use of RFID in libraries, Internet literacy and cloud computing, etc.)

2. SATIJA (M P) et al. Plagiarism: An International Reader. 2019. Ess Ess Publications, New Delhi. ₹ 1950. ISBN: 9789387698147.

(This is an internationally commissioned compilation of papers, which cover mainly three areas: theory of plagiarism and ways to curb it; attitudes towards plagiarism in different countries and various academic disciplines; and punishment for plagiarism)

Foreign

1. OPPENHEIM (Charles) et al. Information Law: Compliance for Librarians, Information Professionals and Knowledge Managers. 2020. Facet Publishing, London. £ 59.95. ISBN: 9781783303663

(Provides an overview of important information law issues along with tools and guidance to help readers establish a framework so that their organizations can both comply with their legal responsibilities and support a suitably risk aware environment which optimizes access and use)

2. STUART (David). Practical Data Science for Information Professionals. 2020. Facet Publishing, London. £ 50. ISBN: 9781783303441

(Provides an introduction to data science, using detailed examples and analysis on real data sets to explore the basics of the subject)

PERSONALIA

Smt. Sarama Das, Librarian, Gokhale Memorial Girls' College, has been awarded Ph D degree in Library and Information Science by Vidyasagar University, Medinipur, for her thesis entitled 'Sources of Bibliographic Information on Printed Bengali Books Published during 20th Century'. Dr. Das has pursued her research under the supervision of Dr. Pijush Kanti Jana, Professor, Department of Library and Information Science, Vidyasagar University, Medinipur. Dr. Das is a life member of IASLIC.

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