

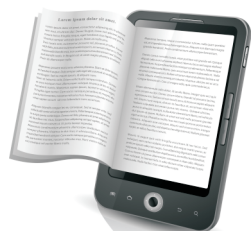
**JANUARY**  
**2017**



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

# IASLIC NEWSLETTER

For Members only



## At a Glance

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## Editor

Prof. Amitabha Chatterjee

### Associate Editor:

Shri Gurudas Ghosh

*IASLIC wishes all its members  
a very happy and prosperous  
New Year  
2017*

## Quote of the Month

*“Book is the symbol of knowledge;  
book is the symbol of joy”*

– Jasimuddin,  
Renowned Bengali poet

## 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](mailto:chatterjeeamitabha@yahoo.co.in)

## CONFERENCES/SEMINARS/WORKSHOPS

### National

#### Seminar of Open Access

Bhiwapur Mahavidyalaya, Bhiwapur, Nagpur, is going to organize a UGC sponsored National Seminar on 'Open Access: Status Quo in India' on January 5, 2017. For details visit: <http://www.bgm.ac.in>

#### Workshop on Manuscript Conservation

A Workshop on 'Preventive Conservation of Manuscripts' is going to be organized under the auspices of Manuscript Resource Centre and Manuscript Conservation Centre, Tripura University, Agartala, in collaboration with National Mission for Manuscripts, Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India, New Delhi, during January 16-20, 2017. For details visit: [http://tripurauniv.in/images/universitymedia/Seminar\\_ConferenceWorkshops/Five%20Days%E2%80%99%20Workshop%20on%20%E2%80%9CPreventive%20Conservation%20of%20Manuscripts%E2%80%9D.pdf](http://tripurauniv.in/images/universitymedia/Seminar_ConferenceWorkshops/Five%20Days%E2%80%99%20Workshop%20on%20%E2%80%9CPreventive%20Conservation%20of%20Manuscripts%E2%80%9D.pdf)

#### Workshop on Open Educational Resources

A National Workshop on 'Open Educational Resources (OER)' is being organized by Maris Stella College, Vijayawada, on January 20, 2017. For details visit: [www.marisstella.ac.in](http://www.marisstella.ac.in)

#### Conference on Social Responsibilities of Libraries

Dr. Ambedkar College, Deekshabhoomi, Nagpur, in collaboration with Karnataka State SC/ST Library Professionals Association (R), Bangalore, is organizing a National Conference on 'Libraries and Social Responsibilities in the Democratic World: Information Deeksha for All' on January 20, 2017. For detail visit: <http://www.dacn.ac.in>

#### Seminar on Digital India

Indira Gandhi National College, Ladwa, Kurukshetra, is organizing a DHE Sponsored National Seminar on 'Role of libraries in Making Digital India' on January 28, 2017. For details visit: <http://www.igncollege.in>

#### Conference on IT Application

Thunchath Ezhuthachan Malayalam University is organizing the Second National Conference on 'Academic Library Management' during February 8-9, 2017, at the University Campus at Tirur, Malappuram District. The theme of the Conference is 'IT application in academic libraries: new trends and opportunities'. For details visit: <http://malayalamuniversity.edu.in>

### Workshop on Bibliometrics

Vidya Prasarak Mandal's Maharashi Parshuram College of Engineering, Velneswar, is organizing a National Workshop on "Bibliometrics, Scientometrics and Webometrics" during February 15-17, 2017. For details visit: [www.vpmthane.org](http://www.vpmthane.org)

### Koha Conclave

The 2<sup>nd</sup> National Koha Conclave -2017 is being organized by Informatics, Bangalore, in collaboration with Tata Consultancy Services, Pune, during February 21-22, 2017, at the Hinjewadi campus of TCS in Pune. Mr. Chris Cormack (New Zealand), the original developer of Koha, will be the Key Resource Person. For details visit: <http://iiws.informindia.co.in/kohameet>

### Conference on L&I Management in Digital Environment

Jharkhand Information & Library Association is organising a National Conference on 'Library and Information Management in Digital Environment' (JILACON '17) during February 25-26, 2017 in Ranchi. For details visit: <http://www.jilaranchi.org.in/>

### International

#### Web Conference on LIS

An International Conference on 'Contemporary Innovations in Conjugative Management, Library and Information Science, Social Science and Technology for Virtual World' (ICCLIST'17) is being organized through web conferencing by Modern Rohini Education Society, New Delhi, on January 15, 2017. For details visit: [www.rtmonline.in](http://www.rtmonline.in) or <http://icclist17.rtmonline.in>

#### Conference on Library as Temple of Learning

SGPC's Guru Nanak Institute of Management Studies, Mumbai, is organizing an International Research Conference on 'Library: A Temple of Learning and Knowledge' on January 21, 2017. For details visit: <https://sites.google.com/site/gnimslibconference/theme-3>

#### Conference on Business and Information

The 2017 International Conference on Business and Information - Winter Session (BAI-Winter 2017) is to be held in Bangkok, Thailand, during January 24-26, 2017. For details visit: <http://ibac-conference.org/bai-winter/>

#### Conference on Knowledge Discovery

An International Conference on 'Knowledge Generation, Discovery and Networking' (KGDAN - 2017) is being organized by Department of Library and Information Science, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh, during February 3-4, 2017. For details visit: <https://kgdan2017.wordpress.com/>

#### Conference on Information Management

The 3<sup>rd</sup> International Conference on 'Information Management and Industrial Engineering' will be held in Cape Town, South Africa, during February 3-6, 2017. For details visit <http://www.icii.org>

### ILA International Conference

The 62<sup>nd</sup> Indian Library Association International Conference on 'Gearing up for the future: Library initiatives for digital India' will be held during February 9-11, 2017. It is being organized by Department of Library and Information Science, Karnataka State Women's University, Vijayapura, Karnataka, and Indian Library Association, New Delhi. For details visit: <http://ilaindia.net/images/pdf/aannouncement-conf.2017.pdf>

### ALIA Online Conference

The Australian Library and Information Association (ALIA) Information Online Conference will be held at Sydney during February 13-17, 2017. The theme of the conference is Data/Information/Knowledge. For details visit: <https://informationonline.alia.org.au/>

### Conference on S & T Libraries

IIT Gandhinagar is organizing an International Conference on 'Changing Landscape of Science & Technology Libraries' (CLSTL 2017) during March 2-4, 2017. For details visit: <http://events.iitgn.ac.in/2017/CLSTL/>

### Conference on Big Data Analysis

IEEE international Conference on 'Big Data Analysis' (ICBDA) will be held in Beijing, China, during March 10-12, 2017. For details visit: <http://www.icbda.org/>

### Conference of Public Librarians

The National Library of the Philippines (NLP), in partnership with the Davao City Library and Information Center, is organizing a National Conference of Public Librarians during March 14-17, 2017, at the Apo View Hotel, Bonifacio Street, Poblacion District, Davao City. The conference theme is 'The Emerging Libraries: Connect, Collaborate and Build Strong Communities'. For details visit: <http://web.nlp.gov.ph/nlp/?q=node/9789>

### iConference 2017

iConference 2017, hosted by Wuhan University School of Information Management and the Sungkyunkwan University Library & Information Science and Data Science Department will take place March 22-25, 2017, in Wuhan, China, For details visit: <http://ischools.org/the-icconference/a>.

### Conference on Information System

An International Conference on 'Information System and Data Mining' (ICISDM 2017) will be held at Charleston, USA, during April 1-3, 2017. For details visit: <http://www.icisdms.org/>

### LIP Summit

The Sixth International Library and Information Professionals Summit (I-LIPS 2017), is being jointly organized by Indian Institute of Science Education and Research Mohali (IISER Mohali) and Society for Library Professionals (SLP), in association with Special Libraries Association (USA)- Asian Chapter, at IISER Mohali, during April 6-7, 2017. The theme of the summit is 'Dynamics of Library for Excellence in Electronic Revolution'. For details visit: <http://www.slp.org.in/lips2017>

### Conference on Knowledge

The 2<sup>nd</sup> International Conference on 'Knowledge' will be held at Chengdu, China, during April 21-23, 2017. For details visit: <http://www.icok.org/>

### APLAP Conference

The National Assembly Library of Republic of Korea is organizing the Association of Parliamentary Librarians of Asia and the Pacific event during April 25-28, 2017. For details visit: <http://asiapacificparllibs.org/conferences/>

### Conference on Innovative Information Services

The 4<sup>th</sup> International Scientific Conference on 'Information Science in the Age of Change: Innovative Information Services' will be held at Warsaw, Poland, during May 15-16, 2017. For details visit: <http://infolog.wdib.uw.edu.pl/?lang=en>

### Workshop on Database and Data Mining

The 6<sup>th</sup> International Workshop on 'Database and Data Mining' (ICDDM 2017), organized by Southwest Jiaotong University, will be held at Chengdu, China, during June 2-4, 2017. For details visit: <http://www.icddm.org/>

### Conference on Book, Publishing & Libraries

The 15<sup>th</sup> International Conference on 'Books, Publishing and Libraries', organized by Common Ground Research Networks, will be held in London, on July 7, 2017. For details visit: <http://booksandpublishing.com/2017-conference/call-for-papers>

### Conference on Computational Social Science

The 3<sup>rd</sup> International Conference on 'Computational Social Science' (IC2S2 2017) will be held at Cologne, Germany, during July 10-13, 2017. For details visit: <https://ic2s2.org/2017/>

## MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

### Early Career Award 2017

The Special Libraries Association - Asian Chapter has announced JSLA-SLA Asian Early Career Award 2017. The award will be presented to a library and Information Science (LIS) Professional working in Asia. The purpose of the award is to provide an opportunity for an Asian professional to attend the annual Special Libraries Association (SLA) conference. The award will cover conference registration, lodging and airfare, up to and not exceeding US \$1,500. The SLA annual conference will be held in Phoenix, USA, during 16-20 June, 2017. For details visit: <http://asia.sla.org/JSLA%202017%20award.pdf>

### E-Book Library in NLIST Collection

INFLIBNET has added the World E-Book Library to its NLIST collection through which more the 30 lakh books will remain available to NLIST users through the consortia. For more details visit: <http://nlist.inflibnet.ac.in/index.php>

### DPL Branch Demolition Stayed

The Delhi High Court has stayed the ongoing demolition of the Delhi Public Library (DPL) Branch building at Karol Bagh, observing that the building did not appear to be "on the verge of collapse" as had been claimed by the private owners of the premises, says a report published in *Indian Express*. The bench of Chief Justice G Rohini and Justice Sangita Dhingra Sehgal extended the stay on demolition of the building, which houses the 52-year-old Delhi Public Library branch at Deshbandhu Road in Karol Bagh. Earlier, Justice Indira Banerjee had stayed the demolition. A PIL had been filed before the High court by some journalists and authors against the demolition of the building, claiming that the private owner of the property "wanted to build a commercial complex" on the land. For details visit: <http://indianexpress.com/article/cities/delhi/hc-stays-demolition-of-delhi-public-library-it-is-not-on-verge-of-collapse-4379710/>

### False Copyright Website

It has come to the notice of the Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion (DIPP), Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India, that a website, [www.copyright.in](http://www.copyright.in), is creating a false impression that it is the official website of the copyright registration office in India, a Press Information Bureau press release has said. This website is inviting applications for protection of various works i.e. literary, artistic, dramatic, musical, sound recording and cinematographic films along with its evidences. This claim is totally fraudulent and is creating confusion among the general public. DIPP and Copyright Office have no relation with this website, the press release has pointed out. The press release has advised all concerned not to make any payment or submit application forms on-line or otherwise take any service relating to copyright registration or carry out any other activity relating to copyright through this website. DIPP or Copyright Office will not be responsible for any damages or loss in this regard, the press release has stressed. The authorised and authentic copyright office website is [www.copyright.gov.in](http://www.copyright.gov.in). For any copyright registration and other related issues on copyright, only this official website should be used, it has further advised. The matter has already been referred to the concerned Ministries to block the fake website i.e. [www.copyright.in](http://www.copyright.in) and initiate legal action, the press release has added.

### Management Students Open School Library

Continuing their social activity to build a sound and sustainable society, first-year students of XLRI, Jamshedpur, caused plenty of faces to light up with joy and happiness when they created a library for the primary school children of Andhra Bhakta Shri Ram Mandiram Madhya Vidyalaya in Bistupur, says an [avenuemail.com](http://avenuemail.com) report. The project, related to their course in Organisational Behaviour taken by Father Antony Uvari, Associate Dean of Student Affairs and Administration, and Organizational Behaviour Professor, was undertaken in October of last

year. A group of ten, still in their second term in the Human Resources Management course, found this school when they decided to do something that would improve the state of education in our country. Andhra Bhakta Shri Ram Mandiram Madhya Vidyalaya, a Telugu-medium school in Bistupur, seemed like the perfect choice, with an empty room waiting to be utilized to its fullest. The students started from scratch-scrubbing the floors, painting the walls, collecting old books from various professors on their campus. The library was inaugurated by Ms. C H Nisha, the Principal of the school on Decemebr 4, 2016. For more details visit: <http://www.avenuemail.in/jamshedpur/xlri-students-build-library-scratch-underprivileged-kids/101571/>

### NGO sets up Library in School

Kalisu Foundation, an NGO that works to improve the quality of education in government schools, has recently installed a new library in Kalyanagiri Government Urdu Higher Primary School, in Mysuru, in association with oil manufacture company Sunpure, says a *The Times of India* report. Speaking after its inauguration, Kalisu volunteer Abida, told TOI, "We set up libraries in government higher primary schools and also take up teaching assignments as volunteers. We introduce new methods of teaching and give individual care to students." Meanwhile, Mannan Khan, an industrialist, who was part of the library project, expressed interest in joining hands with the NGO to provide better education facilities to students in the backward areas like Kalyangiri and Udaygiri. Mushrad Tabussum, a class VI student at the school, could not hide his happiness seeing the colourful books in the new library. For original report visit: <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/mysuru/Govt-school-gets-a-library/article-show/55882243.cms>

### Library Brings Hope in Rajasthan Village

Dhapara village, located in the remote district of Bhilwara, Rajasthan, is infamous for its long history of rampant alcoholism. The elders and even children of the village are drunk almost every evening. Alcohol is available not just at the *thekas* (liquor shops) but also at the *kirana* (grocery store) and mobile recharge shops. But today one feels the presence of hope in the air of this village, and sees children at the forefront working as the catalysts of change, says a *betterindia.com* report by Amina Sheikh. This reform started after a resident named Lado Singh foresaw the dark fate his village would meet in the years to come if people continued to consume alcohol. So, he convinced the team of School of Democracy (SFD) also known as Loktantrashala to set up their first rural library for the children in Dhapara. SFD is a non-formal educational institution located in Badi Ka Badiya, another village in the district. The school is dedicated to promoting and deepening democratic education and learning in India through varied activities such as trainings, workshops, lectures, cultural events, public assemblies, and exhibitions. For more details visit: <http://www.thebetterindia.com/77808/dhapara-rajasthan-library-school-of-democracy/>

### Over a Lakh Overdue Items Returned to US Library

The Chicago Public Library's "Once in a Blue Moon Amnesty" program has ended with the return of more than 101,000 items worth an estimated \$2 million, says a *Chicago Tribune* report. From August 20 to September 7 this year, the library allowed patrons to return missing books, DVDs and CDs without paying the outstanding fines. Library spokeswoman Ruth Lednicer tells the *Chicago Tribune* that most items returned were three to five weeks overdue. But she says staff members were surprised by how many overdue items dated back to the 1970s and '80s. The oldest book returned was a limited-edition copy of Oscar Wilde's "The Picture of Dorian Gray," due 78 years ago. Lednicer says the library waived more than \$640,000 in fines during the amnesty period. A special feature on return of overdue books was published in this newsletter in June 2016.

### Jail Term Prescribed for Overdue Books

A US library has decided to enforce jail sentences for overdue books in a bid to recover about USD 200,000 worth of missing materials, a step that could land many forgetful people in hot water, says an *m.dailyhunt.in* report quoting *Deccan Herald*. In its effort to recoup overdue materials, Athens- Limestone Public Library in Alabama will be enforcing an ordinance that prescribes fines and the possibility of jail term. According to a city ordinance, it is unlawful for any person who has a library card to "fail or refuse to return" any materials borrowed or withdrawn from the public library. Any person who violates the ordinance may be fined up to USD 100, be sentenced to a city jail term of 30 days or possibly both at the discretion of the municipal judge, the *News Courier* reported. Library Director Paul Laurita was quoted as saying that resorting to enforcing the ordinance was necessary because offenders are not only stealing from the library, but also from other library patrons and taxpayers. "The taxpayers expect us to protect their investment. We make every effort to be good stewards of public funds," she said. Laurita explained that library would much rather have the overdue materials back than the associated fines. For more details visit: <http://m.dailyhunt.in/news/india/english/deccan+herald-epaper-deccan/us+library+to+enforce+jail+sentences+on+overdue+books-newsid-57527682>

### British Library to Digitize Old Bengali Books

A new British Library project will digitize 4,000 early printed Bengali books, amounting to more than 800,000 pages, as part of the UK India Year of Culture plans for 2017, according to a PTI report published in *The Hindu*. The digitization project is part of a wider "Two Centuries of Indian Print" project, an international partnership led by the British Library with funding from the Newton Fund to digitize unique materials from its South Asian printed books collection. The books are in high demand and span at least 22 South Asian languages. The project will explore how digital research methods and tools can be applied to this unique digitized collection, and will deliver

digital skills workshops and training sessions at Indian institutions to support innovative research within South Asian studies. Baroness Blackstone, chairman of the British Library, said: "This exciting project will make South Asia's rich and vibrant printed heritage accessible to everyone; millions of pages will be digitised for researchers around the world. I am very much looking forward to meeting our partner institutions in India this week to discuss the collaboration. I thank them and our funding supporters for making Two Centuries of Indian Print possible." Two Centuries of Indian Print recently benefited from an additional donation of nearly 500,000 pounds from the Newton Fund, which will allow for the digitization of the South Asian Vernacular Tracts series, of which the Library holds approximately 6,000 volumes. For more details visit: <http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/British-Library-to-digitise-4000-Bengali-books/article16901568.ece>

### Adoption Scheme for Book Restoration

Giving a new lease of life to old books, the Madras Literary Society will have 50 titles that the public can choose from, to adopt and help restore, says a report by S Poorvaja published in *The Hindu*. As a part of an initiative which began earlier this year, 20 books have been adopted and restored. Fifty additional titles have now been identified for restoration and will be on display at the library in a few weeks, and the public can come forward to sponsor and fund its restoration. "We try to select the oldest books and single editions across genres and languages available here. Among the books we have already restored are those with the records of sport and military life in western India and cartoons during the British rule in India," said Thiruppurasundari Sevvil, a volunteer at the Society, who is also involved in the book conservation initiative. Recently, the Madras Literary Society library received two grants of Rs. 25,000 each from P M Belliappa, a retired civil servant, who handed over the grants to historian S Muthiah. The grants from Mr. Belliappa's family trust and the Association of British Scholars will be used to restore more books. One of the oldest libraries in the country, the Madras Literary Society Library, established in 1817, has over 55,000 books in many languages. For details visit: <http://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/chennai/Book-lover-Help-restore-tomes-to-mintcondition/article16780044.ece>

### Best-seller Novel by a Young Girl

Divyasha Girish, the '20-something' author of the book *A 20-something Cool Dude*, has all the reasons to be excited. Her book, a passionate love story that hit the bestseller charts after its release at the Delhi Book Fair last year, has been picked up by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) to be included in its library. The ministry has added the book to the list of 200 titles that best paint a vivid picture of India, and it will go to the MEA library and also as a part of its 200 missions abroad collection, according to a *betterindia.com* report by Aditi Patwardhan. The book was conceived during the three-month break after Divyasha's class 12 exams. Entirely unsure about how it was going to turn out, she started writing and kept at it, until finally, she had a 250-page manuscript of her first novel. The journey from writing

the book to getting it published wasn't easy. The 18-year-old approached different publications who didn't take her seriously. However, patience helped her sail through the difficult times and finally she had her book published by Delhi-based LiFi Publications. A B.Tech graduate specialising in computer science from the Indira Gandhi Delhi Technical University for Women, Divyasha's original dream was to join NASA. While she is not set on becoming a professional writer yet, having published a book has certainly brought a few changes to her original plan. She is now pursuing her Masters in Management in Paris. Writing, for her, is a 'stress-buster'. For her next book, Divyasha has already started working on the draft of a story about a Delhi girl who turns into a serial killer. For more details visit: <http://www.thebetterindia.com/76129/divyasha-girish-young-author-book-promoted-by-govt-of-india-in-200-countries/>

### E-Library for Jail Inmates

Inmates of a central prison in Kerala will soon have e-books in their hands, thanks to a digital library being set up in the jail premises, which is considered as the first such facility in southern India, says a report published in *The Hindu*. Authorities of Poojappura Central Prison, one of the oldest recorded prisons in the state, are busy completing the final works of the innovative library, which will open the infinite world of e-books to its 1,300 inmates. Being implemented with the support of public sector State Bank of Travancore, the e-library is envisaged to cultivate the reading habit among the inmates and bring positive changes in their outlook towards life and society, jail sources said. Under the facility, prisoners can read not only digitized collection of books but also e-books using the Amazon Kindle reader, an application, they said. "I feel the reading habit is very strong among prisoners because options for recreation and relaxation are limited for them. But due to security reasons, we can allow only a limited number of them at the library at a time," Jail Superintendent S Santhosh said. Senior prisoners of each block now collect books for interested inmates and distribute it in their cells. But the opening up of e-library is expected to help overcome this difficulty and give more people access to the library facilities, he said. For more details visit: <http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/kerala/E-library-for-inmates-at-Kerala-jail/article16710539.ece>

### New Healthcare Digital Library

A free professional account on the social-professional platform *MedicPresents.com* has offered access to free downloadable medical presentations, documents along with a free digital marketing toolkit for medics, helping to meet the changing needs of the global healthcare sector, according to a *thehansindia.com* report. *MedicPresents.com* has announced the launch of a new digital library for medics, in a bid to meet the demand for a new voice in the healthcare sector. The new web portal is designed to keep busy healthcare professionals up to date with the latest developments in the healthcare

industry. *MedicPresents.com* is aimed at people, working in the medical and healthcare sector, including healthcare professionals, researchers, students and managers. The website uses key technologies to help communicate clinical information, simplify healthcare delivery, improve the quality of health care, and support delivery of healthcare at a distance. Topics covered include healthcare, research, reports, technical and clinical issues, delivered via medical presentations and medical documents. For more details visit: <http://www.thehansindia.com/posts/index/Health/2016-09-20/MedicPresentscom-Announces-the-Launch-of-a-New-Digital-Library-for-Healthcare-Professionals/254855>

## TECHNOLOGY NEWS

### Improved Mobile Keyboard

Google Keyboard for Android smartphones has now got a major update, so it now has new functions as well as improved usability, according to *news.google.ch* website. The latest version is labelled 5.0, and will be available for download from the Google Play store. One new feature is the fine cursor control, which allows a user to just drag his/her finger along the space bar to move the cursor between letters in a sentence. The cursor control also introduces a gesture to delete specific words in a sentence by dragging a finger from the backspace key to the left. As you cross over each word in the sentence, simply lift the finger to stop the cursor scroll and delete the last selected word. There's also a new one-hand mode which shrinks the keyboard to the left or right side of the smartphone's screen depending on whether you are left-handed or right-handed. This feature will be extremely useful for those who use big-screen smartphones, but don't always have the other hand free to hold the phone as they type out a message or an email. For more details visit: <https://news.google.ch/news/more?ncl=dorq4mMOyL-v2-MUI29ccBt9gnbGM&authuser=0&ned=us>

### Material to Prevent Cell-phone Radiation

Scientists have developed a new material that can effectively block electromagnetic waves emitting from mobile phones, televisions, microwave ovens and other appliances, says a *The Times of India* report. Researchers led by Gu Jong-min from the Korea Institute of Science and Technology (KIST) in Seoul and Drexel University in the US manufactured the material made out of Mxene. Mxene is a class of two-dimensional inorganic compounds made of titanium and carbon and a single layer is only about one nanometre. Researchers found that Mxene can block the electromagnetic waves from mobile phones, televisions, microwave ovens and other appliances, Yonhap news agency reported. One of the strengths of the material is that it is easy to process and the cost is relatively cheap, they said. "It is hoped that the developed material can be used not only to block electromagnetic waves but for other various

purposes," said Gu. For original report visit: <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/tech/tech-news/A-material-to-block-cellphone-radiation/articleshow/54288046.cms>

## SPECIAL FEATURE

### A Positive Step towards Digital Privacy

Libraries are committed to intellectual freedom and privacy. This commitment is reflected in the librarians' codes of ethics formulated in various countries. But are all libraries around the world really able to honour this commitment? Possibly not. Many libraries face "unprecedented surveillance. The technical capabilities of law enforcement and intelligence agencies are rapidly expanding, and even the best attempts at law reform can't keep up with these new powers. Over and over again, we've seen these capabilities used against protected free speech activities, especially against the speech of marginalized people. Compounding the problem of government surveillance is that of corporate surveillance".

As a measure to counter such surveillance, a project called Library Freedom Project, has taken shape in USA. "This project is essentially a partnership among librarians, technologists, attorneys, and privacy advocates, which aims to address the problems of surveillance by making real the promise of intellectual freedom in libraries. By teaching librarians about surveillance threats, privacy rights and responsibilities, and digital tools to stop surveillance, the project aims to create a privacy-centric paradigm shift in libraries and the communities they serve". The Library Freedom Project is run by generous grants from the Knight Foundation's News Challenge on Libraries, the Rose Foundation Consumer Privacy Rights Fund, the Shuttleworth Foundation, the support of individual donors, and fees received for delivering lectures and providing trainings.

The project's "Library Digital Privacy Pledge" has so far been endorsed by 20 organizations - libraries, publishers, library vendors, and library organizations. These organizations are improving privacy for library users by implementing secure protocols on their web services and asking partners to do likewise. Incidentally, the websites that do not use secure protocols, such as HTTPS, expose their users to surveillance and intrusion in the network. A wi-fi or cell-phone user, who connects to an insecure library or publisher website, makes every click visible to the wi-fi or cell-phone provider, others connected to the same network. Content can be inspected and altered by every node participating in the user's connection. The resulting lack of privacy and security is incompatible with the ethics and values of libraries. In the past few years, while Google, Facebook, Amazon, and the United States federal government have worked to implement HTTPS on all their websites; the Let's Encrypt Certificate Authority

has made secure infrastructure available to even the smallest website.

In a parallel development, a free software, called Tor, has been developed which enables anonymous communication. The name Tor has been derived from the original software project 'The Onion Router'. A Tor network, consisting of a group of volunteer-operated servers, has come up which allows people to improve their privacy and security on the Internet. Tor's users employ this network by connecting through a series of virtual tunnels rather than making a direct connection, thus allowing both organizations and individuals to share information over public networks without compromising their privacy. Along the same line, Tor is an effective censorship circumvention tool, allowing its users to reach otherwise blocked destinations or content. Tor can also be used as a building block for software developers to create new communication tools with built-in privacy features.

The Library Freedom Project and Tor Project have since joined forces to establish Tor exit nodes in libraries in an effort to protect Internet freedom, bolster the Tor network and show the public how Tor can be used to protect their digital free expression rights. "Relays make up the backbone of the Tor network, which is what powers the Tor Browser. Tor Browser is the only web browser that gives the user anonymity and prevents tracking and censorship. It's a powerful tool for free expression, one that libraries should be installing on their public PCs and teaching to patrons".

Tor Exit Relay Project enabled the Kilton Public Library in Lebanon, New Hampshire, USA, to become in July 2015 the first library in the United States to host Tor. However, "this service was put on hold in early September, when the library was visited by the local police department after they had received an e-mail from Department of Homeland Security highlighting the criminal uses of the Tor network (and which falsely claimed that this was the network's primary usage). After an outpouring of support from the Electronic Frontier Foundation, the Massachusetts and New Hampshire affiliates of the American Civil Liberties Union, the Tor Project itself, an editorial in the local paper Valley News strongly in favour of the pilot project, and virtually unanimous public testimony, the library board of trustees decided on September 15, 2015 to renew the anonymity service, letting stand its previous unanimous vote to establish the middle relay". Following this, in March 2016, New Hampshire state representative Keith Ammon introduced a bill allowing public libraries to run privacy software such as Tor. It may be mentioned that Tor is not meant to completely solve the issue of anonymity on the web. Instead, it simply focuses on protecting the transportation of data so that certain sites cannot trace back the data to a given location. It is still possible for sites to backtrack to a location. Tor is not designed to erase a

user's tracks but to simply make it less likely for sites to trace back to them.

The efforts of Library Freedom Project have been recognized by Free Software Foundation by conferring on it the Award for Projects for Social Benefit 2015. But unfortunately the reach of the project is only limited to USA, though the problem of state surveillance of Internet use is prevalent in many other countries, and even in USA the project is being supported by only a limited number of organizations. The libraries in every country must try to meet the commitment to intellectual freedom and privacy, but at the same time ensure that such freedom and privacy are not misused.

[Sources: <https://libraryfreedomproject.org/>, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Library\\_Freedom\\_Project](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Library_Freedom_Project), <https://www.torproject.org/about/overview.html.en>, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tor\\_\(anonymity\\_network\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tor_(anonymity_network)), <https://www.scmagazine.com/tor-project-library-freedom-project-to-establish-tor-exit-nodes-in-libraries/article/532727/>]

## NEW LIS LITERATURE

### Indian

1. AHMED (Hilal). Integrated Library Management Systems: an Indian Scenario of Modern Library Automation. 2016. Ess Ess Publication, New Delhi. Rs. 925. ISBN: 9788170008101

(Gives a detailed description of library automation both at indigenous and global levels from its traditional to modern period)

2. GUNJAL (Bhojaraju) et al. Electronic Resource Management in Libraries: Trends: Issues and Challenges. 2016. Ess Ess Publication, New Delhi. Rs. 1500. ISBN : 9788170008071

(Explains the concept of electronic resource management in libraries, its associated issues and challenges, emerging trends and techniques)

3. MALHAN (I V) et al, *Eds.* Transformation of LIS Education, Libraries and Information Services for Knowledge Society. 2v. 2016. Ess Ess Publication, New Delhi. Rs. 3000. ISBN: 9788170008033

(This is the festschrift volume in honour of Prof. Jagtar Singh of DLIS, Punjabi University, Patiala. The first part includes collections of papers written by professionals from various parts of the world and the second part includes personal perceptions and photographs that showcase the life and work of Prof. Singh)

4. WAGHCHAURE (Shilpa S). Best practices in academic libraries. 2016. Ess Ess Publication, New Delhi. Rs. 950. ISBN: 9788170007753

***Foreign***

1. CHATTERJEE (Amitabha). Elements of Information Organization and Dissemination. 2017. Chandos Publishing, Oxford. \$ 99.95. ISBN: 9780081020258  
(Discusses different activities involved in organization and dissemination of information (IOD) and, wherever needed, suggests the steps required for performing a task related to IOD in a library or information center)
2. DILWORTH (Kathryn) and HENZEL (Laura Sloop). Successful Fundraising for the Academic Library: Philanthropy in Higher Education. 2016. Chandos Publishing, Oxford. ISBN: 978-0081011300  
(Provides information that applies to all fundraising professionals and academic leaders looking to strengthen their programmes with philanthropic support, even those beyond university libraries)
3. SMET (Egbert de) and DHAMDHERE (Sangeeta N). E-Discovery Tools and Applications in Modern Libraries. 2016. IGI Global, Hershey, Pennsylvania. \$ 195. ISBN: 978- 1522504740  
(Presents critical research on the digitization of data and how this shift has impacted knowledge discovery, storage, and retrieval)

**OBITUARY**

**Dr. Dibyendu Pal**, Professor, Department of Library & Information Science, University of Calcutta, Kolkata, passed away on December 11, 2016 following a road accident in Kolkata. He was 53. Born in Badalpur village of West Midnapur district in West Bengal, late Prof. Pal obtained M Com, B Lib I Sc and M Lib I Sc degrees from the University of Calcutta and in 1998 joined as librarian of Srischandra College, Kolkata. He joined DLIS, Kalyani University, Kalyani, as a lecturer in 2000 and shifted to DLIS, University of Calcutta, in the same post in 2009, where he was later promoted as an Associate Professor and in 2015 as a Professor. He served as the head of the department during 2014-16. He was a student leader while studying in the University of Calcutta and also a leader of teacher movement while serving as a university teacher. He served as a member of the Court of Kalyani University and a member of the Senate of the University of Calcutta. IASLIC, of which he was a life member, deeply mourns his untimely death and conveys heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family.

Published by Dr. J. N. Satpathi on behalf of IASLIC, P-291, CIT Scheme No. 6M, Kankurgachi, Kolkata - 700054.  
Printed at Microprint Graphics, 1A, Raja Lane, Kolkata 700 009.  
Editor: Prof. Amitabha Chatterjee

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