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IASLIC NEWSLETTER

For Members only

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Prof. J K Sarkhel

Prof. K P Majumder

Prof. P K Panigrahi

Quote of the Month

“Nothing sickens me more than the closed door of a Library.”

- Barbara Tuchman
American historian and author.

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 31st ALL INDIA CONFERENCE 2017

Theme: Public Libraries in India in 21st Century

Special Interest Group Discussions

SIG01: Social Science Information

Information Literacy Competency Development

SIG02 Computer Applications in LIS

Digital Indian Initiative and Libraries

Organized by

Department of Library & Information Science

Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi 221005

Organizing Secretary

Dr. Aditya Tripathi

Associate Professor & Head

Department of Library & Information Science

Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi 221005

Date:

November 7- 9, 2017

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Study Circle Lecture on Physical Education Subject Gateways

Ms. E Gajalakshmi, Assistant Library & Information Officer, National Library, Kolkata, delivered a lecture on “*Subject Gateways of Physical Education Web Resources: An Evaluative Study*” at the 329th IASLIC study circle meeting held on April 27, 2017 at the IASLIC Seminar Hall. Ms. Gajalakshmi, in her lecture, pointed out that Physical Education was one of the neglected subjects in the country. Very few

universities had facilities for study of this subject and that not much research had been done in this area, she said. She then informed that she was developing a subject gateway using Drupal on this subject through which all types of information regarding the subject will be available. She also discussed different aspects of this gateway. Earlier in his welcome address, Dr. Sudip Ranjan Harua, the new convener of the Study Circle, explained the objectives of IASLIC Study Circle and importance of the topic of lecture. The meeting, which was chaired by Prof. K P Majumder, former Professor & Head, Department of Library & Information Science, Jadavpur University, Kolkata, and Vice-President of IASLIC Zone-6, was attended by a good number of library and information professionals and LIS students. The meeting ended with a vote of thanks proposed by Dr. Nitai Roychoudhury, Joint Secretary of IASLIC.

CONFERENCES / SEMINARS / WORKSHOPS

National

NML Capacity Building Programme

Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation is organizing a Capacity Building Programme of National Mission on Libraries for Public Library Personnel at University of Petroleum & Energy Studies, Dehradun, during June 5- 9, 2017. For details visit: http://www.google.co.in/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=3&ved=0ahUKEwjh_ey9vorUAhUDuI8KHZlnAs8QFggrMAI&url=http%3A%2F%2Frrrlf.nic.in%2Fpdf%2FCapacity_Building_Programme_Brochure.pdf&usq=AFQjCNHXu9h_wslh-YfmOxF7mF_aftpAag

Conference on Managing Libraries in e-Environment

A National Conference on 'Managing the Libraries in Electronic Environment: Experiences and Success Stories of Library Professionals' will be held during June 29- 30, 2017 at Andhra University, Visakhapatnam. For details visit: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B6LeLEarro9DTGVtUUI3VmpHSFVPdjhtNkU3Sko1ZmVCSHBV/view?usp=sharing>

Seminar on Transformation of Libraries

A National Seminar on 'Transforming Libraries in Digital India' (NSTL-2017) is being organized by DLIS, Manipur University, Imphal, during July 5- 6, 2017. For details visit: www.manipuruniv.ac.in

Koha and Dspace Training

The Information Resource Centre of Integrated Academy of Management and Technology (INMANTEC), Ghaziabad, in collaboration with Delhi Library Association (DLA) and Ranganathan Society for Social

Welfare and Library Development (RSSWLD) is going to organize a National Workshop on 'Open Source Software Koha & D-Space Training and Certification' for library and information professionals during July 14-16, 2017. For details visit: <http://www.inmantec.edu/event/three-day-national-workshop-on-open-source-software-koha-d-space/>

Conference on Trends in Libraries

A UGC sponsored National Level Conference on 'Libraries for Today and Tomorrow' is being organized by the Department of Library, Muthurangan Government Arts College (Autonomous), Vellore, Tamil Nadu, on July 21, 2017. For details email to: mgaclibrary@gmail.com

Seminar on Re-imagining Librarianship

A Librarian's Day seminar on Re-imagining Today's Librarianship' is being organized jointly by Adani Institute of Infrastructure, Ahmedabad, and Ahmedabad Library Network, to commemorate 125th Birth Anniversary of Dr. S R Ranganathan, at Adani Institute of Infrastructure on August 12, 2017. For details visit: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B9Qc9fh9kj-fNG0xTXVnT0ZUeHJTM0s5Tnhoai1vdzhJWURz/view>

Conference on Role of Library in Digital Era

The 2nd International Conference of Asian Libraries (ICAL-2017), jointly organized by Dr. Zakir Husain Library, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi, and Asian Library Association, New Delhi, will be held during October, 26-28, 2017 at Jamia Millia Islamia. The theme of the conference is 'Expanding Digital Footprints: Role of Libraries & Information Centre'. For details visit: libraryconference@jmi.ac.in/www.jmi.ac.in

Refresher Course in LIS

North Bengal University, Raja Rammohunpur, West Bengal, is going to organize a refresher course in Library and Information Science during November 2 -22, 2017. For details visit: www.nbu.ac.in

Conference on Information for All

The 6th National Conference of Institute of Scientometrics, Tumkur, will be organized by the Department of Public Libraries, Bangalore, during November 16-17, 2017. The theme of the conference is 'Information for All'. For details visit: <http://www.instmetrics.org/>

Seminar on Role of Academic Libraries in Knowledge Society: Brief Report

The Department of Library and Information Science, Rabindra Bharati University, organized a National Seminar on 'Towards knowledge society and the role of academic libraries: problems and prospects' on March 18, 2017. Prof. Sabyasachi Basu Ray Chaudhury, Vice-Chancellor of the university, inaugurated the seminar. Prof. Pijushkanti Panigrahi, Dean, Faculty of Education, Journalism and Library and Information Science of Calcutta University,

was the Chief Guest of the inaugural session. Dr. Bibhuti Bhusan Sahoo, Deputy Librarian, Indian Institute of Technology, Bhubaneswar, delivered the keynote address. Welcoming the dignitaries at the outset, Dr. Sudip Ranjan Hatua, Head of the Department and Director of the seminar, introduced the theme of the seminar. The latest volume (Vol. 18) of *RBU Journal of Library & Information Science*, and the volume containing the papers of the seminar were released at the inaugural session. Altogether 34 papers were presented in three technical sessions chaired by Prof. Udayan Bhattacharya of Jadavpur University, Dr. Nimai Chand Saha, Deputy Librarian of Viswabharati University, and Dr. Samir Kumar Jalal, Deputy Librarian of IIT Kharagpur, respectively. Each presentation was followed by lively discussions. In the valedictory session chaired by Dr. Hatua, Prof. Amitabha Chatterjee, former Professor & Head, Department of Library & Information Science, Jadavpur University, Kolkata, delivered the valedictory address on 'Role of Academic Libraries in India's March towards Knowledge Society'. The programme ended with a vote of thanks proposed by Dr. Ziaur Rahman and Smt. Snigdha Naskar, Assistant Professors and Joint Organizing Secretaries of the Seminar.

SIS Conference on Open Access: Brief Report

The Society for Information Science (SIS), an all India professional organization, conducted its 33rd Annual Convention and Conference, in collaboration with CSIR-Indian Institute of Chemical Biology (CSIR-IICB), Kolkata, during April 7-8, 2017 at CSIR-IICB auditorium. The theme of the conference was 'Open Access: The Road to Freedom'. The Conference was inaugurated on April 7, 2017 by Prof. Samit Chattopadhyay, Director, CSIR-IICB, who highlighted the importance of Open Access in communicating results of public funded research. Dr. Jagdish Arora, Director, INFLIBNET, Dr. Arun Kumar Chakraborty, Director General, RRRLF and National Library, Kolkata, Dr. Naresh Kumar, President, Society for Information Science (SIS), Dr. Manoj Kumar Patariya, Director, CSIR-NISCAIR, New Delhi, and Dr. P. Jaisankar, Chief Scientist, CSIR-IICB were among the key speakers. At the outset, all the participants and dignitaries observed silence in the fond memory of Prof. Eugene Garfield, who had passed away in February last.

Altogether 57 research papers were presented in seven sessions including Garfield Session. There were interesting discussions and interactions following each presentation. On the second day, there was a panel discussion on 'Subscription Journals, Open Journals and Pre-publication Archives: Do Ways of Science

Communication Influence Progress of Science?'. The conference was attended by knowledge resource personnel from different institutions and libraries and also personnel from different international publishers. There were more than 130 registered participants including young researchers. The conference became an international platform through the participation of the professionals from Bangladesh, and an invited talk delivered by Kathleen Shearer, Executive Director, Confederation of Open Access Repositories (COAR), Canada, through video conferencing. Apart from that, about 15 eminent personalities delivered invited talks during the conference. The conference concluded with a resolution advocating increased open access to scholarly literature which would stimulate open science and ultimately open innovation. Dr. Narayan Chandra Ghosh, Organizing Secretary, SIS-2017, conveyed his heartfelt gratitude to everybody involved in the conference directly or indirectly for the fruitful deliberations and successful completion of the conference with a meaningful resolution.

CRL Observes World Book Day

Central Reference Library, Kolkata, organized a programme on April 24, 2017 to observe 'World Book Day'. The programme started with Sarasvati Vandana by Smt. Vaishnavi Kulkarni followed by welcome address by Shri P K Upadhyay, Assistant Editor, Indian National Bibliography (INB). The keynote address was delivered by Prof. Amitabha Chatterjee, former Professor & Head, Dept. of Library and Information Science, Jadavpur University, Kolkata, on the topic 'Readability and its measurement'. He first explained the concept of readability and the various factors that affect readability through interesting examples and then discussed the readability formulas that can be applied for measuring the readability of any writing. He also suggested some guidelines that may help in producing better readable writings. Shri Arup Kumar Ghosh, Assistant Editor, INB, dwelt on the difference in reading physical books and e-books. Though e-book became quite popular, the trend reversed soon and now people were again preferring physical books over e-books, he opined. Shri Santhosh Jangam, Sub-Editor, INB, discussed about the future of books. Dr. K K Kochukoshy, Librarian, Central Reference Library, who chaired the programme, opined that measurement of readability was not relevant for creative writing. Shri K K Sarma, Assistant Editor, INB, proposed a vote of thanks. Dr. Shahina P Ahas, Assistant Editor, INB, who compered the programme, also spoke on the occasion.

Seminar on Personality Development: Brief Report

Career and Counselling Cell and Dept. of English of K D College of Commerce and General Studies, Medinipur, in collaboration with Vidyasagar Teachers' Training College, Medinipur, organized a UGC sponsored National Seminar

on 'Personality Development and Communication Skill: Tools for the Present Era' during March 3-4, 2017. Prof. Pijush Kanti Panigrahi, Dean, Faculty of Education, Journalism and Library and Information Science, University of Calcutta, inaugurated the seminar. At the outset, Dr. Milan Kumar Sarkar, Librarian and Organizing Secretary of the seminar, welcomed the guests and participants. Dr. Jayanta Kishore Nandi, Registrar, Vidyasagar University, Medinipur, was the Guest of Honour, while Prof. S B Banerjee, former Deputy Manager (Information), Hindusthan Paper Corporation Ltd., Kolkata, delivered the keynote address. Several well-known educators, viz., Dr. Biswajit Sen, Teacher-in-Charge, Vidyasagar Teachers' Training College; Sri Shyamalendu Krishna Maity, President, Governing Body, K D College; Dr. Dulal Chandra Das, Principal, K D College; Dr. Uttam Kumar Jena, Head, Dept. of English, K D College; Dr. Joyjit Ghosh, Head, Dept. of English, Vidyasagar University, Ms. Barnali Roy Choudhury, Former Faculty of Management Institution, New Delhi; and Ms. Soma Mukherjee, Director, Disha Academy, Kolkata, delivered lectures on different aspects of the theme. Dr. Kartick Chandra Pal, Former Professor, Dept. of Commerce with Farm Management, Vidyasagar University, delivered the valedictory address. Altogether 32 papers were presented in five technical sessions. More than 200 delegates representing different segments of the society, including a good number of LIS professionals, participated in the seminar.

International

Conference on Transformation of Library

The 1st International Conference on 'Transforming Library 2017' is being organized by Central Institute of Technology Kokrajhar, BTC, Assam, during July 8 -10, 2017. For details visit: <http://ictl.co.in/>

Workshop on Bibliometric-enhanced IR

The 2nd Joint Workshop on 'Bibliometric-enhanced IR and NLP for Digital Libraries (BIRNDL)', will be held as part of 40th International ACM SIGIR Conference on Research and Development in Information Retrieval (SIGIR 2017) in Tokyo, Japan, on August 11, 2017. For details visit: <http://wing.comp.nus.edu.sg/birndl-sigir2017/>

Conference on Digital Information Management

The 12th International Conference on 'Digital Information Management' (ICDIM 2017) will be held at Kyushu University, Fukuoka, Japan, during September 12-14, 2017. ICDIM 2017 will host the following co-located workshops during the conference: Third Workshop on Internet of Everything (IoE), Third International Workshop on 'Future Big Data' (FBD 2017), and Third Workshop on Intelligent Information Systems (IIS 2017). For details visit: www.icdim.org

Forum on Data, Information and Knowledge

The 19th International Conference on Asia-Pacific Digital Libraries (ICADL 2017) will be co-located with The 8th Asia-Pacific Conference on Library & Information Education and Practice (A-LIEP) Conference at Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand, under a collective title 'International Forum on Data, Information, and Knowledge for Digital Lives'. The forum will take place during November 13-14, 2017. For details visit: <http://www.icadl2017.org>

Conference on Future of Libraries

An International Conference on 'Future of Libraries: From Promises to Practice', organized by Documentation Research and Training Centre, Indian Statistical Institute, Bangalore, will be held during November 15-17, 2017. For details visit: icflfpp@gmail.com

Conference on LI Services in Knowledge Society: Brief Report

An International Conference on 'Library and Information Services in Knowledge Society: Innovative, Value Added Services and Best Practices' was held during March 1-3, 2017 at DLIS, Mizoram University, Aizawl. The conference was organized in collaboration with North Eastern Council, Shillong; Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, New Delhi; Indian Council of Social Science Research, New Delhi; Raja Rammohan Library Foundation, Kolkata; Information and Library Network Centre, Gandhinagar; and knowledge partner National Digital Library (MHRD), Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur. The conference commenced on March 1, 2017 amidst a gathering of more than 170 comprising of international delegates from USA, Germany, Singapore, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Indonesia, Nigeria, Myanmar and delegates from various parts of India such as, Kolkata, Chennai, Mumbai, Ahmadabad, Bhubaneswar, Varanasi, Guwahati, Tezpur, Silchar, Agartala, Aizawl, and Shillong. There were four broad sub-themes of the conference: (i) Digital Library: Innovative and Value Added Services; (ii) Social Media: Its Application in Libraries; (iii) Indigenous Knowledge and Preservation; (iv) LIS Education and Research. The conference volume, edited by Prof. R K Rath, Prof. R K Ngurtinkhuma and Prof. R N Mishra, was released on the occasion. Altogether 46 out of 64 papers were presented. Prof. Pravakar Rath was the conference director while, Prof. R N Mishra and Prof. R K Ngurtinkhuma were the Secretary and Joint Secretary respectively of the organizing committee.

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

The Goethe-Institut's Little Library

The Goethe-Institut / Max Mueller Bhavan, Bangalore, has started a new initiative "MINIBIB: YOUR LITTLE

LIBRARY” to promote reading culture. MINIBIB is a glass box filled with books and is placed next to the security post of Goethe-Institut / Max Mueller Bhavan for public use free of cost. There is one simple rule: take one, give one. “It did not cost us much and we have received great feedback”, says a Facebook post by the Goethe-Institut. For details visit: <https://www.facebook.com/goetheinstitut.bangalore/posts/10155135133714283>

New LIS School

The Central University of Tamil Nadu, Neelakudi, Thiruvarur, is setting up a Department of Library & Information Science w.e.f. July 2017 and introducing a 2-year integrated M Lib I Sc course.

Online Course on Petroleum Data Management

Robert Gordon University, Aberdeen, UK, has launched a Petroleum Data Management Graduate Certificate Course that is delivered online over the course of 9 months. The course aims to promote the understanding of sub-surface exploration and production data and evaluate its importance to upstream oil and gas businesses. The course focuses on managing sub-surface exploration and production data throughout its life cycle from capture to realization until it becomes obsolete. For details visit: <http://www.rgu.ac.uk/information-communication-and-media/study-options/distance-and-flexible-learning/petroleum-data-management/>

IGNOU's Role in NVL

The Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) is aiding in the initiative of Ministry of Culture under the National Mission of Libraries by way of creating a union catalogue of libraries across India which, apart from books, includes artefacts and other resources from libraries, museums, archives, etc. using open source platform Koha, according to an IGNOU announcement. Prof. Ravindra Kumar, Vice Chancellor, IGNOU, during the inaugural session of a five-day training workshop organised recently by IGNOU, in conjunction with the Ministry of Culture and the Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation (RRRLF), Kolkata, stressed on the requirement of capacity building of library professionals, specially with the major trend adoption of ICT applications in all walks of life and Digital India Initiative of Government of India. IGNOU, along with IIT- Bombay and CDAC, have been entrusted with the responsibility of developing the National Virtual Library of India (NVL) under the National Mission on Libraries (NML), which will be hosting information on the entire Indian cultural heritage in the digital web world. For details visit: http://www.ignou.ac.in/ignou/bulletinboard/announcements/latest/detail/IGNOU_helps_MoC_in_Creating_a_National_Virtual_Library_of_India-1870

Moving Library of Nagpur

According to a report by Abha Goradia from Nagpur published in *The Times of India*, one Friday morning in

April last, inside Trimurti Nagar's NIT garden, three tables showcasing an array of books in various genres were displayed in one corner, near the jogging track. Behind hung a poster which read 'Phirte granthalay', a moving library. Next to it was a poster with 'Read India' written in bold letters. "That morning, several people saw the banners and books with curiosity. Some came and browsed the books the next day, and some registered. On the third day, over 30 people took forms from us," said Anil Chanakhekar, secretary of Rajaram Dixit Vachanalaya, Dharampeth. Till next Sunday, this library saw 18 registrations in the garden itself, and next it would be moving to Sneh Nagar garden, followed by Aaji-Ajoba Park in Swawalambi Nagar to attract registrations. Under this initiative, the members need to pay a registration charge of Rs. 300, and Rs. 100 as monthly fee; Rs. 150 if the reader wants to borrow two books at a time. “The registration charge has been levied so that each registration helps the library buy one new book in order to offer readers latest books in future. The monthly charge barely covers up the transportation cost and salary of a helper”, said Chanakhekar. This moving library aims to cover west Nagpur and other areas, including Wadi and Hingna which have developed recently but lack public library facility. For details visit: <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/nagpur/mobile-library-coming-to-a-locality-near-you-soon/articleshow/58368437.cms>

Mumbai's Night Librarian

Thirty-eight-year old Krishna Yadav's work “day” as a night librarian starts every night with dinner being delivered to his workplace, sponsored by his employers. The private library, located in Malad, is open for all 24 hours and provides space for students to study undisturbed, according to a write-up by Mythreyee Ramesh published in *The Indian Express*. Once a student enters the library after 8 pm, he or she is allowed to go out either at midnight, or at the wee hours of 2:30 am, or at 5:30 am. And Yadav's primary duty is to guard all the students who come at night to study and also provide them logistical assistance, if required. A Class 12 pass-out, Yadav knows to read and write English and is often intrigued by the kind of books the students bring with them to study. “Where education is, that is where everything is. I feel satisfied at the end of the day. Parents trust me and leave their children with me. I understand that the reason I am here is because I want my children to be educated,” said Yadav, who hails from a village near Allahabad in Uttar Pradesh. For details visit: <http://indianexpress.com/article/cities/mumbai/night-shift-this-mumbai-librarians-work-day-starts-after-dinner-4419663/>

Book Café run by Jail Inmates

The first Book Cafe of Shimla, situated just above the the historical Ridge at Takka Bench, was inaugurated recently by Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Virbhadr Singh, says a PTI report published in *Business Standard*. The Café, funded by the State Tourism Department, was jointly built

by the State Government and the Prisons Department. Prison Inmates of Kaithu Jail, Jai Chand and Yog Raj, serving life imprisonment, would initially run the cafe. They would be chefs and would be assisted by two other inmates Ram Lal and Raj Kumar, DGP (Prisons) Somesh Goyal said. They had been imparted training at Radisson Hotel and trials were successful, he said. Besides cold drinks, cookies, pizza and biscuits will be part of the menu. The food would be prepared and served by the jail's inmates, the DGP said. The centre will have a wide range of books by famous authors on environment, wild life, flowers, animals and the state. The café will have a sitting capacity for 40 persons. For details visit: http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/cm-inaugurates-shimla-s-first-book-cafe-117041101338_1.html

Survey of India Portal Launched

A new web portal “*nakshe*” was launched by the Union Minister for Science & Technology and Earth Sciences, Dr. Harsh Vardhan, in New Delhi on April 10, 2017, on the occasion of 250th anniversary of Survey of India (SoI), says a press release by Press Information Bureau, Government of India. Topographic maps or Open Series Maps (OSM) containing natural and man-made geographical features including terrain or topography are prepared by the SoI since its inception in 1767 and is in conformity with the National Map Policy-2005. These OSM maps have been made available for free download from “*nakshe*” web portal in pdf format on 1:50,000 scale through Aadhar enabled user authentication process, in line with Digital India programme of the Government of India. The launch of the portal was followed with a curtain raiser of SoI Geoport and Web Services Platform and a panel discussion on Geospatial Paradigm in India that deals with the users' perspective on Geospatial Policy Framework in India. A technical presentation on development of the Geoid model for country was also made. For details visit: <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=160805>

TECHNOLOGY NEWS

New Browser for free Internet search

As Reliance Jio Infocomm ends its free offer and moves into a billing mode, Indians are being pampered with another, this time from Boston-based mobile advertising firm Jana, says a report by Rajesh Kurup published in *The Hindu Businessline*. Jana has recently launched an Android browser mCent Browser that enables users to surf the web free-of-cost globally, including in India and other emerging markets. In the initial phase, it will provide users up to 10 MB data free per day (70 MB per week), while the company will get its revenues from advertisements, which pop-up or roll across user screens. “Our mission is to make the Internet free for the next billion. We aim to provide unrestricted access to the entire Internet, with a quality user experience. Through mCent Browser, users can now pick

up their phone every day and browse the Internet without worrying about high data costs,” said Jana Chief Executive Officer and Co-Founder Nathan Eagle. However, a user would require a mobile connection to access the browser, which has to be downloaded on to Android handset. For details visit: <http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/info-tech/jana-to-launch-internet-browser-with-free-data-service/article9577823.ece>

SPECIAL FEATURE

And Now Village of Books!

Suppose you are on a long drive and feeling thirsty for a cup of tea. Suddenly you come across a busy village by the side of the road where many people have gathered. You get down there in search of a tea stall, but as you enter into the village, you get awe struck. Lo and behold! You are in the midst of books and books and books flaunted by bookshops and libraries all around. No this is not a day-dream. It is a reality if you are in the western part of the country. Such an experience can be had in a village called Bhilar lying between the picturesque hill stations of Panchgani and Mahabaleshwar in Satara district of Maharashtra. Bhilara has so long been a sleepy village known for its strawberry cultivation and having no literary pretensions. But the hamlet has suddenly turned into a popular hangout for the bibliophiles after it was declared India's first 'Pustakanche Gaav' (the village of books) by the Maharashtra Government.

“It is a pivotal moment in the country's socio-cultural milieu” declared Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis while inaugurating this Village of Books - the first of its kind in the country - recently. Led by the state Education Minister Vinod Tawde, this project was undertaken by the Marathi Bhasha Department. Responding to government appeal through Swatva, an informal WhatsApp-based artist and art-lovers' network, around 75 artists from Mumbai and Pune voluntarily turned up at Bhilar and painted and artistically decorated walls of houses, temples and other tourist destinations as a part of 3-day painting camp. They painted the walls with graphics and images of books. The walls of schools and community halls in the village have been adorned with paintings of saints like Tukaram and national leaders like Bal Gangadhar Tilak in a bid to resonate with the literary fervour of the place.

Twenty-five locations across the village have been converted into reader hotspots with free libraries and thousands of books to choose from. Each of the 25 locations chosen initially is dedicated to a particular genre of literature and the walls of the cottages are depicted with literary themes. Around 15,000 rare books and old magazines in Marathi have been stocked and kept on display. Books cover various subjects, such as literature, poetry, religion, history, folk literature, biographies and reference books about Maharashtra and Marathi culture,

besides books for children numbering around 2000. For the convenience of the readers, the government has also provided chairs, tables, decorated umbrellas and glass bookcases at these spots. Books in the village are available to read without any charge. Anybody can pick up a book of his or her choice as long as he or she wants and keep it back for others. But according to authorities, a nominal deposit fee would be charged from readers to ensure proper maintenance of books.

Prominent writers, poets and artistes are expected to host events to promote culture and literature in the village. The state government has asked locals and other literary institutions to conduct reading sessions and literary events at the village to attract book-lovers and has planned to organize regular school excursions for students to give the younger generation an opportunity to spend some quality time in the company of the books and help them rediscover the gems of literature from the days bygone. According to Minister Tawde, the government is also planning to hold literary festivals in the village in the summers since a lot of tourists visit Panchgani and neighbouring destinations for vacationing during this time.

Vinay Mavlankar, in-charge of the project, has said that currently there are only Marathi books, but soon English and Hindi books will also be stocked. In the next phase, the government also plans to build a state-of-the-art library, litterateurs' corner and a venue for literary workshops - all on a 3.5-acre plot. Balasaheb Bhilare, a villager and one of the 25 hosts, who has turned a portion of his house into a free library, expressed the hope that the initiative would promote a reading habit among the youth. He said that more people were coming forward to host free libraries at their homes.

Nevertheless, the idea of book-village or book-town is not new. It was first mooted in 1961 in rural Wales in a small nearly forgotten town called Hay-on-Wye located on the south-east bank of River Wye. Richard Booth, an entrepreneur, bought several buildings in the town and turned them into bookstores. Today over 30 independent booksellers sell second-hand and antiquarian books, prints and other works on paper to thousands of readers and collectors who flood into this small town. There are also several 'honesty bookshops' and tiny outdoor shelves. The town has now turned into the world's largest second-hand book centre and it has been declared as the National Book Town of Wales. It hosts the Hay Festival, one of the top literary festivals, every year since 1988.

Over the years at least forty book-villages or book-towns have come up - in different countries. In Europe, almost in every country such villages or towns have come up sometimes more than one - while in USA book-towns have been developed in at least five areas. Canada also has a book-town. Asia-Pacific countries are also not lagging behind. Book-towns have been set up in Japan, South Korea, Australia and even in the small country of

Malaysia, which has two such villages in Langkawi and Malacca. The Indian book-village in Bhilara is the latest addition to this list.

Interestingly, an International Organization of Book-Towns, has been set up with the main objectives of raising public awareness about book-towns and stimulating interest by giving information via the Internet and by organizing an International Book-Town Festival every second year; strengthening the rural economy and enhancing the quality of book-towns by exchanging knowledge, skills and knowhow between the book-towns and their individual sellers and other businesses; and helping to maintain regional and national cultural heritage, and to raise international public awareness of such heritage. Its membership is open to associations, organizations, local governments, businesses or individuals in book-towns.

Though belated, a good beginning has at last been made in India with the setting up of Bhilara village of books. But in a vast country like ours, we need many more such villages in different corners of the country. Let us hope that other states will emulate the efforts of Maharashtra and we shall soon have a prominent place on the world map of book-villages and book-towns.

[Sources: <http://www.firstpost.com/india/maharashtras-village-of-books-bhilar-is-a-bibliophiles-paradise-3429460.html>, <http://www.hindustantimes.com/mumbai-news/india-s-very-own-hay-on-wye-book-village-to-come-up-near-pune/story-fv1TxB4mrzURkim7Us7VOK.html>, <http://www.thebetterindia.com/99108/book-village-bhilar/>, <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hay-on-Way>, <http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/indias-first-village-of-books-opens/article18385850.ece>, <http://www.hobartbookvillage.com/about-us.html>, <http://www.booktown.net/>, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Book_town]

PERSONALIA

Dr. Ziaur Rahman has joined DLIS, Rabindra Bharati University, Kolkata, as Assistant Professor. A Ph D degree holder from Jadavpur University, Kolkata, he has earlier served as Librarian, Ananda Chandra College, Jalpaiguri, West Bengal; as Assistant Professor in the DLIS, Assam University, Silchar; and as Lecturer (contractual) in DLIS, North-Bengal University, Raja Rammohunpur, West Bengal.

Smt. Snigdha Naskar has joined DLIS, Rabindra Bharati University, Kolkata, as an Assistant Professor. An M Lib I Sc degree holder from the University of Calcutta, Smt. Naskar was earlier working in the same position in Vidyasagar University, Medinipur. She has also served in the Asiatic Society for a brief period.

Smt. Sharmila Bose Majumder, has been awarded Ph D degree by Gauhati University for her thesis entitled 'Evaluation of University Library Websites of West Bengal: A Study from Librarians' Perspective'. She did

her research under the supervision of Prof. Narendra Lahkar, DLIS, Gauhati University. Dr. Bose Majumder is a life member of IASLIC.

Shri Gurudas Ghosh has been awarded Ph D degree in Library and Information Science by Rabindra Bharati University, Kolkata, for his thesis entitled 'Sources of Information on Himalayas: content analysis'. Dr. Ghosh has pursued his research work under the guidance of Prof. Pinaki Nath Mukhopadhyay, Retired Professor, DLIS, Rabindra Bharati University. He is at present serving as Technical Assistant (Library) at S N Bose National Centre for Basic Sciences, Kolkata. He is also the Associate Editor of IASLIC Newsletter.

Smt. Sonali Dapsi has been awarded Ph D degree in Library and Information Science by Rabindra Bharati University, Kolkata, for her thesis entitled 'Folksonomical study of the articles in Library and Information Science journals published by professional Associations and Institutions in India during 1998-2012'. Dr. Dapsi has pursued her research work under the guidance of Dr. Sudip Ranjan Hatua, Assistant Professor, DLIS, Rabindra Bharati University. She is at present serving as Librarian, Raja Peary Mohan College, Uttarpara, Hooghly.

Shri Bapan Kumar Maity has been awarded Ph D degree in Library and Information Science by Rabindra Bharati University, Kolkata, for his thesis entitled 'Designing a Model to evaluate Scholarly Publications with Special reference to Social Sciences in India'. Dr. Maity has pursued his research work under the guidance of Dr. Sudip Ranjan Hatua, Assistant Professor, DLIS, Rabindra Bharati University. He is at present serving as Assistant Librarian, Meghnad Saha Institute of Technology, Kolkata.

Shri Shyamal Ghosh has been awarded Ph D degree in Library and Information Science by Rabindra Bharati University, Kolkata, for his thesis entitled 'A Model for Information Services in Private Technical Colleges in West Bengal'. Dr. Ghosh has pursued his research work under the guidance of Dr. Sudip Ranjan Hatua, Assistant Professor, DLIS, Rabindra Bharati University. He is at present serving as Librarian, Academy of Technology, Adisaptagram, Hooghly.

Shri Nantu Acharjya has been awarded Ph D degree in Library and Information Science by Rabindra Bharati University, Kolkata, for his thesis entitled 'Prabasi Patrikay Prokashito Rachana Samuher Bishoy Vittik Bishleshon' (in Bengali) . Dr. Acharjya has pursued his research work under the guidance of Dr. Sudip Ranjan Hatua, Assistant Professor, DLIS, Rabindra Bharati University. He is at present serving as Librarian, Kanchrapara College, North 24 Parganas.

OBITUARY

Prof. G V S L Narasimha Raju, former Professor & Head, DLIS, Andhra University, Visakhapatnam, passed away in the early morning of May 23, 2017. He was 84. Prof. Raju was suffering from Parkinson disease. Prof. Raju was attached with Andhra University for more than 35 years and retired on August 31, 1993. His teaching prowess endeared him to all his students. Prof. Raju also served as chairman of Board of Studies and advisor to foreign students of the university. For some time he also served as the university librarian. Prof. Raju was a life member of IASLIC. The association deeply mourns his death.

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