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# IASLIC NEWSLETTER

For Members only

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## Quote of the Month

*“There is more treasure in books than in all the pirate's loot on Treasure Island.”*

- Walt Disney.

## 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)

## IASLIC ACTIVITIES

### LIST OF NEW MEMBERS

#### Life

1. Mr. Pankaj Kumar Mansukhlal Bayisi, Ahmedabad [3921-L(Z-2)]
2. Mr. Shahaji Shankar Waghmode, Thane [3920-L(Z-2)]
3. Ms. Samhati Soor, Purba Medinipur [3919-L(Z-6)]
4. Ms. Monali Mitra (Paladhi), Kolkata [3918-L(Z-6)]
5. Mr. Arup Kumar Bhattacharya, Barasat [3917-L(Z-6)]
6. Ms. Khanchandani Vanita, New Delhi [3916-L(Z-4)]
7. Ms. Saswati Biswas, Hooghly [3915-L(Z-6)]
8. Mr. Gouranga Charan Jana, Kolkata [3914-L(Z-6)]
9. Mr. Rajeev Singh, Gaya [3930-L(Z-3)]
10. Ms. Sanjukta Roy, Kolkata [3931-L(Z-6)]
11. Mr. Mahesh Hembram, Kolkata [3932-L(Z-6)]
12. Ms. Komal Rathor, Ahmedabad [3933-L(Z-2)]
13. Mr. Manoj Kumar Misra, Lucknow [3934-L(Z-3)]
14. Mr. Surojit Sanyal, Kolkata [3935-L(Z-6)]
15. Ms. Sumana Ganguly, Kolkata [3936-L(Z-6)]
16. Ms. Rekha Saha, Kolkata [3937-L(Z-6)]
17. Ms. Mayuri Das Biswas, Kolkata [3938-L(Z-6)]
18. Ms. Kshama Thakur, Kanker [3939-L(Z-3)]
19. Mr. Dhanraj Chandrashekar Wani, Jalgaon [3929-L(Z-2)]
20. Ms. Manjushree Devi, Kamrup [3928-L(Z-5)]
21. Mr. Khiste Gajanan Pralhad Rao, Parbhani [3927-L(Z-2)]

#### Ordinary

1. Ms. J. Vasanthi, Pondichery [3950-O(Z-1)]
2. Mr. Sadanand Kumar Choudhary, Wardha [3940-O(Z-1)]
3. Dr. Pravin Kumar Sing, Varanasi [3948-O(Z-3)]
4. Mr. Ajoy Kumar Das, Alipurduar [3947-O(Z-6)]
5. Ms. Adity Mondal, Kolkata [3946-O(Z-6)]
6. Ms. Pratima Saha, Kolkata [3945-O(Z-6)]
7. Ms. Priyanka Roy, Kolkata [3944-O(Z-6)]
8. Mr. Kali Prasanna Karmakar, Birbhum [3942-O(Z-6)]
9. Mr. Srinivas Bondala, East Godavari [3941-O(Z-1)]
10. Mr. Bappa Adak, Tarakeswar [3940-O(Z-6)]
11. Ms. Jayeeta Hazra Mullick, Kolkata [3926-O(Z-6)]
12. Ms. Parna Ghosh, Kolkata [3925-O(Z-6)]

### Convener of Cooperation and Coordination Section

The new Governing Body of IASLIC for 2017-19, at its first meeting held on February 19, 2017, nominated Shri Pranabananda Jana as the new convener of the Cooperation and Coordination Section of IASLIC. His name was inadvertently not mentioned in the list of conveners of different sections published in IASLIC Newsletter, March 2017, issue. The omission is deeply regretted.

## CONFERENCES / SEMINARS / WORKSHOPS

### National

#### INFLIBNET Programmes

INFLIBNET Centre, Gandhinagar is going to organize the following programmes during June - August, 2017: Workshop on Research Data and Statistical Analysis using R Programming (May 15-19); SOUL 2.0 Training Programme (May 29 - June 3); Workshop on Metadata Standards: Retrospective Conservation, Preservation and Migration (June 7-9); Training Programme on E-resource Management (June 14-16); Workshop on Cyber/Web Security (June 21-23); Workshop on Creating and Managing Digital Libraries using EPrints (July 5-7); Workshop on Research Evaluation and Altmetrics (July 10 11); SOUL 2.0 Training Programme (July 17-22). For details visit: <http://www.inflibnet.ac.in>

#### Workshops on e-Granthalaya

A workshop on e-Granthalaya 4.0 Software for Automation and Networking of Government Libraries is being organized by Central Council for Research in Unani Medicine Ministry of Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy (AYUSH), Government of India, in association with National Informatics Centre, during May 2-4, 2017, at Jawaharlal Nehru Bharatiya Chikitsa Evam Homoeopathy Anusandhan Bhavan, New Delhi. For details visit: [http://egranthalaya.nic.in/eGWorkshop\\_CCRUM\\_Delhi\\_2\\_3May2017.pdf](http://egranthalaya.nic.in/eGWorkshop_CCRUM_Delhi_2_3May2017.pdf)

Another such workshop on e-Granthalaya 4.0 Software is being organized by Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU) Katra, Jammu & Kashmir, in association with National Informatics Centre, during May 24-26, 2017, at SMVDU Campus Central Library. For details visit: [http://egranthalaya.nic.in/eGWorkshop\\_SMVDU\\_Jammu\\_24-26May2017.pdf](http://egranthalaya.nic.in/eGWorkshop_SMVDU_Jammu_24-26May2017.pdf)

#### Workshop on Research Methodology

A National Workshop on 'Research Methodology' is being organized by Birla Global University, Bhubaneswar, during May 8-14, 2017. For details visit: <http://www.bgu.ac.in/userfiles/Brochure-RM-Workshop-2017.pdf>

#### Workshop on DSpace

Banwarilal Bhalotia College, Asansol, is organizing a National Workshop on 'Digital Resource Management through DSpace' during May 19 - 20, 2017. For details

email to: [bbcollege1944@gmail.com](mailto:bbcollege1944@gmail.com)

#### Refresher Courses in LIS

Refresher courses in LIS are being organized by the UGC-Human Resource Development Centres of the following universities: Bharathiar University, Coimbatore (May 10-30, 2017); SGB Amravati University (June 20 - July 10, 2017); Kurukshetra University (September 6-26, 2017); Aligarh Muslim University (September 7-27, 2017); North Bengal University (November 2017); University of Hyderabad (February 16 - March 8, 2018) and M D University, Ajmer (dates yet to be announced). For details visit the websites of respective universities.

### International

#### Congress on Engineering and Information

The 7th 'International Congress on Engineering and Information' will be held at Kyoto, Japan, during May 9 - 11, 2017. For details visit: <http://www.iceai.org/site/Page.aspx?pid=901&sid=6002&lang=en>

#### LIS Leadership Institute

The 15th Annual Library Leadership Institute on 'Libraries at the Crossroads: Challenges for Leadership' is being organized by the University of Hong Kong Libraries, in conjunction with iGroup, in Bangkok, Thailand, during May 12-16, 2017. For details visit: <https://lib.hku.hk/leadership/>

#### Conference on Innovative Information Services

The 4th International Scientific Conference on 'Information Science in the Age of Change: Innovative Information Services' is being organized by the Department of Information Studies, Faculty of Journalism, Information and Book Studies, University of Warsaw, Poland, during May 15-16, 2017. For details visit: <http://infolog.wdib.uw.edu.pl/?lang=en>

#### Workshop on Data Science Libraries

EIFL-Mahidol Libraries Workshop on 'Research Evaluation and Data Science Libraries' is being organized by Mahidol University Library, Salaya, Thailand, during May 16 - 17, 2017. For details visit: <http://www.li.mahidol.ac.th/training/eifl/>

#### Conference on Data Analysis

International Conference on 'Computing and Data Analysis' (CCDA 2017) will be held during May 19-23, 2017 at Lakeland, Florida, United States. For details visit: <http://www.iccda.org/>

#### Meeting of NL Directors

The 25th meeting of the Conference of the Directors of National Libraries in Asia and Oceania (CDNLAO), hosted by the National Library of China, will be held in May 2017 in Beijing, China. For details visit: <http://www.ndl.go.jp/en/cdnlaol/newsletter/087/874.html>

#### Workshop on Data Mining

The 6th International Workshops on 'Database and Data Mining' (ICDDM 2017) will be held during June 2-4, 2017 in Chengdu, China. For details visit: <http://www.icddm.org/>

### Conference on Information and Social Science

An International Conference on 'Information and Social Science' (ISS 2017) will be held in Kyoto, Japan, during June 27-29, 2017. For details visit: <http://iainst.org/iss/>

### Conference on Social Impact of Librarianship

A National Conference on Library and Information Science (NACLIS 2017) will be hosted by Sri Lanka Library Association (SLLA) in Colombo, Sri Lanka, on June 29, 2017. The theme of the conference is 'Social Impact of Librarianship: Scholarship towards Sustainable Development'. For details visit: <http://www.slla.org.lk/index.php/241-naclis2017>

### Conference on Children's Librarianship

The 4th International Conference of Children's and Young Adult Librarianship will be held during July 19-21, 2017 in Naga City, the Philippines. For details visit: <http://web.nlp.gov.ph/nlp/?q=node/9857>

### New Librarians' Symposium

The New Librarians' Symposium 8 - 2017 will be held during June 23-25, 2017 at the National Library of Australia, Canberra. The theme the symposium is 'DIY Library Career'. For details visit: <http://nls8.com/>

### Conference on Information Management

An International Conference on 'Business and Information Management' (ICBIM 2017), will be held in Beijing, China, during July 23-25, 2017. For details visit: <http://www.icbim.org/>

### Open Repositories Conference

The University of Queensland (UQ), Queensland University of Technology (QUT) and Griffith University will host the international Open Repositories Conference during June 26 - 30, 2017 at the Hilton Brisbane, Brisbane, Australia. For details visit: <https://or2017.net/>

### Conference on Transforming Library

The Central Library of the Central Institute of Technology, Kokrajhar, in association with DLIS, Gauhati University, is organizing the First International Conference on 'Transforming Library' during July 8-10, 2017. For details visit: <http://ictl.co.in/>

### Knowledge Management Conference

The 'Knowledge Management Australia 2017' Conference will be held during August 1-3, 2017 in Sydney. For details visit: <http://kmaustralia.com/>

### Conference on LIS

The International Conference on Library and Information Science (LIS2017) will be held during August 23-25, 2017 in Sapporo, Japan. For details visit: <http://soci-science.org/LIS/>

### Conference on Knowledge Discovery: Brief Report

The DLIS, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh, organized an International Conference on 'Knowledge Generation, Discovery and Networking' (KGDAN-2017) under the UGC SAP DRS-I programme during February 15-16, 2017. The event was co-sponsored by

ICSSR, New Delhi. Inaugurating the conference, Brigadier (Retd.) S Ahmad Ali, Pro-Vice-Chancellor, AMU, said that knowledge was the essence of life and collecting the explicit knowledge and brewing of the tacit knowledge were all very hectic processes. There were a reservoir of information hidden in the human minds and the libraries could play an important role to trace out such knowledge, he added. The Chief Guest of the inaugural session, Prof. P. B. Mangla, former Tagore National Fellow, Govt. of India, Ministry of Culture, in his address, said that there would always be proportionate ratio between what was known and what was unknown and that the human mind would always be curious to know the unknown. In his Keynote address, Prof. Gabriel Gomez, Professor, Chicago State University, Chicago, USA, opined that the knowledge and information discovered should be utilised for undertaking different projects for the welfare and wellbeing of the poor people in our society. He shared his experiences of some of the knowledge projects undertaken for socially marginalised people. The Guests of Honour, Prof. N Laxman Rao, President, Telangana Library Association, Hyderabad, and Dr. Gopal Bhushan, Director, DESIDOC, New Delhi, also spoke on the occasion. At the outset, Prof. Shabhat Husain, Organizing Secretary, KGDAN-2017 and Chairman, DLIS, AMU, welcoming all the dignitaries and delegates, initiated the tone for the intellectual discourse by explaining the discovery and generation techniques of knowledge and knowledge based products. He said that treasures of knowledge remained hidden in the best brains of humankind accumulated through the vast experiences of life. Developing systems of pulling out and expressing the latent knowledge were the need of the hour, he stressed. The conference proceedings in two volumes were released and an LIS e-learning portal was launched during the inaugural session. Prof. Naushad Ali, Convener, KGDAN-2017 proposed a vote of thanks.

In six technical sessions, 26 high quality research papers were presented by the delegates from India and abroad. Besides, ten keynote speeches were delivered by Prof. Gabriel Gomez, Dr. M Madhusudan of DLIS, Delhi University, Prof. Md. Nasiruddin of National University of Bangladesh, Dr. Kailash Garg, Ex-Chief Scientist of NISTADs, Dr. Naushad Ali, Dr. Nabi Hasan, Librarian of AMU, Dr. Shantanu Ganguly of TERI, Dr. Sangeeta Kaul of DELNET, Prof. N Laxman Rao, and Dr. P K Bhattacharya of TERI. Each presentation was followed by lively discussions. A highly informative and fruitful panel discussion on 'Implementation and Adoption of Knowledge Management in Libraries: Measuring Impact and Future Applicabilities' followed the technical session, which was chaired by Prof. Laxman Rao. The panellists were Prof. Md. Nasiruddin, Prof. Gabriel Gomez, Dr. Shantanu Ganguly, Dr. P K Bhattacharya and Dr. Nabi Hasan.

The valedictory session began with the welcome address by Prof. Shabhat Husain. He thanked the national and international delegates for their wholehearted participation in the conference. Best paper award was

handed over to Shri Shibu K M, Assistant Librarian, Pondicherry University, by the Director of the Conference, Prof. Amitabha Chatterjee, Ex-Professor and Head, DLIS, Jadavpur University, Kolkata, for the paper entitled 'Role of Social Networking Sites (SNSs) in Research and Developmental Activities: A Study among the Research Scholars in Kerala, India', written by him jointly with R Sevukan. The Rapporteur General of the Conference, Dr. M. Masoom Raza, Associate Professor, DLIS, AMU, presented the report of the conference. Prof. Amitabha Chatterjee, in his remarks, appreciated the fact that a good number of young professionals had presented papers during the technical sessions and congratulated the organizing team for conducting the conference successfully. Prof. N Laxman Rao, Chairman of the Valedictory session, in his address, stressed that LIS education should be more pragmatic and suited to the present competitive environment. Dr. Naushad Ali proposed a vote of thanks.

## MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

### Library set up from Wedding Funds

At a time when more and more people are splurging on weddings, a young couple from Bhubaneswar chose to do something different. In a unique gesture, Pintu Bhattacharya and his wife Aparajita Mohanty set up a children's library in Bhubaneswar from funds raised on their wedding reception, says a report by Minati Singhal published in *The Times of India*. Inaugurated at Chandrasekharapur in the Odisha capital recently, the library has 500 books and a bustling activity centre for children of the locality. "My husband and myself are voracious readers. We have also been associated with Bakul Pathagar that spearheaded the library movement in Odisha. Besides, libraries are slowly disappearing. This was the reason we decided not to have a lavish wedding and instead do something good for the society. A children's library was the first thing that struck us," said Aparajita, an IT professional. The couple had put up a wish-tree at the reception venue and guests were requested to fulfil the wishes written on the tree. These included donating books, bookshelves and other furniture, apart from toys for the library. "Our guests were not ready for the surprise and many may not have liked the idea of being asked for funds on our wedding day. Of altogether 200 wishes, 100 were fulfilled," she added. The couple have invested around Rs 25,000 in setting up the library. "I sincerely believe that books are a man's best friends. Apart from books, the library has a scope for other creative activities in which children can be engaged. We have plans to invite experts on various subjects and story-tellers too in the future to make the place more happening," said Pintu, also an IT professional. For details visit: <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/bhubaneswar/couple-set-up-library-from-wedding-funds/articleshow/57930761.cms>

### Dara Shiko's Library Building

Before being killed in a battle of succession by his brother, Dara Shikoh, the eldest son of Mughal emperor

Shahjahan, known as a man of intellectual pursuits, had established a library in 1637 near Kashmere Gate. The books have long been lost, but the building stands even today. The Delhi chapter of the Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH) began work in March to restore the historic edifice to its former glory, says a report by Mohammad Ibrari published in *The Times of India*. After the prince's death, the library building changed hands several times. In 2011, the Sheila Dikshit government decided to convert the library into a city museum in collaboration with INTACH with "the intention of preserving and promoting cultural heritage". The state archaeology department will display around 2,200 artefacts, including excavated coins, stones and other antiquities from ancient and medieval times. The museum will also familiarise visitors with the history of the seven cities of Delhi. For details visit: <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/delhi/dara-shukohs-library-to-get-fresh-lease-of-life/articleshow/57980576.cms>

### Library Museum at AMU

Maulana Azad Library of Aligarh Muslim University now has a "Library Museum" containing rare manuscripts and artefacts. The museum was opened on February 12, 2017 by Dr. Frank F. Islam, former advisor to the USA President Obama and an alumnus of the AMU, in the presence of a host of dignitaries including Vice-Chancellor, Lt. General Zameer Uddin Shah, Pro-vice-Chancellor, Brig. Syed Ahmad Ali, and some noted alumnus like Dr. Nadeem Tarin from Saudi Arabia and Dr. Ali Rizvi from Dubai. Maulana Azad Library is the largest library in the country and the second largest in Asia and now with this beautiful museum of rare manuscripts and artefacts, it has attained the unique distinction of being first of its kind, perhaps in the whole sub-continent. Notable among the materials displayed in the museum are a 1400-year old Quran by Hazrat Ali on parchment, translations of Upanishads by Dara Shikoh, Persian translations of Bhagwat Gita, Mahabharata and Ramayana, Telugu Manuscripts on Ayurveda, a Mughal period shirt having full Quran written on it, a sword of Aurangzeb, Nobel Prize awarded to Prof. Abdus Salam, some rare paintings, some original farmans/decrees of Mughal emperors, etc.

### School Librarian honoured

S L Faisal, a librarian with the Kendriya Vidyalaya, Pattom, has been conferred with 'IASL School Librarianship Award 2016', instituted by the International Association of School Librarianship (IASL) in recognition of his 'contribution to the national development of school libraries and services within his own country', according to a report published in *The Indian Express*. The award is also a recognition of the services rendered to the school library movement internationally. Faisal realised the possibility of digital technology and pioneered the diversification of traditional library into e-books and blogs almost a decade ago. For details visit: <http://www.newindianexpress.com/cities/thiruvananthapuram/2016/nov/24/a-faisal-push-for-school-libraries-1541952.html>

### Rare Book Digitization in West Bengal

Rare books across libraries of Bengal would now have a digital copy. Thanks to the West Bengal Public Library Network which has taken up an initiative to make e-books out of all the rare books available in the state across several libraries, says a report by Tasmayee Laha Roy published in *The Economic Times*. Targeted at helping academicians, researchers and students, the process of digitization will be done with the assistance from the Mass Education Extension and Library Services Department of the state government. The digital repository of the department will allow users to search through a wide variety of book collections where one can also look a specific book from the search option that is available. The website of this department has come up with a series of other options to make looking up e-books easier. Search options will also allow a reader to look up books on the basis of subject. For details visit: [http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/articleshow/58113719.cms?utm\\_source=contentofinterest&utm\\_medium=text&utm\\_campaign=cppst](http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/articleshow/58113719.cms?utm_source=contentofinterest&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=cppst)

### Shortcut to Reading

With a mission to inculcate reading habit in people, a Thane-based resident started reading books and summarising them for the book lovers to get a gist of those books in just 20 minutes, says a report in [www.dnaindia.com](http://www.dnaindia.com) website. What started as a small conversation in a movie theatre, has now been established as a platform to summarise the best-selling books once in a week. Amrut Deshmukh summarised his first book 'Wings of Fire' and circulated the summary to a few of his friends to read. While the idea of circulating a text summary on WhatsApp group became a hit in a few days, he also started recording and circulating audio messages. With English as the main language, Deshmukh started publishing summaries in Hindi language too from March 22, 2017. He has been getting demands of summarising the regional language books as well. "The usage of smartphones has been started in rural areas too. Many book lovers who can't read English have started demanding summaries in regional languages. Many readers and followers from Delhi, Odisha, Rajasthan are helping me to translate the books in Hindi. It has become an open source platform", Deshmukh said. He gets more than 1,000 requests everyday from the book lovers to add them in the group. For details visit: <http://www.dnaindia.com/mumbai/report-thane-man-devises-shortcut-to-get-people-reading-2397403>

### Echo-friendly Paper to be used for Textbooks

The Maharashtra State Bureau of Textbook Production, popularly known as Balbharati, has decided to use paper made out of agricultural waste products to print over 10 crore state school textbooks from the 2017-18 academic year, says a report published in *The Times of India*. The bureau will scrap the present system of using wood based paper made out of tree pulp. A professor from Nagpur, Arvind Sovani, had filed a petition in the high court in October, stating that the pulp paper used by Balbharati to publish textbooks was not eco-friendly and that they should opt for greener ways. In November, the court

ordered Balbharati to stop the tender process for pulp paper and issue a fresh one for environment-friendly sheets. Based on this order, Balbharati has decided to use agricultural waste-based pulp to make paper for printing textbooks. For details visit: <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/pune/textbooks-of-sugar-cane-and-wheat-on-cards/articleshow/56301875.cms>

### EBSCO Grants for Libraries

EBSCO Information Services (EBSCO) has renewed its commitment to helping libraries "go green" by bringing back an expanded version of its EBSCO Solar grant program for 2017. As part of the EBSCO Solar initiative, EBSCO is currently soliciting grant applications to help libraries fund solar installations. EBSCO is making two \$100,000 grants available to bidders that will allow the winning libraries to reduce their utilities expenditures and instal a solar array at their institution. For details visit: <https://www.ebsco.com/news-center/press-releases/ebsco-information-services-open-ebsco-solar-grant-for-2017>.

EBSCO is also introducing the EBSCO FOLIO Innovation Challenge. The grant program will award \$100,000 in grants to libraries to develop innovative technology solutions that address the challenges academic libraries face. A total of \$100,000 will be awarded to multiple institutions - grants between \$5,000 and \$20,000 each. The EBSCO FOLIO Innovation Challenge grants will be awarded to projects that leverage the FOLIO codebase and address current opportunities in library technology. Grant winners also may have the opportunity to take part in a startup incubator program designed to support the creation of tools for academic libraries. For details visit: <https://www.ebsco.com/news-center/press-releases/ebsco-information-services-to-fund-the-ebsco-folio-innovation-challenge>

### Library based TV shows predicted

TV is about to change rather dramatically. Over the next 18 to 36 months, it will go from a primarily linear medium to a primarily library-based one, predicts Alan Wolk, a noted industry analyst, in a post on *tvrev* website. It is a change that's both inevitable and beneficial for everyone involved, he says. This is not to say that linear TV will disappear entirely. There will still be news and sports and event shows (e.g. Oscars) that happen in real time. Networks will be able to premiere new episodes of series at specific days and times every week. What will change, however, is that all that filler, all those shows that have already run, either an hour earlier or a decade earlier, will now be available on an On Demand basis, Wolk adds. For details visit: <http://tvrev.com/what-do-you-want-to-watch-now-the-revolution-continues/#.WImKUFN97IX>

### Book Reading Awareness Programme: Brief Report

'Kitap Parhu Aahok' ('Let's Read Book'), an awareness programme, was organized by Assam Library Association (ALA), in collaboration of Enajori, Barpeta, on April 2, 2017 at Pensioners' Bhawan, Barpeta. The programme was chaired by noted teacher Shri Akshay Kumar Mishra. Dr Birinchi Kumar Das, Associate Professor, MC College, Barpeta, graced the occasion as the Invited Speaker. Other

speakers were renowned personalities associated with library movement, Shri Mahendra Nath Bora, Shri Dhiman Sheel and Dr. Nabajyoti Das. Many distinguished persons of the locality attended the programme in large number. Dr. Nirmal Ranjan Mazumdar, a Member of Enajori, anchored the interaction session where members of the audience shared their views on different areas like reading habit, reading culture, social networking and its affect, e-books etc. An aged book lover of Barpeta, Shri Kishori Mohan Das, as well as regular readers like Biswajit Sutradhar, Runumi Pathak and others threw light on reading culture.

## TECHNOLOGY NEWS

### Augmented Reality based Library App

The Department of Science and Technology (DOST) of Philippines has announced its newest mobile app that aims to give library researchers an enhanced experience, according to *abs-cbn news* website. DOST's Science and Technology Information Institute (STII), the information and marketing arm of the department, will soon launch its STARLib app, or the Science and Technology Augmented Reality Library app. According to STII Director Richard Burgos, the STARLib app "will add new creative dimension to the experience of DOST visitors, library users, and even beneficiaries. We will redesign the library user experience by incorporating augmented reality", Burgos revealed. With the STARLib app, the DOST-STII library will be the first library to use augmented reality in the country, according to Burgos. "We will also include virtual reality and gaming in the experience of a science and technology library without physical books," he added. For details visit: <http://news.abs-cbn.com/life/02/23/17/coming-soon-augmented-reality-library>

### Android App for NDL

IIT Kharagpur has developed an app that will bring the world's knowledge at fingertips, says a report by Jhimli Mukherjee Pandey published in *The Times of India*. The country's premier tech institute has launched a mobile app that brings as many as 65 lakh books, journals, periodicals and research materials not just to students, but to anyone who has a smartphone. The Ministry of Human Resources Development had entrusted IIT-Kgp with the ambitious project of setting up the National Digital Library (NDL), currently the country's largest library repository. NDL started as a pilot project in April 2015. From a humble beginning through a PC to demonstrate the proof of the concept, it is now on its way to becoming a full-blown digital library and generating a movement of making educational contents available to the entire nation at fingertips. The library is inclusive and open for use by anybody who registers, completely free of cost. As of now, the app is just meant for Android users, though an iPhone version is coming soon. Launched in last March, the app has already been downloaded 1,00,000 times from Google's Play Store and has received a lot of encouraging comments and suggestions from users. According to Partha Pratim Das, a senior faculty member and coordinator of the NDL app project, an app for Apple is also expected soon. For

details visit: <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/kolkata/iit-kgp-page-turner-free-library-of-65-lakh-books-and-counting/articleshow/57980996.cms>

### Google Program to detect abusive comments

Google has launched a new artificial intelligence program called Perspective to detect "abusive" comments online in an effort to crack down on hate speech. Publications such as *The New York Times*, *The Guardian*, and *The Economist* are testing the new software as a way of policing comments sections, according to *The Financial Times*. "News organizations want to encourage engagement and discussion around their content, but find that sorting through millions of comments to find those that are trolling or abusive takes a lot of money, labour and time," said Jared Cohen, president of Jigsaw, the Google social incubator that built the tool. "As a result, many sites have shut down comments altogether. But they tell us that isn't the solution they want." Perspective is available to all publications that are currently part of Google's Digital News Initiative, which includes *The Guardian*, the BBC and *The Financial Times*. In theory, the software could also be utilized by social media companies such as Facebook and Twitter. For details visit: <http://www.breitbart.com/tech/2017/02/23/google-launches-ai-program-to-detect-hate-speech/>

### Internet of Sky

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) is presently working on a laser communications technology that in future could become the high-speed 'internet' of the sky, which would enable much higher data speed for connections between spacecrafts and Earth, says a report published in *India Today* quoting PTI. The Laser Communications Relay Demonstration (LCRD) will help the space agency in understanding the best ways to operate laser communications systems. According to NASA, they could enable much higher data rates for connections between spacecraft and Earth, such as scientific data downlink and astronaut communications. "LCRD is the next step in implementing NASA's vision of using optical communications for both near-Earth and deep space missions," said Steve Jurczyk, from NASA's Space Technology Mission Directorate, which leads the LCRD project, *PTI* reported. Laser communications, also known as optical communications, encode data onto a beam of light, which is then transmitted between spacecraft and eventually to Earth terminals. For details visit: <http://indiatoday.intoday.in/education/story/high-speed-internet-nasa/1/913669.html>

### Impact of Facebook

The social network Facebook, which is supposed to make one social, actually makes one more "anti-social" and importantly impacts one's mental health negatively. This has been a finding by researchers from Yale University in USA. Overall, the use of Facebook was negatively associated with well-being. The research which included participants' real-world social network and Facebook behaviour found consistently that both clicking others' content and clicking links significantly predicted a subsequent reduction in self-reported physical health,

mental health, and life satisfaction. Most measures of Facebook use in one year predicted a decrease in mental health a later year. While social media, especially Facebook gives one a sense of “meaningful” social interaction, it does not really stand chance against real world networking, the researchers have concluded. For details visit: <https://www.nextbigwhat.com/facebook-depression-297/>

## SPECIAL FEATURE

### How Readable is the Book that you Read?

You start reading a book, but do not make much progress and ultimately you take a very long time to finish it or even drop the idea to do so. But when you start reading another book, you make rapid progress and complete the reading quickly. Every reader gets this type experience at some time or other. What is the reason behind it? The reason is that every book or text is not equally readable. It is readability that makes some texts easier to read than others. And more a book is readable more popular it will be, because higher readability eases reading effort and increases speed of reading for any reader and easy reading in turn helps in learning and enjoyment.

Readability refers to how easily a piece of writing can be read and understood. In other words, “readability is the ease with which a reader can understand a written text”. But readability does not simply mean ease in reading, it is much more. It also signifies easy understanding of the text by a reader i.e. easy comprehension. There are thus three main aspects of readability: legibility of the text, easy flow of reading and easy comprehension. Readability of a book is dependent on many factors, such as clarity of presentation in terms of language, style, layout and illustration as also the ability of a reader in terms of his or her intellectual level, language proficiency and mental alertness.

All authors may not have equal capability to produce 'readable' books. But they can certainly improve the readability of their books if they are able to know the readability level of the manuscripts that they have produced. For this, several experts have devised readability formulas to measure the readability of any text. Measurement of readability refers to the process of assessing the extent of ease in reading and understanding a written text. The idea of measuring readability is, however, not new. It all started as early as in 1920s in USA and it is estimated that by the year 2000, there were over 1,000 studies on readability formulas published in professional journals.

Readability formulas work by measuring certain features of a text based on mathematical calculations. Most readability formulas are based on one semantic factor, i.e., the difficulty of words, and one syntactic factor, i.e., the difficulty of sentences. These formulas typically use the length of a word or sentence as the indicator of difficulty. These formulas assume that longer sentences are harder sentences and longer words are harder words. Each readability formula measures text differently, but each formula typically assesses text only at the level of

individual words and sentences, in a purely mechanical, objective way. They measure certain attributes of words and sentences in isolation, ignoring other important attributes at the sentence level, including how the writer has connected sentences into paragraphs.

By applying scientific and mathematical principles, the readability formulas aim to present an objective analysis about the readability of a particular text. Some of the commonly used readability formulas are: Dale-Chall readability formula (1948), Flesch's Reading Ease formula (1948), Spache readability formula (1952), Powers-Sumner-Kearl Readability Formula (1958), Gunning's FOG index or FOG Scale (1964), Fry's Readability Graph (1965), McLaughlin's SMOG Readability Formula (1969), FORCAST readability formula (1973), Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level Formula (1975), and McAlpine EFLAW formula(2004/2006).

Interestingly, today many widely used word processors offer readability checking facility along with spell checkers and grammar checkers. Microsoft Word provides a Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level. There is also a free website <http://www.readabilityformulas.com/>. Its free Readability Text Consensus Tool analyzes the text supplied by a user and calculates the number of sentences, words, syllables and characters in the sample provided and finds reading level and grade level of the text by applying any of the eight readability formulas used by it. Another website [www.thewriter.com](http://www.thewriter.com) runs a free readability checker for the writers which checks a writing against Flesch-Kincaid reading ease score, the Gunning FOG score and the SMOG index. There are a few more such websites providing this service. George R Klare has produced a book on the subject entitled *Measurement of Readability* (published by Umi Research Press in 1963).

Readability formulas have many advantages, but these are being often criticized as “over-simplification and a critique of creative writing”. Indeed most great literary works may fail to pass the readability tests, though they are of very high quality. These formulas are more relevant for textbooks and subject books. Readability formulas are now available for not only texts in English, but also texts in Spanish, French, German, Dutch, Swedish, Russian, Hebrew and even Asian languages like Hindi, Chinese, Vietnamese and Korean. Nevertheless, firstly these readability formulas do not always work with 100% accuracy, and secondly very few writers possibly take readability tests of their books before their publication. While efforts should be made to have readability formulas which can give more accurate results, the authors should also be more alert to take pre-publication readability tests of their creations so that we can have more readable books.

[Sources: Readability. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Readability>, SCOTT (Brian). How readability formulas work. <http://www.readabilityformulas.com/articles/how-readability-formulas-work.php>, SCOTT (Brian). What are readability formulas? <http://www.readabilityformulas.com/articles/what-are-readability-formulas.php>, RABIN (A T). Determining

difficulty levels of text written in languages other than English. In ZAKALUK (L) and SAMUELS (S J), *Eds.* Readability: Its past, present, and future. 1988. International Reading Association, Newark, DE]

## NEW LIS LITERATURE

### Foreign

1. CONNAWAY (Silipigni) and RADRORD (Marie L). *Research Methods in Library and Information Science*. 6th ed. 2016. Libraries Unlimited, Santa Barbara. \$ 65. ISBN: 9781440834783  
(Explains both quantitative and qualitative research methods with an emphasis on the power of their integration for a missed method research design)
2. GINGRAS (Yves). *Bibliometrics and Research Evaluation - Uses and Abuses*. 2016. MIT Press, Cambridge MA. \$26. ISBN : 9780262035125.  
(Argues against an unquestioning reliance on bibliometrics as an indicator of research quality)
3. MACKENZIE (Alison) and MARTIN (Lindsay), *Ed.* *Developing Digital Scholarship: Emerging Practices in Academic Libraries*. 2016. Facet Publishing, London. £49.95. ISBN: 9781783301102  
(Provides strategic insights drawn from librarians who are meeting the challenge of digital scholarship, utilizing the latest technologies and creating new knowledge in partnership with researchers, scholars, colleagues and students)
4. TODESCHINI (Roberto). *Handbook of Bibliometric Indicators: Quantitative Tools for Studying and Evaluating Research*. 2016. Wiley, Hoboken, NJ. \$77.21. ISBN: 9783527337040  
(It is a systematic guide to the growing jungle of citation indices and other bibliometric indicators)

5. WILDEMUTH (Barbara), *Ed.* *Applications of Social Research Methods to Questions in Information and Library Science*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. 2016. Libraries Unlimited, Santa Barbara. ISBN: 9781440839047.

(By critically assessing existing studies from within library and information science, this book helps in acquiring a deeper understanding of research methods)

## PERSONALIA

**Shri Sukumar Mondal** has been awarded Ph D degree in Library and Information Science by the University of Burdwan, Burdwan, for his thesis entitled 'Designing and Developing an Integrated Information Management and Retrieval System for College Libraries under the University of Burdwan'. Dr. Mondal pursued his research work under the guidance of Dr. Parthasarathi Mukhopadhyay, Associate Professor, DLIS, Kalyani University and Dr. Tridib Tripathi, Retired Associate Professor, DLIS, University of Burdwan. He is at present serving as Teacher-in-charge, DLIS, University of Burdwan.

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