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# IASLIC NEWSLETTER

For Members only

## At a Glance

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## Quote of the Month

*“That is a good book which is opened with expectation and closed with delight and profit.”*

– **Amos Bronson Alcott**,  
American teacher, writer,  
philosopher, and reformer.

## 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

### 28th National Seminar of IASLIC

**Venue: Visva Bharati University, Santiniketan**

**Dates: November 27 - 29, 2018\***

**Theme: L I S Education in India: Present Scenario and Future Strategies**

#### *Themes for SIG Meetings:*

**SIG1: Rabindranath Tagore's Vision on Libraries and its Relevance in New Era**

**SIG 2: Data Management in Libraries**

\*Rescheduled due to unavailable circumstances

## Foundation Day Celebration

The 64th Foundation Day of IASLIC was celebrated on September 3, 2018, at the Seminar Room of the Association. Dr. JN Satpathi, President, IASLIC, presided over the function. At the outset, Shri Sajal Kanti Goswami, Hony. General Secretary, IASLIC, welcomed all who were present.

The function started with reminiscences of some senior library and information professionals who have been closely associated with IASLIC for a long time. Shri S B Banerjee, Convener, Education Division, narrated how IASLIC was formed and said that since the nature of library and information profession had changed with time, the present needs and requirements of the professionals should be evaluated and the objectives of the association should be prioritized. Dr. Jayati Ghosh, GB Member, mentioned the names of some former IASLIC stalwarts and shared her memories about them. Shri Salil Chandra Khan, G B Member, mentioned that though his workplace, home and IASLIC office were far from each other, he managed to come to IASLIC regularly due to his deep mental connection with the association, but at present he was unable to visit IASLIC regularly due to health problems. However, he still kept track of every event of IASLIC. He said that some young members should come forward to share the responsibilities of the association. Prof. Amitabha Chatterjee, Editor, IASLIC Newsletter, mentioned that he had been associated with IASLIC for over 35 years and initially he used to work for *Indian Library Science Abstracts*. He pointed out that though the issue of professional ethics was discussed several times, till date no ethical code had been formulated. He said that even some small countries like Sri Lanka had formulated the code and stressed that IASLIC should take the initiative in this regard. Dr. J N Satpathi mentioned that there were both positive and negative sides of IASLIC activities. According to him, the positive side was that IASLIC was considered as the most active library association in India and the negative side was that IASLIC was suffering for dearth of voluntary workers. He also said that IT was a useful tool in the hands

of the present library and information professionals, but they should not forget their own discipline.

This was followed by the Foundation Day Lecture on 'The profession of librarianship: whether appreciating or depreciating' delivered by Dr. Binod Behari Das, former Chief Librarian, Jadavpur University, and Adviser, Heritage Institute of Technology Library, Kolkata. Dr. Das, in his lecture, said that respect and admiration for the profession depended on the services offered by the library and information professionals. Unless they become fully involved in their professional duties, recognition could not be expected, he added. Dr. Das said that the basic foundation of library science was laid by Prof. S R Ranganathan and the subject was close to the society. He stressed that perfection could not be achieved with only application of modern gadgets and putting the word 'science' after library. Motivation, responsibility and knowledge to use technology were the determining factors, he said.

Shri Abhijit Kumar, Joint Secretary, IASLIC, proposed a vote of thanks. A good number of IASLIC members and library and information professionals were present on the occasion.

## CONFERENCES / SEMINARS / WORKSHOPS

### National

#### Course on Research Methodology

The Sayaji Rao Gaekwad Library (Central Library), Dept. of Library & Information Science, and UGC HRD Centre of Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, are organizing a 'Comprehensive Course on Research Methodology in Social Sciences' during October 3 - 13, 2018. For details visit: [http://api.ning.com/files/nugHR4VSjUss1hqPZ64P7WIwbA OJ50jeJ-fTEyKeHy1MuTHuqDzd\\*w4B2YpBxtFEg1d AKus2OaMI4bIKXg7X8z0zdTpqPigo/Workshop.pdf](http://api.ning.com/files/nugHR4VSjUss1hqPZ64P7WIwbA OJ50jeJ-fTEyKeHy1MuTHuqDzd*w4B2YpBxtFEg1d AKus2OaMI4bIKXg7X8z0zdTpqPigo/Workshop.pdf)

#### Koha and DSpace Training

Integrated Academy of Management and Technology (INMANTEC), Ghaziabad, in collaboration with Best Book Buddies, is organizing a National Workshop on 'Open Source Software Koha & D-Space Training and Certification' for library and information professionals during October 5 - 7, 2018. For details visit: <http://www.inmantec.edu/event/a-three-day-national-workshop-on-open-source-koha-dspace/>

#### Workshop on Koha

A National Workshop on 'Library Automation Using Koha' is being organized by H M Patel English Medium School's Complex, Dharmaj, Dist. Anand, Gujarat, during October 5 - 6, 2018. For details visit: <http://workshop.hmpatele.library.net>

#### Advance Koha Training

CSIR-NISCAIR will be conducting a training course on 'Koha Software for Library Automation - Advance' during October 8 - 12, 2018. For details visit: <http://www.niscair.res.in/>

[ActivitiesandServices/HRD/Koha-advance-8Oct18.pdf](#)

#### Workshop on INFED

A National Workshop on 'Federated Identity and Access Management INFED - Off Campus Access to E-Resources using Shibboleth' is scheduled to be held during October 15 - 17, 2018 at INFLIBNET Centre, Gandhinagar. For details visit: [http://inflibnet.ac.in/hrd/docs/infed\\_2018.pdf](http://inflibnet.ac.in/hrd/docs/infed_2018.pdf)

### International

#### Information Management Conference

The 2<sup>nd</sup> International Conference on Information Management and Libraries is being organized by the Department of Information Management, University of the Punjab, Lahore, Pakistan, during October 10 - 12, 2018. The theme of the conference is 'Leading for Transformation: Preparing Reflective Information and Library Professionals'. For details visit: <http://pu.edu.pk/iciml>

#### Conference on Digital Transformation

An International Conference on 'Digital Transformation: Preservation, Policy and Privacy' is being organized by National Law University Delhi, during November 29 - December 1, 2018. For details visit: <https://icdt2018.webs.com/>

#### Training on Library Automation

Satyajit Ray Film and Television Institute, Kolkata, is organizing an International Training Programme on 'Library Automation for Professional Enrichment (ITPLAPE): Emphasizing on Current Technology Trends' during December 10 - 16, 2018. For details visit: <http://srfti.ac.in/?p=8445>

#### MANLIBNET Conference

MANLIBNET International Conference on 'Emerging Trends in Librarianship: Role of Libraries in Learning Environment' is being organized by Indian Institute of Management Tiruchirappalli, during December 10 - 12, 2018. For details visit: [http://api.ning.com/files/XmGQ7FfB9CvbeCJ9LaFCx2Yut5gJYx6U0BTIAjMxeGZAS0FvtaYf43LM2K5MAzPd64WEm\\*DMN1yk0wacH2HosizWDLfz66oN/MANLIBNET2018Brochurefinal.pdf](http://api.ning.com/files/XmGQ7FfB9CvbeCJ9LaFCx2Yut5gJYx6U0BTIAjMxeGZAS0FvtaYf43LM2K5MAzPd64WEm*DMN1yk0wacH2HosizWDLfz66oN/MANLIBNET2018Brochurefinal.pdf)

#### Conference on LIS

The International Conference on Library and Information Science (LIS 2019) will be held at Sapporo, Japan, during January 19 - 21, 2019. The theme of the conference is 'Digital Transformation and the Challenges of the New Information Environment: Reinventing Library for the Next User Generation'. For details visit: <https://iconlis.org/>

#### Conference on Information and Technology

BOBCATSSS 2019 Conference on 'Information and Technology Transforming Lives: Connection, Interaction, Innovation' will be held at Osijek, Croatia, during January 22 - 24, 2019. For details visit: <http://bobcatsss2019.ffos.hr/index.html>

### Conference on Future of Libraries

Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore, and Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata, are jointly organizing an 'International Conference on Future of Libraries' during February 26 - 28, 2019 at IIM Bangalore. For details visit: <https://library.iimb.ac.in/conference2019>

### Open Science Conference

The Open Science Conference 2019 will be held during March 19 - 20, 2019 in Berlin. For details visit: <http://www.open-science-conference.eu/>

### Research Libraries UK Conference

The Research Libraries Conference 2019 will be held in London during March 20 - 22, 2019. The theme of the conference is 'Reshaping Scholarship: Transformation, Innovation and Cultural Change'. For details visit: <http://rlukconference.com/>

### Conference on e-Society

The International Conference on e-Society will be held in Utrecht, The Netherlands, during April 11 - 13, 2019. For details visit: <http://esociety-conf.org/>

### WLIC 2019 to be held in Athens

IFLA has announced that the World Library and Information Congress (WLIC) 2019 will be held in Athens, Greece. Following the opening of a new national library building, and its designation as 2018 World Book Capital, the city will play host to the biggest truly international gathering in the library field. For details visit: [www.ifla.org](http://www.ifla.org)

## MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

### NL Celebrates Librarians' Day

National Library, Kolkata, celebrated the 126th Birth Anniversary of Dr. S R Ranganathan, as Librarians' Day on August 9, 2018 at the Conference Hall of Bhasa Bhavan. On this occasion, a panel discussion was organized on the topic 'Libraries, Archives, Museums Preservation (LAMP): Synergy'. Before starting the discussion, the learned panelists paid floral tributes to the portrait of Dr. Ranganathan. Dr. Arun Kumar Chakraborty, Director General, National Library, and Moderator of the Session, while explaining the theme of the discussion, said that the Government of India, Ministry of Culture, was building up a National Virtual Library of India, which would integrate the cultural resources available in libraries, art galleries and museums across the nation. The library aimed to be one-stop platform for books, cultural objects, artefacts of the cultural institutions and would also provide virtual tour of these places, Dr. Chakraborty added. The distinguished panelists were Prof. Vinay Kumar Shrivastava, Director, Anthropological Survey of India; Shri Arindam Mukherjee, Secretary, Institute of Culture and Social Studies, Kolkata; and Dr. S B Chakrabarti, General Secretary, Asiatic Society; who shared their

experiences and cited case studies. The panel discussion was followed by a presentation on 'Role and Services of National Library of India to the citizens of India' by Shri Partha Sarathi Das, Assistant Library & Information Officer, National Library, Kolkata. The programme was attended by more than one hundred librarians and book lovers from all over the country. The programme was compered by Smt. E Gajalakhmi, Assistant Library & Information Officer, National Library, Kolkata.

### Long Overdue Book Returned

The readers of this newsletter may recall a special feature story published in June 2016 issue chronicling cases of unusual delay in returning library books by patrons or their successors. But the story did not end there. It continues even today. A news has again come that a book which is almost five decades overdue has been recently returned to the San Francisco Public Library. The report in *The Times of India*, quoting *The San Francisco Chronicle*, says that a copy of Eldridge Cleaver's memoir titled *Soul On Ice* was initially due back at the Eureka Valley branch of the library on December 9, 1970. If the library would have charged a late fee, it would have been \$1,731.70 excluding the \$10.01 fine. Elaborating about the book's condition, *The San Francisco Chronicle* reports that the paperback's cover is detached from its spine and there's a hole in the title page. The library's branch manager Anne Vannucchi is keen on meeting the library patron who returned the book and know the story behind the returned book, the report says. A similar incident happened last year when a man at another branch of the library returned a book *Forty Minutes Late*, got issued by his great-grandmother, more than 100 years late. For original report visit: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/life-style/books/features/book-returned-to-library-after-47-years/articleshow/64158513.cms>

### Home Library for the Disabled

Many differently-abled students in Ernakulam have fallen in love with the world of letters, thanks to 'Kootukoodan Pusthakachangathi', a voluntary book donation drive being implemented under the Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), Ernakulam, says a report by G Krishnakumar in *The Hindu*. As many as 128 libraries have been set up at the homes of differently-abled students in the district who are bedridden. "The idea is to help the differently-abled children gain an interest in books, listening and reading. We also try to make them understand various concepts and lessons in an innovative manner through books," said S George, district co-ordinator of SSA. Kootukoodan Pusthakachangathi is an ongoing programme of the Education Department, where book publishers and the public contribute books for the differently-abled students. Shri George said that one resource teacher took care of the academic needs of two home-based differently-abled students in Ernakulam. For details visit: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Kochi/a-library-of-their-own/article24543621.ece>

### Flood Damages in Kochi Libraries

The Nair Samajam Library and Reading Room, established in 1934, at Paliamnada, near Chennamangalam in Kochi, tells the tale of dozens of local libraries that were inundated in the recent flood, says a report in *The Hindu*. Around 12,000 books from a collection of over 27,000 have been lost and cannot be used again, says P T Joy, who has been the librarian for 22 years. "There was no time to save the books," he said wistfully and recalling that he tried to salvage some of the more precious of the books and periodicals by carrying them upstairs. "I was all alone and my home near the library was also flooded," he said. The electronic equipment could be bought again but there were books that were at least 150 years old, he said. The library, which has won several awards, has a robust membership base of over 2,000. An office-bearer of the Ernakulam District Library Council said that volunteers had been cleaning up several of these libraries and reading rooms. An assessment of the number of libraries that were totally inundated was being made, he said. For details visit: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Kochi/libraries-lose-thousands-of-books/article24806555.ece>

### Pen and Paper wins over Laptop!

A report in a well-known paper said that in a series of experiments at Princeton University and the University of California, Los Angeles, students were randomly assigned either laptops or pen and paper for note-taking at a lecture. Those who had used laptops had substantially worse understanding of the lecture, as measured by a standardized test, than those who did not, according to a story by Ananda Lal in *The Telegraph*. The hypothesis was that because students can type faster than they can write, the lecturer's words flowed right to the students' typing fingers without stopping in their brains for substantive processing. Students writing by hand had to process and condense the spoken material to keep up with the lecture. While the notes of the laptop users more closely resembled transcripts than lecture summaries, the handwritten versions were more succinct but included the salient issues discussed in the lecture. Although we need not accept these results as the gospel truth, we should keep an open mind as to the possible negative consequences of Internet-enabled device used by students during a lecture. The point is that today's gadgets are supposed to be educative and may have the sanction of the teacher, but they could end up taking us away from the subject taught. The online availability and access of all material needed for teaching is one of the biggest popular myths. In literature, for example, only five per cent of all material ever printed has been digitized. This figure will grow exponentially in the next decade but, even so, it will remain quite small, nowhere near a percentage that can make anyone claim that most of humanity's print culture is accessible for all to consult. For full story visit: <https://www.telegraphindia.com/opinion/beguiled-by-the-world-wide-web-222406>

### Digital Literacy Library

Facebook has recently announced the launch of a "Digital Literacy Library" to help young people build the skills they need to safely enjoy online technology, says an IANS report published in *The Hindu*. "There are 830 million young people online around the world, and this library is a resource for educators looking to address digital literacy and help these young people build the skills they need to safely enjoy digital technology," Antigone Davis, Global Head of Safety at Facebook, wrote in a blog post. The interactive lessons and videos, developed in partnership with the team at the Berkman Klein Center for Internet and Society at Harvard University for educators of youth aged 11 to 18, can be downloaded for free. Divided into themes such as privacy and reputation, identity exploration, security, safety and well-being, the lessons reflect the voices of young people from diverse geographies, socio-economic backgrounds, ethnicities and education levels. For details visit: <https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-in-school/a-library-for-digital-literacy/article24618666.ece>

### Section for Blind in TN Dist. Libraries

All district central libraries in Tamil Nadu will have an exclusive section for visually challenged visitors as in Tiruchi, according to a report in *The Hindu*. The District Central Library in Tiruchi, a member of book-share organization, has created 3,500 audio books with the help of volunteers. A good number of visually challenged youth visit the audio section of the library on a daily basis to further their careers. At a meeting of such volunteers hosted by the DCL recently, a discussion took place on the way forward for empowering visually challenged readers. The meeting was conducted in the wake of the State government's announcement that a section for visually impaired would be opened in all district central libraries. Visually impaired persons will be trained to use computers and other devices to access talking books and audio books, District Library Officer AP Sivakumar said. Last year, the library conducted a training programme on 'Access and Use of Digital Talking Book for Visually Impaired' teaming up with Rotary Club of Tiruchi Elite. For full report visit: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Tiruchirapalli/library-for-blind/article24574002.ece>

### Serbia adopts OA Policy

The Serbian Government has adopted a national policy mandating open access (OA) to all publications resulting from publicly-funded research in Serbia, according to a post on <http://www.eifl.net> website. The policy, titled the Open Science Platform, was introduced by the Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development (MESTD), the main funder for research in Serbia, in July 2018. A working group set up by MESTD, including stakeholders from the Serbian research and library sectors, led policy development. In addition to mandating OA to MESTD-

funded research, the policy states that universities and research institutes should define and adapt their open science institutional policies and infrastructure within six months to comply with the national policy. For details visit: <http://www.eifl.net/news/serbia-adopts-national-open-science-policy>

### Film on Open Access Publishing

'Paywall: The Business of Scholarship', a film which documents the hidden costs of academic publishing and stresses the need for open access to research and science has been released recently, according to a post on [www.eifl.net](http://www.eifl.net) website. The global premiere of the film took place at the Landmark Theatre in Washington, DC, on September 5, 2018. Further screenings are scheduled at over 120 universities and institutions around the world. Produced and directed by Jason Schmitt, Chair of the Communication & Media Department at Clarkson University in Potsdam, New York, the 65-minute film questions the rationale behind the 25.2 billion US dollars paid to for-profit academic publishers every year. Schmitt shows how access to research is often limited for those outside prestigious academic institutions - specially in developing countries - and showcases how open access repositories like [arXiv.org](http://arxiv.org) have played a strong role in information dissemination in physics, mathematics and computer science. For more details visit: <http://www.eifl.net/news/new-film-stresses-need-open-access-publishing>

### Corridor Library in School

A reputable girls' school in Kolkata has created a unique corridor library where students can pick titles from a bookshelf and put them back after reading without the institution keeping any record of how many have been borrowed and returned, says a report by Jhinuk Mazumdar in *The Telegraph* (India). Modern High School for Girls adopted the concept of an unmonitored library from a small town in the United States. "I was on my way back from the Catskill Mountains and there, by the roadside, I saw a letterbox kind of structure into which people would put a hand, take a book out and put one that they have read back inside. I found it so beautiful that I wanted to have it in my school," said Devi Kar, the director of the school. The school had started off with "book bins" before opting for a shelf. The idea is to give students "a little push" and a non-formal environment to browse and read at a time when the reading habit is under threat and swiping a digital screen is more the norm than turning pages. The bookshelf stands in the first-floor corridor, along which are the classrooms for III, IV and V. The idea is to encourage these students to pick up a book each before classes start in the morning or during the recess, when rainfall at this time of the year often prevents or disrupts outdoor activities. While eternally popular Roald Dahl, Enid Blyton and Mark Twain sit on the shelves, a bookworm is pinned on the side of the shelf with a note saying that the school hopes all children "will sit and enjoy the books and take care of them". The students have taken to the idea, crowding around the shelf to pick and choose while some quietly settle on the steps with a

book each in hand. "If given a choice, even those who are not in the habit of reading ultimately get tempted to pick a book. Basically, when they see their friends doing something, children get more interested in it. It is a ripple effect," said Aban Confectioner, the head of the primary and junior sections of the school. For full report visit: <https://www.telegraphindia.com/calcutta/where-books-worm-their-way-into-little-hearts-252342>

### UK Library Closure Decision Challenged

A young girl and her family who took on Northamptonshire County Council in UK over its plans to close 21 libraries have claimed a win in the high court, after a judge ruled that the cash-strapped council would have to revisit its plans while "paying attention to its legal obligations", says a report by Alison Ford in *The Guardian* (UK). Mrs Justice Yip, announcing her judicial review judgment recently, found that the council's decision-making process had been unlawful, and that it had not properly considered whether it would be operating a comprehensive and efficient library service - as required by law - once the much-criticised closures had gone ahead. Two separate legal challenges had been made against Northamptonshire's plans to close 21 of its 36 libraries. The changes would leave Northamptonshire with eight large and seven medium-sized branches, or one library for every 60,000 residents. According to the all-party parliamentary group for libraries, the European average is one library per 16,000 people. If the cuts were to go ahead, it would also affect the county's children's services, with 13 of the 21 affected libraries also housing children's centres. Justice Yip said that the council's "flawed" decision-making showed that "the whole question of library provision needs to be revisited by the defendant, paying attention to its legal obligations and all material considerations". While saying the closures may still go ahead "provided that decision is reached lawfully", Yip gave both sides more time to consider which decisions made by the council should be quashed by the high court, and what relief should be granted. For full report visit: <https://www.theguardian.com/books/2018/aug/14/family-claims-win-in-high-court-challenge-to-northants-library-cut>

### New Research Information Platform

London based technology company Digital Science has launched Dimensions, a ground-breaking research information platform that enables users to explore over 4 billion connections between 128 million publications, grants, patents, data and metrics for the first time, with free search and citation data across 89 million articles. Developed by six Digital Science companies in collaboration with over 100 leading research organizations from around the world, Dimensions breaks down barriers to discovery and innovation by providing a better, faster way to discover, understand and analyze the global research landscape. Daniel Hook, CEO at Digital Science, said: "The Dimensions project is a response to an urgent need for a more modern and inclusive research information platform - one which truly services the needs of both researchers and research institutions". For more details

visit: <https://www.dimensions.ai>.

### Library survives on five newspapers

Amidst the narrow lanes of the One Town area in Visakhapatnam, Hindu Reading Room would not be hard to miss. Sandwiched between myriad buildings and struggling to be seen behind low hanging wires and a bus stop, this fort-like building has been left behind by the fast-changing times, says a report by Aishwarya Upadhye in *The Hindu*. A small, green flex board that reads 'Sri Maharaja G N Gajapathi Rao, Hindu Reading Room', introduces the place. The visitors are greeted by dust-laden floors and heaps of marigold flowers lying in the corridors. "We donate these flowers to the nearby temples. That is why they are here," says S Surya, secretary of Hindu Reading Room Organizing Body. Unlike the city which has developed drastically over the years, the library cries for attention and upkeep. The hall on the ground floor is occupied by women who are practising *kolatam* - a popular form of folk dance. Two large rooms on the first floor of the building currently serve as the reading rooms. False ceiling hangs below the original high roof, ripping the building of the old era charm. Even after renovations done in 2013, at the cost of ₹50 lakhs, the floor has uneven cement screeds. Dust-filled window panes and peeling paint from the ceiling make it hard to imagine the grandeur of the edifice in its early days. Inaugurated in 1917 by the then Governor of Madras, John Baron Pentland, the motto of the room was to promote reading during colonial times. All that the reading room has today is three large wooden tables, covered by flex banners and a few plastic chairs. Sans books, the library survives on five Telugu newspapers. Surya claims that the reading room which is open from 9 am to 1 pm and 4 pm to 6 pm is visited by over 50 people every day. For full report visit: <https://www.thehindu.com/society/a-library-without-books/article24655050.ece>

### Information Kiosk at College

With a view to ensuring students visiting the library, get easy access to books, DAV College, Chandigarh, has installed a digital information kiosk with an informative portal for students to browse the contents of the space on their own, says a *The Times of India* report. The kiosk, which was installed almost two months ago outside the door of the Lalchand Research Library has been bought by the college for ₹ 1 lakh, using the funds received by the library under the Central Government's RUSA (Rashtriya Uchchar Shiksha Abhiyan) scheme. The kiosk, which is multi-sectional and user friendly, can be accessed by students and members of the faculty with a login name and a password. The kiosk is well equipped with embedded links with multiple links to various educational websites. The kiosk also has a touchscreen panel and multi-functionary buttons, embedded to provide an easy experience to the user while using the Internet. For original report visit: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/chandigarh/informative-kiosks-launched-for-students/articleshowprint/63198739.cms>

### Community Libraries for Bengalurians

Vinod Kumar, a college student, has a new found interest:

reading books. Every evening after college, he spends a few hours at a community library in his locality in Bengaluru, says a report by Sarumathi K in *The Hindu*. "There are no public libraries in New Gurappana Palya. Though I wanted to read as a child, books were not easily accessible. The community centre has opened up the world for us. I'm able to read books on varied subjects. This is not possible in the college library," he said. For people like Vinod, community libraries are filling up the gap left by the few and scattered public libraries in the city. It is strengthening the habit of reading in children and adults, specially those from vulnerable sections of the society. The Free Software Movement Karnataka, which runs the Ambedkar Community Computer Centre for children in New Gurappana Palya in Sudharshan Layout, started the community library this April. The centre now not only offers basic computer classes for children in the neighbourhood, mostly in slum pockets, but also makes access to books easier. The community library has around 300 books, in Kannada and English, mostly funded by Software Freedom Law Centre, New Delhi. For more details visit: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/bangalore/community-libraries-open-up-the-world-of-books/article24125408.ece>

## SPECIAL FEATURE

### Survival Mantra for Libraries and Books !

Vanishing libraries and their valuable treasures are certainly a blot on our culture and civilization. But such incidences are now happening more frequently than before not only in poor and developing countries, but in developed countries too mostly due to rising costs in maintaining these symbols of our culture on the one hand and budget cut on the other. In UK, which is considered to be a pioneer in public library development, there was a £50 million cut from library budgets across the country in 2014 - 2015, and 106 libraries closed down, according to the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy annual survey of libraries, and many more such libraries were facing extinction. In 2016, a report in *The Guardian* forecasted closure of 340 libraries in UK in next five years. While in USA, the American Library Association's State of America's Libraries Report 2015 found the number of states reporting library branch closures to be only five that year. "As in previous years, the number of closures in each state was between one and five libraries." In 2016 a Republican Study Committee even proposed elimination of the Institute of Museum and Library Services which provides millions of dollars in grant to libraries. So both the countries are facing closure of a good number of public libraries. Such may be the case in several other countries. In India too many public libraries have shut down in different parts of the country though exact number of such libraries is not known.

Besides unceremonious closures of many libraries, several others are facing an unpropitious condition - a threat of losing valuable documents in their possession due to paucity of funds to preserve these gems of civilisation. Wars and natural

calamities have robbed us of many priceless manuscripts and rare documents from time to time. But whatever is still left should be zealously preserved not only for the present generation but also for the posterity.

Closure of libraries is certainly a very retrograde step for any civilization. So also is allowing the intellectual outputs of our ancestors to perish. But how to prevent these to happen in the face of rising costs and dwindling budgets? The method tried in UK and USA to prevent closure of public libraries is handing over such libraries to voluntary and non-government organizations so that they can run them with voluntary workers. Financial assistance from philanthropic individuals and organizations has been used to restore and prevent decay of age old documents that are still valuable to the researchers. But these measures are not sufficient in view of enormity of the problem.

Of late a new mantra is being practiced in many countries to save libraries and books. The mantra is ADOPTION. For example, when many libraries in the gulf coast region of USA were extensively damaged or destroyed by Hurricane Katrina in 2005, American Library Association's Chapter Relations Office initiated 'Adopt a Library' programme which provided opportunity to libraries in other regions to adopt a library in the gulf coast. ALA collected information from libraries that needed assistance and connected those libraries with others which could provide relief. Contributing libraries were asked to lend support in the way of books, computers, fundraising and volunteers. ALA also took similar initiative for helping the libraries devastated by hurricanes and earthquakes in several other countries like Chile, Haiti, Puerto Rico and Mexico.

In Africa, Code, an NGO has also taken up 'Adopt a Library' programme for providing children and their families in smaller communities with a place to gather, read and learn. In our neighbouring country Bangladesh, The University Press Limited (UPL), a Dhaka based publishing house, launched the 'Adopt-a-Library' programme last year to revive a library culture among the readers. The organization first reached out to institution-based libraries, such as school libraries and college libraries, where a basic infrastructure already exists to house books for students. UPL screens the institutions requesting books and then gives them a choice of book-bundles to choose from. Each bundle of books consists of around 30 books of a variety of genres mostly in Bengali, with some in English, and includes books for teachers. Donors can also choose which type of book-bundle they want to buy for a library. In addition to educational institutes, stand-alone public and private libraries can also be donated to. Once a donor confirms for a particular type of library, the books are delivered to the institution.

A similar programme for protecting age old documents from decay and ultimate destruction is 'Adopt a Book' programme. This programme is more popular than 'Adopt a Library' programme possibly because adoption of a book is much cheaper than adoption of a library. The British Library runs

such a programme under which a book selected by the donor can be adopted for the purpose of conservation by paying just £25. The donor also receives a delightful book-jacket gift card and a personalised 'Adopt a Book e-certificate'. In a similar programme run by Smithsonian Libraries of USA, when one adopts a book, it is acknowledged by providing a virtual bookplate in the online catalogue and a physical bookplate on the adopted item. An adopter paying \$500 or more is admitted in the Smithsonian Libraries Society. In the similar programme, Duke University Libraries allow adoption of books, manuscripts, moving images, photographs and archival materials and an electronic bookplate is attached to the item's catalogue record. Many other libraries in different countries run similar programmes. The documents needing conservation are offered for adoption and these are often listed on the websites of the concerned libraries, sometimes with pictures, and the support of each adopter is duly acknowledged.

Evidently, adoption is a good way of saving libraries and their rich collections from decay. But in India we hardly hear about any library resorting to this method. If schools can be adopted, villages can be adopted, zoo animals can be adopted in the country, than why not libraries and books? If ALA can come forward to help libraries in distress by finding adopters, why can't our library associations also do it?

[Sources: <http://publiclibrariesonline.org/2016/04/wecant-lose-our-public-libraries-in-britain-or-america/>, <https://www.theguardian.com/books/2016/dec/12/library-closures-will-double-unless-immediate-action-is-taken>, <http://everylibrary.org/library-closures-defunding-2017/>, [http://www.ala.org/aboutala/shib\\_login/?q=ala-urges-library-supporters-help-libraries-rebuild-after-hurricanes-harvey-and-irma](http://www.ala.org/aboutala/shib_login/?q=ala-urges-library-supporters-help-libraries-rebuild-after-hurricanes-harvey-and-irma), <https://code.ngo/get-involved/adopt-library>, <https://www.thedailystar.net/star-weekend/endeavour/adopt-library-1538533>, <http://www.ala.org/Template.cfm?Section=News&template=/ContentManagement/ContentDisplay.cfm&ContentID=104294>, <https://support.bl.uk/Page/Adopt-a-book/>, <https://library.si.edu/donate/adopt-a-book>, <https://library.duke.edu/about/adopt-book-program>]

## NEW LIS LITERATURE

[Note: Publishers of the books enlisted here and/or any new books in LIS may send copies of such books to the Editor, *IASLIC Bulletin*, for review]

1. BAVAKUTTY (M) and ABDUL AZEEZ (T A). ICT Application in Academic Library Management. 2018. Ess Ess Publications, New Delhi. ₹ 1200. ISBN : 9788193607497

(Focuses on how ICT can be deployed in the effective management of libraries and information centres)

2. BILAWAR (Prakash). Essentials of Information Literacy and e-Information Literacy for Information Seekers. 2018. Ess Ess Publications, New Delhi. ₹ 475. ISBN: 9788193431153

### **Foreign**

1. IGLESIAS (Edward). Library Technology Funding, Planning, and Deployment. 2017. Information Science Reference, Hershey. \$ 155. ISBN: 9781522517351

(It is an authoritative reference source for the latest research on the best methods of the purchase and implementation of various technology systems by libraries)

2. LANNING (Scott). Concise Guide to Information Literacy. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. 2017. Libraries Unlimited, Santa Barbara, California. \$ 40. ISBN: 9781440851384.

(It covers major areas in the information literacy process, including locating, evaluating, and applying information successfully)

## **PERSONALIA**

**Dr. J. K. Vijayakumar**, Library Director, King Abdullah University of Science and Technology (KAUST), Thuwal, Saudi Arabia, will be joining the Board of Directors of International University Libraries Association (IATUL) effective January 2019. He is the first Indian LIS professional to join this international leadership board. Dr. Vijayakumar has earlier served as Scientist at INFLIBNET Centre and Associate Library Director at American University of Antigua.

**Smt. E Gajalakshmi**, Assistant Library & Information Officer, National Library, Kolkata, has been awarded the 'A N Marappan National Best Young Librarian Award' for her contribution and achievement in the field of library and information services, at the National Conference on the 'Role of Libraries in Knowledge Society, organized by the Society for the Advancement of Library and Information Science (SALIS), in association with DLIS, Alagappa University, Karaikudi, during September 7 - 8, 2018. The award was handed over to her by Prof. N Rajendran, Vice- Chancellor, Alagappa University, and Dr. Jagdish Arora, Director, INFLIBNET, Gandhinagar, and the Chief Guest, at the inaugural function of the conference. The Award has been instituted by SALIS.

**Ms. Radha Rani Rit**, has been awarded Ph D degree in library and information science by University of Kalyani, Kalyani, for her thesis entitled 'Ontology Based Organisation of Community Information Resources: Designing a Prototype Service Model'. She pursued her research under the supervision of Dr. Juran Krishna Sarkhel, Adjunct Professor, DLIS, Kalyani University. Dr. Rit is at present serving as Librarian, Bijoykrishna Girls' College, Howrah.

**Ms. Kaberi Karmakar**, has been awarded Ph D degree in library and information science by University of Kalyani, Kalyani, for her thesis entitled 'Bangla Prakashanar Bishay Suchikaran Paddhati Pronayan (Designing Subject Cataloguing System for Bengali Publications)'. She pursued her research under the supervision of Dr. Juran Krishna Sarkhel, Adjunct Professor, DLIS, Kalyani University. Dr. Karmakar is at present serving as Senior Library & Information Assistant, Sahitya Akademi.

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