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IASLIC NEWSLETTER

For Members only



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Prof. K P Majumder

Prof. P K Panigrahi

Quote of the Month

"A book is a device to ignite the imagination."

- Alan Bennett
British playwright

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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Librarians' Day Celebration

A day long programme was jointly organized by IASLIC, Bengal Library Association, West Bengal Public Library Employees Association and Bangiyo Sadharaner Granthagar o Karmi Kalyan Samity, with the financial assistance from RRRLF, to celebrate Librarians' Day 2017 on August 12, 2017, at Malda College, Malda. The programme was inaugurated by Smt. Sarala Murmu, Sabhadhipati,

Malda Zila Parishad, along with Shri Nihar Ranjan Ghosh, Chairman, Englishbazar Municipality, by lighting the ceremonial lamp. Shri Nihar Ranjan Ghosh welcomed all the delegates in the town, which is famous for mango. He also narrated his experiences as a user of library in his student days. Shri Amlan Bhaduri, LLA member, highlighted the contributions of S R Ranganathan for the development of libraries throughout the country. Shri Gautam Goswami, Secretary, Bengal Library Association, highlighted the role of BLA in library movement in the state. Shri Shibaprasad Chakrabarty and Shri Rafik Sheikh, Secretaries of West Bengal Public Library Employees Association and Bangiyo Sadharaner Granthagar o Karmi Kalyan Samity respectively, threw light on the present condition of public libraries in the state and how library services were being hampered for want of staff. Dr. J N Satpathi, President, IASLIC, gave a brief account of Librarians' Day celebrations since 1990. The inaugural session was presided over by Dr. Bimal Chandra Chattopadhyay, President, Bengal Library Association.

The inaugural session was followed by a discussion session on the topic 'Janasangjoge Granthagar o Granthagariker Bhumika (Role of library and librarian in public relations)'. The speakers were Shri Pranab Hazra, Librarian, Sidhu Kanhu Birsa Viswavidyalaya, Purulia; Shri Soumyajit Mahapatra, Chairman, Public Relations Society of India (Kolkata Chapter); and Dr. Sushanta Banerjee, Director, American Information and Resource Centre, Kolkata. Shri Pranab Hazra, in his speech, stressed on the role of public relations in rendering library services. He also stressed on the need for unity among the library professionals to overcome their problems. Shri Soumyajit Mahapatra very lucidly discussed the philosophy of public relations and how public relations help people in every walk of life. Dr. Sushanta Banerjee shared his experiences about public libraries, specially rural and village libraries of the state. He explained how public relations could turn a non-user to a regular user of a library. Maintaining good relation with every user was an essential quality of a librarian and that relation helped to render efficient and effective library services, he said. The discussion session was moderated by Prof. K P Majumder, former Professor (Prabir Raychaudhury Chair) of DLIS, Jadavpur University, Kolkata. The programme ended with a vote of thanks by Shri Gautam Goswami.

CONFERENCES / SEMINARS / WORKSHOPS

National

Seminar on Writing Research Papers

A Seminar on 'Research Publication: Writing Research papers, Citation Analysis and Plagiarism' is being organized by Department of Library, V H N Senthilkumara Nadar College (Autonomous), Virudhunagar, jointly with Society for the Advancement of Library and Information Science (SALIS) Madurai Chapter, on September 8, 2017. For details visit: www.vhnsnc.edu.in

Seminar on Social Implications of LIS

A UGC Sponsored National Seminar on 'Social Implications of Library and Information Science (SILIS): Descriptive and Prescriptive Approaches' is being organized by DLIS, North Bengal University, Raja Rammohunpur, West Bengal, during September 8-9, 2017. For details email to tapanbarui13@gmail.com or sghoshnbu@gmail.com

Workshop on Research Methods

An ICSSR Sponsored Workshop on 'Research Methods in Social Science: from Research Proposal to Thesis Writing' is being organized by Maharshi Dayanand College of Arts, Science and Commerce, Mumbai, during September 8-14, 2017. For details visit: <http://www.mdcollege.in/Events/002.pdf>

Virtual Workshop on DSpace

Dhanwantari Prakash Tripathi of Biju Patnaik Central Library, National Institute of Technology, Rourkela, is organizing a free Virtual Workshop on 'DSpace - Open Source IR Software using WhatsApp' on September 10, 2017. For registration visit: <https://goo.gl/forms/mB76sJguJYhKfx6F3>

DELNET Workshops

DELNET is organizing a series of Workshops on 'DELNET Discovery Services, Emerging Technologies in Knowledge Management, Open Source Software, Communication Skills for LIS Professionals, Academic Integrity & Plagiarism' in collaboration with different institutions in the states of Madhya Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and Punjab. These workshops will familiarize the participants with the current library and information tools and technologies so that they can implement them in their own libraries. The host institutions and the dates of workshop in September 2017 are: Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University, Hyderabad (September 8, 2017); Aditya Engineering College, Surampalem, East Godavari (September 11, 2017); D A V University, Jalandhar (September 16, 2017). For details visit: <http://www.delnet.nic.in/>

Digital Citizen Summit 2017

The second edition of Digital Empowerment Foundation's Digital Citizen Summit will be held at India Habitat Centre, New Delhi, during September 21-22, 2017. The summit will focus on issues related to access to the Internet, freedom of expression online, privacy, digital literacy and empowerment. Among groups that will be hosting sessions (tech demonstrations, workshops, panel discussions and talks) at the Summit are Point of View, Feminism in India, Hidden Pockets, Internet Democracy Project, Amnesty International India, The Dialogue, Centre for Communication Governance, NLU, Score Foundation, Bytes4All, Centre for Social Activism and Altermundi. For details visit: <http://dsummit.defindia.org/>

Conference on OA Resources

A UGC Sponsored National Conference on 'Open Access Resources for Academic Community' is being organized at Sacred Heart College, Tirupattur, Dist. Vellore, during

September 21-22, 2017. For details email to: selva_brid@yahoo.co.in

Conference on Library Profession

The Department of Library, Thiruvalluvar University College of Arts and Science, Viluppuram, is organizing a National Conference on 'Sustainable Development of Library and Information Science Profession' (CICOERMS-2017) on September 23, 2017. For details email to: drapshanmugamlibrarian@gmail.com

iETD Conference

The 4th iETD National Conference (iETD 2017) will be held at INFLIBNET Centre, Gandhinagar, during September 26-27, 2017. The theme of the conference is: 'Re-Envisaging iETDs: Roles and Responsibilities'. For details visit: <https://www.inflibnet.ac.in/ietd2017/>

Conference on Changing Digital Landscape

The Library Resource Centre of Ansal University, Gurgaon, is going to organize a National Conference on 'Changing Digital Landscape in SMART Environment' (NCCDLSE 2018) during February 8-9, 2017. For details visit: http://api.ning.com/files/J0BYroWc2rWCtJQrifXFP63GmUIOThBHsMgHdaK*APlliaTKZ8zQpYBuAuR84sendgmdnWE*vfVCxcMfacCO76KIIoC3TDJ/ConferenceAnnouncement2018.pdf

Seminar on Heritage Library: Brief Report

A Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation (RRRLF), Kolkata, sponsored state-level seminar on 'Public Librarianship and Glorious Heritage of Karmabir Nabin Chandra Bardoloi Library (Reading Hall): Plan for Renovation and Development' was held during January 22 - 23, 2017 in the said Reading Hall in Guwahati. It was organized by Assam Library Association, in association with the Directorate of Library Services, Government of Assam and the Government constituted Committee for Renovation and Development of KNCBL (Reading Hall). The Seminar was inaugurated by eminent writer Smt. Nirupama Bargohain, while the Souvenir, edited by Dr. Nabajyoti Das and others, was released by Shri Shiddhartha Bhattacharya, M LA, East Guwahati. The keynote address was delivered by Shri Harendra Nath Das, retired Chief Secretary, Government of Assam. Shri Preetom Saikia, Commissioner and Secretary, Cultural Affairs, Government of Assam, who was the Guest of Honour, while highlighting the initiative taken by the Government of Assam in respect of modernization of KNCBL, sought valuable suggestions from the members of the audience on different aspects of renovation of KNCBL. Earlier, Prof. Alaka Buragohain, President of Assam Library Association, in her welcome address, pointed out the main objectives of the seminar. Shri Dhiman Seal, General Secretary of the Association, mentioned about the activities of ALA.

Besides Smt. Nirupama Bargohain, several eminent persons, like Shri Kanak Sen Deka, Editor of Agradoot, an Assamese daily; renowned columnist, Dr. Hiren Gohain; renowned intellectual, Dr. Shyambhadra

Medhi; Dr. Pradip Sharma, an eminent archaeologist; Shri Kanak Chandra Sharma, a prominent writer; Shri Biswa Dutta and Shri Arijit Chowdhury, eminent architects; Smt. Silpirekha Pandit, a young promising architect; reputed artist Shri Kishore Kr. Das; Dr. Bhupen Deka, a retired physician; Shri Jayanta Sharma, conservationist; and several library scientists, including Prof. Narendra Lahkar, Prof. Sanjay Kr. Singh, Prof. N N Sharma, Shri Balladev Goswami, Secretary of Rural Library Association, Shri Mahendra Nath Borah, Dr. Utpal Das, Dr. Utpal Sharma, Dr. Hazarika, Dr. Badan Barman, etc. took part in the seminar, and expressed their valuable opinions on different aspects of conservation, renovation and beautification of the heritage building and development of public library service in Assam. Dr. A R D Prasad, Professor and Head of DRTC, Bangaluru, graced the concluding session.

Seminar on Digital Licensing: Brief Report

National Law University, Delhi, in association with Dr. B R Ambedkar Central Library, JNU, Indian Association of Special Libraries and Information Centre (IASLIC) Zone IV, Society for Library Professionals and Ranganathan Research Circle, organized a seminar on 'Digital Licensing: Smart Decisions for Smart Libraries' on August 9, 2017 on the occasion of 125th birth anniversary of Dr. S R Ranganathan. Welcoming the guests and delegates at the inaugural session, Prof. Ranbir Singh, Vice-Chancellor, National Law University, Delhi, said that NLU had grown as one of the best institutions in the country and suggested that the librarians should work towards the growth of the institution. Dr. Priya Rai, Deputy Librarian, NLU, Delhi, paid tribute to Dr. Ranganathan by reciting a poem on him and said that "all path leads to the same road but the true tribute to the great man will be to carry forward his legacy, ideas and work". Dr. Ramesh C Gaur, University Librarian, Jawaharlal Nehru University, gave a brief introduction to the seminar. He emphasized that it was necessary for the librarians to keep themselves aware about licensing of digital contents. He particularly focused on upcoming issue of GST on e-books and other technological instruments relating to scholarly literature and expressed his worries on possible effects of GST on libraries. A new book entitled 'Consumer Protection Rights in India: Role of National Forums', written by Dr. Sushil Kumar Sen of Institute of Economic Growth, Delhi, was released by the dignitaries on the dais. In his keynote address, Prof. V C Vivekanandan, Dean, School of Law, Bennett University, Greater Noida, spoke on 'Macro perspective concept of the libraries from physical to digital world: Is it a boom, bin or boot'. Prof. G S Bajpai, Registrar, NLU, Delhi, proposed a vote of thanks.

Four sessions were conducted during the seminar on (1) Digital Licensing: Issues and Challenges; (2) Digital Licensing: Access and Expansion for Academic Community; (3) Collaborative Models of Digital Licensing: Collective Rights; and (4) Managing Digital Rights in Libraries, which were chaired by Dr. Ramesh C Gaur; Dr. R K Srivastava, Additional Registrar, Supreme Court of India; Dr. R K Sharma, Librarian, UN

Information Center, New Delhi; and Dr. Ramesh C Gaur respectively. In the first session, Shri Shilohu Rao NJP, General Manager (Capacity Building), National E-Governance Division, Government of India, delivered an invited lecture on digital governance, while Dr. Savithri Singh, Principal Acharya Narendra Dev College, University of Delhi, spoke on copyright restrictions. Representing the publishers' side, Shri Suman Malik, CEO-SCC Online, Director-Eastern Book Company, explained the concepts of DRM protection and legal protection. In the second session, Dr. Arul G Scaria, Assistant Professor of Law, NLU, Delhi, discussed the concept of e-books and their implications in the digital world, while Dr. Gurjeet Singh, Associate Professor of Law, Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University, Delhi, discussed the concept of fair use. Dr. P K Jain, Librarian, Institute of Economic Growth, Delhi, discussed different aspects of digital licensing, while Shri Shaji John from EBSCO, discussed the issue of licensing from publishers' perspective. In the third session, Dr. G Mahesh of NISCAIR, New Delhi, in his invited lecture, shared his experiences in handling digital rights issues and specially discussed the issues relating to perpetual access of digital resources. Shri Laghdir Rabari, Deputy Librarian, Gujarat National Law University, Gandhinagar, said that the base for any licence was Indian Contract Act. Dr. D D Lal, Coordinator, DBT Electronic Library Consortium (DeLCON), discussed the functioning of DeLCON. Dr. Siva Chidambaram, Librarian, AIIMS, New Delhi, argued that as different institutions had different policies and mindsets for libraries, National Mission on Libraries should establish protocol and guidelines for electronic resource management in libraries. Shri Manju Bhargava, Managing Director, Corporate Law Adviser, Delhi (publisher of law related documents), explained the digital licensing policies of CLA online. In the last session, Dr. Raman Mittal, Associate Professor of Law, University of Delhi, delivered an invited speech on digital rights management, technological protection and digital lockers. Dr. Shantanu Ganguly of TERI, talked about smart digital libraries, while Dr. R K Verma discussed about digital rights management technology and its application in e-books and music files. The last speaker, Dr. Priya Rai, highlighted the significance of contract agreement and its legal implications in libraries. The seminar was well attended by about 250 participants from seven states of the country.

The seminar adopted six recommendations (i) seeking government action to make library subscriptions to digital resources tax free (ii) asking librarians to keep themselves aware of the technicality of contracts, (iii) seeking clarification on the access rights of digital content through remote login software, (iv) emphasizing the librarian's role in creating awareness about the nuances of plagiarism among new generation of users, (v) asking the librarians to impress upon the concerned authorities through their performance about their importance, and (vi) stressing the need to bring changes in copyright law of the country with regard to handling and distribution of digital resources.

International

Seminar on Ranganathan

To commemorate the 125th Birth Anniversary of Dr. S R Ranganathan, Sarada Ranganathan Endowment for Library Science, in association with Ranganathan Centre for Information Studies, Indian Institute of Technology Madras, M/S Informatics (India) and the Indian Public Library Movement (IPLM of NASSCOM Foundation), is going to organize an International Conference on 'Revisiting Ranganathan: Knowledge Organization, Library and Information Management' at IIT Madras, Chennai, during October 23-25, 2017. The conference is being supported by DELNET, ISKO (India and Singapore Chapters), Society for Information Science (Bangalore), KALA and other organizations. For details visit: <http://www.srr125.org>

ILA International Conference

The 63rd Annual Conference-cum-International Conference on 'Sustainable Development of Library and Information Science Profession' (ICSDDL-2017) is being organized by the DLIS and Gautam Buddha Central Library, Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University, Lucknow, during November 23-25, 2017. For details visit: <https://sites.google.com/site/ila63rdconference/>

Workshop on Information Management

An International Workshop on 'Information Management for Research and Education oriented Libraries' is being organized by AISSMS College of Engineering, Pune, during December 18-22, 2017. For details visit: <http://aissmscoelibraryworkshop2017.weebly.com/>

Conference on Health Informatics

The 11th Australasian Conference on Health Informatics and Knowledge Management (HIKM) will be held at Brisbane, Australia, during January 29 - February 2, 2018. For details visit: <http://www.hikm.net.au>

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

SALIS Observes Librarians' Day

The Society for the Advancement of Library and Information Science (SALIS), Chennai Chapter, Connemara Public Library and Local Library Authority, Chennai, organized a function to celebrate Dr. S R Ranganathan's 125th Birth Anniversary (Librarians' Day) on August 12, 2017 at Connemara Public Library. Shri P Meenakshisundaram, Librarian, Connemara Public Library, delivered the welcome address, while Dr. S Kannappan, Director (i/c) of Public Libraries, Tamil Nadu, delivered the presidential address. Dr. Kannappan, in his address, mentioned about the various steps being taken to further improve the public libraries in Tamil Nadu. Dr. A Hariharan, Founder President of SALIS, spoke about the contributions of SALIS for the professional and library development in Tamil Nadu. He mentioned that the present mission of SALIS was to promote 'Reading Habit' in Tamil Nadu particularly

among children and students to create a knowledge society. He also mentioned that more than 400 programmes were organized for the benefit of knowledge sharing among library professionals. He administered the oath to promote the reading habit to the participants. On this occasion, SALIS presented an 'Award of Appreciation' to Dr. S Kannappan for his meritorious service for the development of public libraries in Tamil Nadu. The award was handed over by Shri Kumari Ananthan (former MP), Dr. S S Jawahar IAS (Rtd) and Dr. A Hariharan. Further, 59 library professionals from Chennai, Kanchipuram, and Tiruvallur districts, who have completed 25 years of distinguished service, were honoured and felicitated by Shri Kumari Ananthan, Dr. S S Jawahar, and Shri S Kannappan. Dr. Jawahar, in his address, spoke about the importance of libraries and the role of librarians in the society. Shri Kumari Ananthan spoke about the importance of books, libraries and the responsibility of library professionals towards the society. He also stated how libraries help the society to grow and requested the gathering to read books regularly. Shri Elango Chandrakumar, DLO, Chennai, proposed the vote of thanks. More than 200 professionals from various institutions attended the celebration. Similar functions were organized by SALIS Coimbatore chapter at Coimbatore Institute of Technology, Coimbatore; Madurai Chapter at VHNSN College, Virudunagar; Erode Chapter at Vellalar Women's College, Erode; Tirunelveli Chapter at St. Xavier's College of Education, Palayamkottai; and Tiruchi Chapter at Bharathidasan University, Tiruchi.

Mobile Library for Rural Students

With the aim of promoting reading habit among the students in rural schools, a mobile library was flagged off in Coimbatore on July 5, 2017 by District Collector T N Hariharan, according to a report published in *The Hindu*. According to sources, the initiative by the District Central Library in R S Puram would benefit students of State Government-run schools in Govindapuram, Chenniyur, Narayana Chettipalayam, Sulakkal, Kollampalayam, Kondampatti, Gothavadi, MA Koundampalayam, Devanampalayam, Kovilpalayam, Cheran Nagar, Zamin Kaliapuram, Pattanam, Peedampalli and other places across the district. They said that the Library Officers had focussed on villages without library facilities. The mobile library van with 4,000 books at a time would move to government schools in the villages once every 15 days. Students or their head masters could register and then borrow as much books as they wanted. They should return those during the next routine visit of the mobile library. The mobile library would have books on science, history and culture. The initiative in Coimbatore was part of the State Government's programme to have such mobile libraries in 10 districts. For more details visit: <http://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/kolkata/Kolkata-National-Library-may-get-a-centre-in-Delhi/article14471105.ece>

Slow Mobile Access to Library Contents

On the occasion of Librarians' Day, Knimbus, a leading Cloud-based eLibrary platform, released findings of a

survey conducted with librarians across India on their current adoption of digital technology, perceived challenges and benefits, future plans and the influence of the Government's 'Digital India' initiative on making libraries digital. As per government data, there are 799 universities, 39,071 colleges and 11,923 stand-alone institutions in India and there are about 34.6 million higher education students in India. The number of public libraries in the country is over 70,000. But less than 10% students use the physical library. With the number of mobile Internet users expected to cross 500 million by 2017, consumption of information has moved from physical to the mobile. IAMAI (Internet & Mobile Association of India) estimates that smartphone users spend 72 per cent of their time to consume information on their mobile devices. This shift has increasingly impacted physical libraries which have been witnessing a significant drop in the usage of their facilities. The Knimbus survey reveals interesting findings as to where India's libraries are in their digital journey. None of the library respondents was fully digital, while 71 per cent of libraries were partially digital. However, the majority of respondents confirmed their plans to go fully digital by 2020. According to 56 per cent of respondents, a mobile device - either mobile or laptop - is a preferred medium for accessing library services. There is a high degree of understanding of the advantages of going digital. More than 60 per cent respondents agreed that 'anytime and anywhere access of e-resources' and 'a diverse range of content all at one place' are the biggest benefits of a digital library. Perceived high cost was cited as a barrier to digital adoption by 72 per cent currently. A majority credited the Government's 'Digital India' initiative with having a positive impact on accelerating the digitization of libraries. For more details visit: <https://indiaeducationdiary.in/indian-libraries-slow-provide-mobile-access-content-reveals-first-kind-survey-librarians/>

Way to Peep into Blackened Papyri

The 79 A.D. eruption of Mount Vesuvius in Italy is most famous for burying Pompeii, spectacularly preserving many artifacts and residents in that once bustling town south of Naples. The tumbling clouds of ash also entombed the nearby resort of Herculaneum, which is filled with its own wonders. During excavations there in 1752, diggers found a villa containing bundles of rolled scrolls, carbonized by the intense heat of the pyroclastic flows and preserved under layers of cement-like rock. Further digs showed that the scrolls were part of an extensive library, earning the structure the name Villa of the Papyri. Blackened and warped by the volcanic event, the roughly 1,800 scrolls found so far have been a challenge to read. Some could be mechanically unrolled, but hundreds remain too fragile to make the attempt, looking like nothing more than clubs of charcoal. Now, more than 200 years later, archaeologists examining two of the scrolls have found a way to peep inside them with x-rays and read text that has been lost since antiquity, says a story published in *Smithsonian*, the official journal published by the Smithsonian Institution in Washington. For more details visit: <http://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/ancient-scrolls-blackened-vesuvius-are-readable-last-herculaneum-papyri-180953950/#I8xhUIV5B4zSDrZH.99>

Bihar Builds an Army of Internet Saathis

As many as 11,18,000 women and girls, across 5,873 villages in six districts of Bihar, have been trained in basic digital and Internet skills under the Internet Saathi project, in collaboration with Tata Trusts and Google, according to a Digital Empowerment Foundation Newsletter report. Planned as a ripple effect, DEF trained 1,606 women in switching on and off a phone, browsing Google for food recipes, tailoring patterns, music videos and other websites of Internet to expose them to the world of Internet. Each of these women then further trained thousands of others in and around their villages in digital tools and exposed them to the Internet. With that, Internet Saathi project has completed its Bihar Chapter.

National Book Promotion Policy in offing

A two-day national seminar was organized recently by the national body for book promotion and publication, National Book Trust, under Human Resource Development Ministry, to coincide with the 60 Years programme of the Trust, according to a press release by Press Information Bureau, Government of India. Speaking on the occasion Dr. Mahendra Nath Pandey, Minister of State of Human Resource Development, said that the Government of India was working on finalizing a National Book Promotion Policy, which would take care of providing a policy direction to the whole spectrum of book publication, writing and distribution in order to promote a culture of reading in the society. Dr. Pandey emphasized on the significant role being played by National Book Trust, India, in creating a culture of reading and re-affirmed the commitment of the Government of India to support its endeavors to meet its avowed objectives. For more details visit: <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=169503>

New Open Access Platform

Mary Ann Liebert, Inc. publishers has announced the launch of its *LiebertOpenAccess.com* platform, featuring the company's open access publications and services in one online destination. Using the latest technology, *LiebertOpenAccess.com* offers an intuitive interface and tools to help researchers discover free, open access content and explore the Liebert Open Access publishing services.

TECHNOLOGY NEWS

USB Devices may 'leak' Information

USB connections, the most common interface used globally to connect external devices to computers, are vulnerable to information 'leakage', making them even less secure than has been thought, Australian research has shown, says a PTI report. University of Adelaide researchers tested more than 50 different computers and external USB hubs and found that over 90% of them leaked information to an external USB device. "USB-connected devices include keyboards, card-wipers and fingerprint readers which often send sensitive information to the computer," says project leader Dr. Yuval Yarom, Research Associate with the University of Adelaide's School of Computer Science. "It has been thought that because that

information is only sent along the direct communication path to the computer, it is protected from potentially compromised devices," said Yarom. "But our research showed that if a malicious device or one that's been tampered with is plugged into adjacent ports on the same external or internal USB hub, this sensitive information can be captured", he said. "That means keystrokes showing passwords or other private information can be easily stolen," he added. For details visit: <http://www.newindianexpress.com/lifestyle/tech/2017/aug/15/usb-devices-may-leak-information-to-hackers-1643487.html>

Human face may serve as safe password

Apple Inc. is working on a feature that will let you unlock your iPhone using your face instead of a fingerprint, says a report published in the e-paper of *The Times of India*. For its redesigned iPhone, set to go on sale later this year, Apple is testing an improved security system that allows users to log in, authenticate payments, and launch secure apps by scanning their face, according to people familiar with the product. "This is powered by a new 3-D sensor", added the people, who asked not to be identified discussing technology that is still in the process of development. The company is also testing eye-scanning to augment the system, one of the people said. The sensor's speed and accuracy are focal points of the feature. It can scan a user's face and unlock the iPhone within a few hundred milliseconds, the person said. It is designed to work even if the device is lying flat on a table, rather than just close up to the face. The feature is still being tested and may not appear with the new device. However, the intent is for it to replace the Touch ID fingerprint scanner, according to the person. Apple is not the first to use different forms of biometric authentication. In its latest phones, Samsung included iris scanners that let users unlock their phones and make payments by scanning their eyes. Samsung's feature launched to poor reviews as users were able to trick the sensor with printed photo copies of a person's eyes. Apple's sensor has 3-D depth perception, which means the system is less likely to be duped by 2-D pictures. For original report visit: <http://epaperbeta.timesofindia.com/Article.aspx?eid=31804&articlexml=Your-face-may-be-the-next-safe-password-05072017017038>

Google redesigns mobile search app

Google recently announced an overhaul of its search app on mobile phones to include a personalized feed of links about hobbies, travel, sports and other topics - a move that puts the search company into more direct competition with social networks such as Facebook, says a Reuters report by David Ingram. The new offering is called "Google Feed," a name that may conjure comparisons to Facebook's "News Feed," a feature on Facebook used to browse updates from friends, family and other sources. Google, however, said that it was not trying to duplicate Facebook Inc., the world's largest social network. Instead, the company said that it wanted to create another place to see a stream of relevant search results. "This feed is really about your interests ... It's not really about what your friends are interested in", Ben Gomes, a Google vice-president for engineering, said in a briefing with reporters. Typical updates might include a link to a website with tips about an

upcoming vacation spot, or a link to a page about cycling or another hobby, the company said. For more details visit: <https://in.reuters.com/article/usa-trump-afghanistan-idINKCN1B109C>

Keyboard with Speech-to Text Capability

Indus OS, a completely indigenously developed operating system for the Indian masses, which is already a part of eight million smartphones in India, has unveiled a new keyboard for Indus OS users, according to an *Asian Age* report. The new Indus keyboard will have speech-to-text capabilities for 23 Indian languages such as Assamese, Malayalam, Bengali, Gujarati, Hindi, Kannada, Dogri, Urdu, Marathi, Oriya, Punjabi, Telugu, Tamil, Nepali, Bodo, Sindhi, Konkani, Sanskrit, Maithili, Kashmiri, Manipuri, Arabic, and English, along with other recognized languages from the Indian subcontinent. The new keyboard update will be released to existing Indus OS users and will be available on all new and future Indus OS devices from manufacturers such as Micromax, Karbon, Intex, Celkon, Swipe and Trio. The updated keyboard also lets users convert their selfies or photographs to GIFs and stickers, which will help them add life to their WhatsApp, Facebook and other conversations. The Indus keyboard already has some notable India-specific features such as 'matra' prediction, auto-correction, text-to-speech abilities, Hinglish keyboard functionality and Indus swipe features.

SPECIAL FEATURE

Let's Gift Books

"I request people to give a book instead of bouquet. I am happy that as soon as I arrived here, I was given a book and told that 'we don't have the tradition of giving a bouquet'," said Prime Minister Narendra Modi, while addressing the students at St. Teresa's College in Kochi on June 18, 2017 on the eve of the national level inauguration of 'Read and Grow' celebration (Incidentally, Kerala also observed reading month from June 19 to July 18, 2017). He said that we should have a tradition of gifting books instead of bouquets. Requesting every young person to take a pledge of reading books, he said, "together we can once again make India a land of wisdom and knowledge." Earlier, on June 17, 2017 the Prime Minister had also tweeted appealing the people to stop giving bouquets. Referring to his experience in Kochi, in his Man Ki Baat radio address on June 25, 2017 he mentioned how he liked the practice of gifting books by P N Panicker Foundation instead of bouquets at Kochi and said "I had the opportunity to go to the inaugural function, where I was told that instead of bouquets, they gift books. I liked the idea". Subsequently, on July 12, 2017 the Prime Minister's Office issued an advisory to every state to "sensitize" the masses into presenting the Prime Minister with a book or a khadi handkerchief instead of bouquets during his visits. In early August, the Uttar Pradesh Government also issued directions to gift inspiring books and a single flower instead of bouquets. Other states may soon follow suit. And if they do so, it will indeed be a very positive step

towards furthering reading habit, which is presently on the wane.

Nevertheless, the idea of gifting books is not new. There has been a tradition in some parts of the country, including Bengal, for long of giving books as gifts during social ceremonies, like marriage or birthday celebration, and even as prizes for different cultural competitions. Such gifts were quite welcome to the old and women of the house. They would read these books at leisure, the opportunity of recreation for them being very limited in earlier days. Not only in India, the practice of gifting books was prevalent in several other countries too. One particular example is the tradition being still followed in Iceland. Icelanders have a beautiful tradition of giving books to each other on Christmas Eve and then spending the night reading the books. In many countries, such as UK, USA, Greece, Pakistan and Gibraltar, International Book Giving Day is observed on the Valentine's Day i.e. 14th February every year. In Armenia, 19th February, which is the birthday of great Armenian poet Hovannes Tumanyan, is celebrated as Book Gifting Day.

Interestingly, in 19th century, a special kind of 'gift books', were in vogue in some European countries, which were specially meant for giving away as gifts and not for study by their purchasers. They were often literary pieces-collected essays, short fiction and poetry - lavishly decorated generally published in the autumn, in time for the ensuing holiday season. In England 'gift books' first appeared in the 1820s. They were modelled after the long-established literary almanacs published in France and Germany such as the *Almanach des Muses* (1765/1833) and Schiller's *Musen-Almanach* (1796/1800), but lacked some of the critical prestige of their continental counterparts. The first known example is Rudolph Ackermann's *Forget Me Not*, subtitled *a Christmas and New Year's Present for 1823*, published in November 1822. It was decoratively bound and came in a slipcase. The experiment was successful, and by 1832 there were sixty-three different annual 'gift books' being published in England. In 1826, The *Atlantic Souvenir* was the first American annual (gift-book) published. "A notable feature of gift books was their decorative aspect. They featured increasingly lavish bindings, ranging from glazed paper to embossed silk or embossed and inlaid leather with mother of pearl. Their size increased over time as well as their interior decoration. Pages often featured flowery borders, and the books were copiously illustrated with engravings or coloured plates. An inscription plate was often included for the gift giver to inscribe to the recipient".

It is not exactly known if this practice of publishing attractive 'gift books' still persists. But evidently with the advancement of materialistic world and production of attractive and labour reducing consumer goods, such goods are now replacing books as gifts and prizes. And its effect is quite visible: drop in reading habit. We must seriously think to revive the custom of gifting books on different occasions as one of the important means to raise reading habit. Fortunately, a couple in Bhubaneswar has recently shown the way. The couple, Pintu Bhattacharya

and Aparajita Mohanty had put up a wish-tree at their marriage 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, so that they could set up a children's library in their locality. The members of our young generation should emulate this example. We can also designate a particular day every year as book-gifting day in our country too. We must remember that, as the famous artist Christopher Marley said, "when you give someone a book, you don't give him just paper, ink, and glue, you give him the possibility of a whole new world."

[Sources: <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/kochi/gift-books-instead-of-bouquets->

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OBITUARY

Prof. Yashpal passes away

Prof. Yashpal, a scientist of international repute and former chairman of UGC, passed away on July 24, 2017 at Noida, Uttar Pradesh. He was 90. He was known for his contributions in the fields of cosmic rays, high energy physics and astrophysics. An alumnus of Punjab University and Massachusetts Institute of Technology of USA, Prof. Yashpal served as Professor, Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Mumbai; first Director, Space Applications, Centre, Ahmedabad (1973-81); Chief Consultant, Planning Commission (1983-84); Secretary, Department of Science and Technology (1984-86) and Chairman, University Grants Commission (1986-91), New Delhi. Prof. Yashpal was a member of UN Advisory Committee on Science and Technology for Development, Scientific Council, International Centre for Theoretical Physics, and United Nations

University. Prof. Yashpal was Vice-President of International Union of Pure and Applied Physics, and Indian National Science Academy. He was Secretary General of the Second United Nations Conference on Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (1981-82). Prof. Yashpal was the Chancellor of Jawaharlal Nehru University during 2007-2012. He was also the recipient of several awards, including the Indira Gandhi Prize for Popularization of Science (2000) and the Meghnad Saha Medal (2006). He also served as president of the Indian Physics Association. Prof. Yashpal was honoured with awards of Padma Bhushan in 1976 and Padma Vibhushan, in 2013. IASLIC deeply mourns the death of Prof. Yashpal, who was an Honorary Member of the association.

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