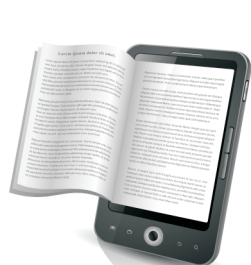


FEBRUARY
2016



IASLIC NEWSLETTER

For Members only



At a Glance

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Special Feature

Editor

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Dr. V. K. Thomas

Shri Salil Chandra Khan

Quote of the Month

“Reading is still the main way that I both learn new things and test my understanding”

– Bill Gates

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

UGC's Letter on Alignment of Degrees

UGC has again sent a letter to all universities on alignment of their degrees with the degrees specified by it in its notifications, dated July 5, 2015. The degrees specified by UGC in its aforesaid notification include degrees in LIS. The letter from UGC is reproduced below.


 प्रो. (डॉ.) जसपाल एस. सन्धू
 सचिव
Prof. Dr. Jaspal S. Sandhu
 MBBS, MS (Ortho), DSM, FAIS, FASM, FAFSM, FFIMS, FAMS
 Secretary



विश्वविद्यालय अनुदान आयोग
University Grants Commission
 (मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार)
 (Ministry of Human Resource Development, Govt. of India)
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 Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, New Delhi-110002
 Ph.: 011-23239337, 23236288,
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By Speed Post

D.O.F.No.5-1/2013(CPP-II)

11th September, 2015

Dear Sir/Madam,

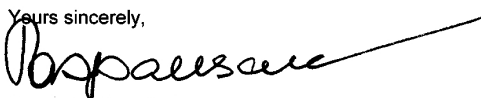
This is in continuation of my earlier letter of even number dated 11th July, 2014 in which UGC had asked the universities to align the degrees with the degrees specified by the UGC in its Notification dated 5th July, 2014 published in the Gazette of India. Six months were given to the universities for aligning the degrees. I hope that your esteemed university must have aligned the degrees as per Notification mentioned above. For the sake of repetition, I wish to state that UGC Regulations being statutory in nature are binding on Universities and Colleges and any violation thereafter would render the degrees which are not mentioned in the above Notification and its subsequent amendments as **unrecognised** by the UGC.

First amendment of this Notification regarding Specification of Degrees has also been notified in the Gazette of India on 23rd July, 2015, in which some more degrees have been specified. It is available on UGC website i.e. www.ugc.ac.in.

You are again requested to kindly ensure that the contents of this letter are followed by your University in letter and spirit.

With kind regards,

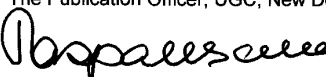
Yours sincerely,


(Jaspal S. Sandhu)

The Vice-Chancellor of all Universities.

Copy to :

The Publication Officer, UGC, New Delhi for uploading on UGC Website.


(Jaspal S. Sandhu)

30th All India Conference 2015

IASLIC 30th All India Conference, organized by IASLIC, in collaboration with DLIS, Gujarat University, Ahmedabad, was held during December 28-31, 2015. Over 150 delegates participated in the conference. The conference was inaugurated by Prof. M N Patel, Vice-chancellor of Gujarat University, on December 30. In his inaugural address Prof. Patel dwelt upon the changing trend of library use in digital environment. He mentioned about some incidences of plagiarism due to easy availability of resources on the Internet and said that in Gujarat University similarity upto only five per cent was allowed in Ph D theses as a matter of policy. Dr. R K Chaddha, former Additional Secretary (Library) of Parliament, in his keynote address, preferred to call the recent developments as knowledge revolution rather than information revolution. He stressed that library should adapt to the new environment and mentioned that many libraries were now adopting SMS alerting service instead of traditional CAS and SDI. He also informed that all library consortia under MHRD, Government of India, had been merged into a single platform for better access to and expanded access to periodical literature.

Prof. Urmila Thacker, President of the conference, in her address, stressed on the importance of legislation based public library system to fulfil the dreams of Mahatma Gandhi and Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel. She also mentioned about the contributions of Maharaja Sayajirao Gaikwad-III of Baroda and Dr. S R Ranganathan for the development of public libraries. She lamented that so far only 19 states and union territories in the country had enacted public library legislation. Dr. Barun Mukherji, President of IASLIC, in his presidential address, said that public library was the basic knowledge centre as recognized by UNESCO. He highlighted the importance of community information services and said that though such service had already been started in many other countries, it was yet to take proper shape in this country.

Earlier, Dr. Geeta Gadhavi, Organizing Secretary, in her welcome address, expressed her happiness at getting the opportunity to organize such a wonderful event and thanked IASLIC for the same. Prof. P K Panigrahi, Honorary General Secretary of IASLIC, in his address mentioned that though IASLIC had already organized 26 national seminars and 29 national conferences, it was the first time that IASLIC could organize a seminar/conference in Gujarat. He briefly described the activities of IASLIC and highlighted the efforts being made to address some recent unwanted developments in the field of LIS education in the country.

The volume containing abstracts of the papers to be presented in the conference and a book entitled 'Dynamics of planning and marketing of modern libraries and information centres in an information technology based environment' were released on the occasion. Prof. S B Banerjee, Vice-President of IASLIC, proposed a vote of thanks.

The meeting of SIG-1: Social Science Information, was held on the first day i.e. December 28, 2015 in the morning. The theme of the meeting was 'Library and Research'. The meeting was chaired by Ms. Rohda Bharucha, Director, ADINET,

while Ms. Kina Khimani, Head, Information Resource Centre, TCS, Gujarat, and Dr. Saptarshi Ghosh, Head, DLIS, North Bengal University, served as rapporteurs. Seven out of eleven papers were presented during the meeting. Earlier in the day IASLIC Governing Body meeting was held at the Gujarat University Library. A cultural function was held in the afternoon.

The meeting of SIG-2: Computer Application in LIS, was held on the second day i.e. December 29, 2015 in the morning. The theme of the meeting was 'Library Security Technology'. The first session of meeting was chaired by Dr. B Agadi, Librarian, Central University of Gujarat, while Dr. Nimesh Ojha and Ms. Sanjukta Roy served as rapporteurs. Six out of ten papers were presented in the meeting. The second session was chaired by Dr. J N Satpathi, former President of IASLIC, while Dr. Sibsankar Jana and Ms. Rashmi Khumbar served as rapporteurs. Four papers were presented in the session.

The thematic sessions of the conference were directed by Dr. Sailesh Yagnik. Thematic Session-I of the conference on sub-theme-1: Library legislation and its role in creating community learning space for the common people, was held in the afternoon. The session was chaired by Prof. Narendra Lahkar of DLIS, Gauhati University, while Dr. Radhika Rani and Ms. Moumita Ash served as rapporteurs. This session was followed by Annual General Meeting of the association.

Thematic Session-II also on sub-theme-1, held on the third day i.e. December 30, 2015, in the morning was chaired by Prof. Pravakar Rath of DLIS, Mizoram University, while Dr. Lavji Zala and Mr. Narmal Ranjan Mazumdar served as rapporteurs. In this session three out of five papers were presented. Thematic Session-III on sub-theme-2: Identification of community information needs; Sub-theme-3: Staff development in libraries: a crucial element for the success of CIS programme; and sub-theme-4: Library legislation and role of community learning space; was held after lunch. This session was chaired by Dr. Sangeeta Gupta of DLIS, Jammu University, while Mr. Rakesh Parmar and Mr. Debashish Mukherjee served as rapporteurs. All the listed papers of the session were presented by respective authors. Thematic Technical Session IV on sub-theme-5: Role of CIS in harnessing the resources across communities and minimizing cultural divide; and sub-theme-6: Library legislation and its role in enhancing the community's creative capacity; was held in the afternoon after tea-break. The session was chaired by Prof. Arjun Dasgupta of University of Calcutta, while Dr. Manish V Pandya and Dr. Bipin J Modi served as rapporteurs. In this session only two papers on sub-theme-6 were presented.

The last thematic session i.e. Thematic Session-V on sub-theme-7: Role of Professionals, and sub-theme-8: Evaluation mechanism of CIS, was held on the last day i.e. December 31, 2015, in the morning. The session was

chaired by Dr. Yogesh Parekh, Librarian, Gujarat University, while Dr. Rashmi Kumbhar and Ms. Banashree Roy served as rapporteurs. All the four papers listed for presentation were duly presented by respective authors.

Besides thematic sessions, three panel discussions were also held during the conference on the themes 'Library Beyond Books', 'Towards Inclusive Library' and 'LIS Education'. The panelists on the first theme were Dr. R K Chaddha, Dr. Sravan Kumar, Mr. Saroj Das and Dr. Sailesh Yagnik. The discussion was moderated by Dr. R K Chaddha. The panelist on the second theme were Dr. S N Singh, Dr. Urmila Thacker, Dr. Sreyashi Parekh and Dr. Nishtha Anil Kumar. The discussion was moderated by Dr. S N Singh. The panelists in the third theme were Prof. Amitabha Chatterjee, Prof. Naendra Lahkar, Prof. Arjun Dasgupta, Prof. Sangeeta Gupta and Dr. Geeta Gadhavi. The discussion was moderated by Prof. Amitabha Chatterjee. A poster presentation was also organized during the conference. Out of the three posters presented, the poster displayed by Ms. J Vasanthi was adjudged as the best poster.

A special presentation on 'Shodh Ganga, Shodh Gangotri and Shodh Sindhu' was made by Mr. K Manoj Kumar of INFLIBNET. Mr. Tushar Popat of Rapud Radio gave a presentation on 'Application of RFID', while Mr. Jay Argade of Emerald gave a presentation on Emerald Publications.

The concluding-cum-valedictory session, was chaired by Shri S B Banerjee, Vice-President, IASLIC, while Dr. Arvind Sinha, former Director of MICA, Ahmedabad served as the chief guest and Dr. Kaushik Shah, Director of Public Libraries, Gujarat, served as guest of honour. Ranganathan Medal for Best Article of 2014 was presented to Mr. D K Suresh Kumar, Assistant Librarian, Kerala University Library. This was followed by presentation of report on the deliberations and draft resolutions by Dr. Sanjay Singh, Rapporteur General of the Conference. After discussions, nine resolutions were adopted. Dr. Kaushik Shah spoke on public library development in Gujarat and Dr. Arvind Sinha delivered the valedictory address. On behalf of IASLIC mementos were presented to the Organizing Secretary, President of the Conference, Director of Thematic Sessions and Rapporteur General. Some IASLIC staff members, viz., Mr. Chayan Samaddar, Mr. Subhas Sinha and Ms. Bela Mondal, were presented token gifts in recognition of their help in organizing the conference.

IASLIC 27th National Seminar 2016

Theme: Social Networking and Libraries

Special Interest Group Discussions

SIG01: Social Sciences Information

Customer Satisfaction Management in Library and Information Services

SIG02: Computer Application in LIS

Mobile Technology in Libraries

CONFERENCES/SEMINARS/WORKSHOPS

National

Conference on Digitization of Library

A National Conference on 'Digitization of Library: Enhancing Reading Culture' is being organized by Daniel Poor Library of the American College, Madurai, as a part of the centenary celebration of the college, during February 5-6, 2016. For details visit: www.americancollege.edu.in

Workshop on DSpace

A National Workshop on 'Developing Digital Libraries Using DSpace 5.2' is being organized by the University College for Women, Osmania University, Hyderabad, during February 5-6, 2016. For details visit: <http://oucwkoti.ac.in>

Conference on Best Practices in Libraries

Kerala College Librarians' Association (KCLA), in association with Kerala State Higher Education Council (KSHEC), is organizing a 'National Conference on Best Practices and Innovations in Libraries and Information Centres' during February 18-20, 2016 at Marian College, Kuttikkanam P.O., Peermade, Idukki District. For details visit: <http://kcla2016.weebly.com/>

Course on Open Source Software

The UGC-Human Resource Development Centre of University of Burdwan, Burdwan, West Bengal, is conducting a short-term course on 'Open Source Software' during February 23-29, 2016. For details visit: <http://www.buruniv.ac.in>

Conference on Open Source Movement

The Department of Studies in Library and Information Science, University of Mysore, is organizing a National Conference on 'Bridging the Digital Divide: Open Source and Open Access Movement' during March 11-12, 2016, under the UGC-SAP-DRS II. The last date for submission of paper is February 20, 2016. For details visit: <http://www.unimysore.ac.in>

Seminar on 21st Century Librarianship

Sayaji Rao Gaekwad Library (Central Library) and the Department of Library and Information Science, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, is organizing a seminar on 'Librarianship in 21st Century: Issues & Challenges' on February 27, 2016. For details visit: <https://blu184.Mail.live.Com/mail/ViewOfficePreview.aspx?messageid=mgTcGhv8jA5RGUUAAhWtnfhg2&folderid=flinbox&attindex=0&cp=-1&attdepth=0&n=62554653>

NISCAIR Training Programmes

NISCAIR is going to conduct Training Programmes on 'Design and Development of Digital Libraries Using Dspace' during February 08-12, 2016; on 'Science Communication through Print Media' during February 22- 26, 2016; and on 'Library Automation Using Koha Advance' during March 14-19, 2016.

Seminar on Advancements in LIS

An ICSSR sponsored seminar on 'Advancements in Library and Information Science and Technology: Challenges and Opportunities', will be organized by Rajkumar Kewalramani Kanya Mahavidyalaya, Jaripatka, Nagpur, in March 2016. For details email to: lib.rkkm@gmail.com

International

Conference on Big Data Management

An International Academic Conference on 'Big Data Management and Computer Engineering (ICBMCE 2016)' will be held at Hyderabad on February 28, 2016. For details visit: <http://iraj.in/Conference/2016/Hyderabad/ICBMCE1/>

Conference on Role of Libraries

An International Conference on 'Libraries as Partners of Knowledge Sustainability ICULA-2016' will be organized by University Librarians' Association of Sri Lanka, Jaffna, during March 7-8, 2016. For details visit: <http://icula2016.slula.org>

ILA Conference

The 61st International Conference of Indian Library Association on 'Sustaining the Excellence: Transforming Libraries through Technology Innovation and Value Added Services in Google Era' will be organized by Saurashtra University, Rajkot, during March 12-15, 2016. For details visit: <http://www.ilaindia.net/>

Conference on Information Management

The Second 'International Conference on Information Management (ICIM2016)', organized by South Asia Institute of Science and Engineering (SAISE) and University of Westminster, UK, and technically supported by IEEE, will be held in London during May 7-8, 2016. For details visit: <http://www.icim.org/index.php>

Conference on Business Information Systems

The 2016 'International Conference on Business Information Systems (ICBIS 2016)', organized by South Asia Institute of Science and Engineering (SAISE) and technically supported by the University of Westminster, UK, will be held, in conjunction with ICIM 2016, in London during May 7-8, 2016. For details visit: <http://www.icbis.org/>

Conference on Business Information Systems

The 19th 'International Conference on Business Information Systems' will be held in Leipzig, Germany, during July 6-8, 2016. For details visit: <http://bis.kie.ue.poznan.pl/bis2016/>

Conference on Cloud Computing

The 2016 'International Conference on Cloud Computing and Big Data (ICCCBD 2016)' will be held during July 5-7, 2016 at Chengdu, China. For details visit: <http://www.icccbd.com/>

IFLA Congress

IFLA World Library and Information Congress: 82nd IFLA General Conference and Assembly will be held during August 13-19, 2016 at Columbus, Ohio, USA (For details visit: <http://2016.ifla.org/>). The Satellite Meeting of Education and Training & Library Theory and Research Sections on the theme 'International Quality Assessment of LIS Education Programs' will be held in Dublin on August 10, 2016. The deadline for submission of papers and panel proposals is February 12, 2016 (For details visit: <https://publish.illinois.edu/ifla-set-ltr-2016/call/>). The open session organized by Agricultural Libraries Special Interest Group will be held on the theme 'Animal Agriculture Information Systems: An International Perspective'. The deadline for submission of abstracts is February 15, 2016 (For details visit: <http://2016.ifla.Org/cfp-calls/agricultural-libraries-special-interest-group>)

Conference on LIS Education

The 7th Asia-Pacific Conference on 'Library & Information Education and Practice (A-LIEP 2016)', will be organized by Nanjing University, Nanjing, China, during November 3-4, 2016. For details visit: <http://aliep2016.nju.edu.cn>

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

UDC Summary in Indian Languages

The Universal Decimal Classification Summary, having over 2,600 classes, has been translated or being translated in 56 languages (<http://www.udcsummary.info/translation.htm>). The translation of UDC Summary is now available in the following Indian languages:

Angika - <http://www.udcsummary.info/php/index.php?lang=ang&pr=y>
 Bengali - <http://www.udcsummary.info/php/index.php?lang=bn&pr=y>
 Bhojpuri - <http://www.udcsummary.info/php/index.php?lang=bho&pr=y>
 Hindi - <http://www.udcsummary.info/php/index.php?lang=hi&pr=y>
 Kannada - <http://www.udcsummary.info/php/index.php?lang=kn&pr=y>
 Malayalam - <http://www.udcsummary.info/php/index.php?lang=ml&pr=y>
 Marathi - <http://www.udcsummary.info/php/index.php?lang=mr&pr=y>
 Panjabi - <http://www.udcsummary.info/php/index.php?lang=pa&pr=y>
 Sanskrit - <http://www.udcsummary.info/php/index.php?lang=sa&pr=y>
 Tamil - <http://www.udcsummary.info/php/index.php?lang=ta&pr=y>
 Telugu - <http://www.udcsummary.info/php/index.php?lang=te&pr=y>

Fulbright Specialist Program

The United States-India Educational Foundation (USIEF), the Fulbright Commission in India, has invited applications from Indian institutions for hosting a US expert for a short-duration of two to six weeks under the Fulbright Specialist Program. The subjects covered include Library and Information Science. The Fulbright program pays for international travel and honorarium for the scholar and the host institution has to commit for board/lodging, local transportation and in-country travel, if required, as part of the program. The last date for receiving application is March 15, 2016. For more details visit: <http://redirect.state.sbu/?url=http://www.usief.org.in/Fellowships/FIC-Institutional-awards.aspx>.

Loss to Libraries in Chennai Floods

The public libraries of Chennai have lost about 5 lakh books to the rain. Among the 150-odd public libraries in Chennai, housing nearly 70 lakh books, five libraries were badly hit, while others suffered minor losses, according to a report published in *Times of India*. Though its campus was flooded with knee-deep water, books at Connemara Public Library remained unaffected. Public libraries at Ashok Nagar, CIT Nagar, Puthu Theru (near the Aranganathan subway), Kochin Illam and Raghavan Colony were flooded up to 6 feet. District library officer Elango Chandrakumar said, "prior to the monsoon, we took precaution by arranging books at a higher level. At some places, however, we were taken by surprise by the floods". He assured that newer books would hit the shelves replacing the lost ones. "We also have extra copies of many books that were lost in the floods," Elango said. For details visit: <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/chennai/Public-libraries-lose-5-lakh-books-to-floods/articleshow/50146153.cms>?

Case against Google

According to a *Washington Post* report, the Authors Guild of USA has officially asked the country's Supreme Court to hear its case against Google a long-running dispute over whether copyright law allows for Google to scan and post excerpts from books for its Google Books service. The group filed a writ of certiorari with the Supreme Court recently. Google's free service allows users to search for particular lines or quotes in books through the company's main search engine, and also displays parts of scanned pages of books. The Authors Guild and Google have fought for 10 years over whether that qualifies as "fair use". The Authors Guild first complained in 2005 that "this violates copyright and undermines the value of authors' work by providing their books online and for free". The group has argued that Google Books, essentially, gives people access to their works without having to pay. It also objected to Google's partnerships with libraries to provide this online material. Google and the Authors Guild had worked out a settlement, but it was rejected in 2011 by a district court judge who deemed it unfair to authors, dropping the case back into court. For details visit: <https://www.Washingtonpost.com/news/the-switch/wp/2015/12/31/the-authors-guild-files-to-take-google-to-the-supreme-court/>

Models to Predict Decay of Library Collection

Scientists at University College London (UCL) have developed demographic models of decay and loss to predict when a large library or archival collection might age beyond repair, according to an article published in *Business Standard*. "Although some library materials might easily survive thousands of years, some have internal clocks triggering faster decay. Using the demographic models we can now easily predict how much more degradation will be induced by a hotter and more humid climate in the future, and perhaps more importantly, how this can be mitigated," lead author Professor Matija Strlic has said. The model developed by Strlic's team explores what makes an historical paper unfit for use, the degradation of historical documents due to handling, and how heritage resources can be managed and stored with more economical and environmental sustainability, according to a UCL statement. For more details visit: http://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ians/model-predicts-shelf-life-for-library-and-archival-collections-116010200428_1.html

Nazi Manifesto now Copyright-free

For the first time in 70 years, Adolf Hitler's Nazi manifesto *Mein Kampf* (My Struggle) is to be available for purchase in Germany, says a *Times of India* report. Reprinting the anti-Semitic book was banned after the Second World War by Bavaria's regional government, which held the copyright, BBC reported. The copyright has now expired and the Institute of Contemporary History (IfZ) in Munich will publish a new edition soon. New versions are expected in many countries. Its annotated version, with thousands of academic notes, will aim to show that *Mein Kampf* is incoherent and badly written, rather than powerful or seductive. Historians said that *Mein Kampf* helps academics understand what happened in the Nazi era. For details visit: <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/life-style/books/features/Copyright-of-Adolf-Hitlers-Mein-Kampf-expires/articleshow/50416589.cms>

TN State Award for Branch Library

Jawahar Nagar Branch Library of Chennai has received the Best Library Award from the state government recently, according to a report published in *The Hindu*. The award was presented by Education Minister K C Veeramani. The award was received by Surya Ramanan along with librarian A Madurai. The library has earlier won many other awards. It won the Best Librarian Award in Chennai District in 2010, and first prize for getting the maximum number of donors and for good maintenance. The library started in 2000 with three members has 205 patrons now.

Mobile Library on Vivekananda

In what is said to be a first of its kind initiative in the State, a mobile library unit 'Vivek Vahini', carrying the literature pertaining to Swami Vivekananda, will tour

across Karnataka, says a report published in *The Hindu*. 'Viveka Vahini Sahitya' is a new initiative by the Ramakrishna-Vivekananda Ashram of Dharwad, which was inaugurated recently by veteran Kannada poet Chennaveera Kanavi. According to President of Ramakrishna Vivekananda Ashram Vijayanand Saraswati, State Bank of India has sponsored the scheme. He said that under the scheme over 400 titles in Kannada and English on topics related to the life and works of Swami Vivekananda, Ramakrishna Paramahansa and Sarada Devi, and on personality development, students' empowerment, Vedanta literature, etc. will be displayed and sold at affordable prices to the public. For details visit: <http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/karnataka/mobile-library-on-vivekananda-to-tour-state/article7959986.ece>

Online Sale of Rare Books

According to a report published in *Hindustan Times*, a 24-hour online sale site, hosted by Saffronart and StoryLTD.com, will have on offer books on topics ranging from Indian paintings and fabrics to fairytales, mythology, history, politics and memoirs. Book lovers can also bid for 50 rare, out-of-print collectibles, dating back to the 19th century. Some notable reads that will be up for sale include a two-volume set of the first edition of Mahatma Gandhi's 'The Story of my Experiments With Truth', estimated at Rs. 1.25-1.75 lakh; and the first draft of the Constitution of India, with illustrations by renowned artist Nandalal Bose and the signatures of the framers of the constitution.

TECHNOLOGY NEWS

India's First e-Flora Database

The Botanical Survey of India (BSI) has developed the first open-access online database of India's floral diversity to document over 18,000 flowering plant species in an effort to boost digitization and conservation of endangered ones, according to a report published in *The Statesman*. The 'eFlora India' test site has already been launched by BSI. The portal, once formally launched, will also serve as an updated plant checklist of India, says BSI director Paramjit Singh. "The information in the 'Flora of India' volumes published by BSI will be available through this portal in the database form. This consists of more than 6,000 pages of printed treatments covering around 4,500 taxa (a taxonomic category) belonging to 92 families", Dr. Singh has said. For details visit: <http://www.thestatesman.Com/news/india/india-s-first-e-flora-database-developed/81107.html>

Google's Initiative to Digitize Heritage Sites

Google's cultural arm has said that it was digitizing more heritage sites to put them up in what could be termed as an online museum, according to a report published in *The Hindu*. The Google Cultural Institute, which was opened in 2012 in India, with the National Museum and the National Gallery of Modern Art in Delhi as initial partners, has added materials from 10 new partner organizations. These organizations include Salar Jung Museum in Hyderabad,

Victoria Memorial Hall in Kolkata, Dastkari Haat Samiti, Devi Art Foundation, Kiran Nadar Museum of Art, Academy of Fine Arts and Literature, Kalakriti Archives, Heritage Transport Museum, Sivananda Yoga Vedanta Centres & Ashramas and the Ramamani Iyengar Memorial Yoga Institute. The new additions have taken up the count of online content to over 2,000 new images and 70 virtual exhibits, the company has said.

Map Digital Library Planned

The Department of Science and Technology (DST) is currently considering a proposal by the National Atlas and Thematic Mapping Organization (NATMO) to develop a digital library where anybody can check an e-version of Indian maps, as they will be put up on an open-access domain. "NATMO is developing a digital library and the proposal is under consideration by the DST. It will be implemented soon," Ashutosh Sharma, Secretary in the Department of Science and Technology, GOI, said during the 60th anniversary celebrations of NATMO in Kolkata recently. If approved, this move will let all Indian maps go digital in several regional languages.

Intel Initiative in Indian Villages

Technology giant Intel will be setting up electronic service delivery points across 10 states in India under the title Unnati Kendra, according to a report published in *Asian Age*. It will be a one-stop centre for all e-services in backward areas of rural India and these centres will act as midpoints for all government and private services like payment of bills, insurance premiums, etc. It will house several computers, laptops, scanners and other digital devices to impart digital education to the villagers. The first centre has been opened in Nadimpalle village in Mahbubnagar at a common service centre. Intel South Asia MD and VP (Sales and Marketing) D Ghosh said, "we will be opening centres in 10 states across rural India and provide content and services sourced from various sectors including banking, insurance etc." Intel will provide a device called 'PC on a Stick' which turns a TV into a computer in the backward villages. For details, visit: NTES1&WT.mc_id=D9156&sp_source=Email&sp_ctc=70140000001LTPv&spMailingID=50283642&spUserID=MzU2NjY3MDYwNTES1&spJobID=822770228&spReportId=ODIyNzcwMjI4S0

SPECIAL FEATURE

Library of Humans and for Humans !

Can you imagine about a library lending you a live human being, instead of a book, who can enlighten you on a subject of your interest? No, it is no longer a dream, nor an odd desire, nor a matter of imagination. For, a library of the aforesaid kind is indeed a reality. Many western countries are now having "human libraries" or "living libraries", as they are popularly known. The human library movement has even spread in some third world countries too. While in some cases these libraries have been created exclusively to

cater “human books” or “living books” to the users, in some other cases existing libraries have expanded their sphere of activity by introducing an additional “human book” lending service on some designated days. Ad hoc human library events have also been organized on different occasions.

The idea of 'Human Library' or 'Living Library' is very simple. The library maintains a list (i.e. a catalogue) of human volunteers who are eager to serve as “human books”, and who often assign some titles to themselves such as 'Olympic Athlete', 'Biking Agoraphobic', 'Fat Woman', 'War Veteran', and the like. A user selects one among the human volunteers, based on his or her title and experience and then borrows that “human book” from the library for a limited period. The user sits with him or her for a short while from half an hour to an hour or so to listen to his or her story. Unlike a physical book, the “human book” is able to answer any query by the user. This unique opportunity of interaction helps in clarifying the doubts, if any, appearing in the mind of the user.

Started in 2000 by a Danish youth-based non-profit organization, “Stop the Violence,” the Human Library was a project “intended to start conversation and foster understanding between different types of people who would normally not interact with each other”. The first Human Library event was hosted at the Roskilde Music Festival in Copenhagen, one of the largest summer festivals in Northern Europe. Its theme focussed on community activities to help stop growing levels of violence and bias in the area. The event was a “spectacular success: 75 living books volunteered their time and audiences were very receptive to the concept, queuing up to take out the most popular books”. In the beginning, “human books” or “living books” were those who had “either been subjected to discrimination themselves or represent groups or individuals within society that are at risk of suffering from stereotype, stigma, prejudice or discrimination”, but today anybody “who has some incredible stories gathered from his or her unique life experience to share” serves as a “human book”. The Denmark experiment has since expanded into a worldwide project, with human libraries making appearances in seventy countries in five continents. In some places like Tasmania and South Korea, permanent human libraries have even established for the public to enjoy.

The Denmark experiment also attracted the attention of the Council of Europe which became the biggest supporter of the development and promotion of human library programmes since 2003. A European Union project called 'Human Library: The Rest is History' to provide non-formal education through 'human library' method is being coordinated by an NGO, Net in Action, based in Bologna (Italy). The Youth

Department of Council of Europe has also brought out a guide on how to run “living libraries” entitled 'Don't judge a book by its cover: the living library organizer's guide' in 2011 (<https://www.coe.int/t/dg4/eycb/Source/EYCB%20Living%20Library.pdf>).

According to the aforesaid guidebook, the “living library” methodology “has seen application and development in different environments from festival settings, schools, conferences, professional fairs to smaller youth events such as seminars and international exchanges. The methodology has also been adopted to create a mobile “living library” travelling on a bus and on-line “living library chat”. Interestingly, even a corporate sector car manufacturer Hyundai followed “human library” method while organizing the first of a series of group discussion events for customers and local celebrities at its brand showroom in Seoul, South Korea, in July 2015.

The first human libraries in the United States were organized in 2008 by the Bainbridge Public Library (BPL) in Bainbridge Island, Washington, and the Santa Monica (California) Public Library (SMPL), both of which proved to be very popular. The first Human Library event in Chicago took place at Printers Row Lit Fest in June 2014. In Los Angeles, Silverlake Independent Jewish Community Center has taken up a city-wide human library initiative. The Social Responsibilities Round Table of the American Library Association even sponsored a human library event at the ALA Annual Conference in June 2011. In Canada, during Toronto 2015 Pan Am/Parapan Games, a human library event was organized, where many athletes, organizers, journalists and others involved in that games served as “human books”. In Ottawa, human library events were organized by Ottawa Public Library, in partnership with Canadian Broadcasting Corporation and Bibliotheque Municipale de Gatineau, on February 21, 2015, at four different locations. In Vancouver human library event is now a part of PuSh Festival.

In UK, human library concept is promoted by Human Library UK, an affiliate of the Human Library Organization, based in Norfolk. The first human library in that country was organized in 2008. In London, an NGO called Crisis has organized a human library event. Human Library events are now organized in different parts of the country almost regularly with the assistance and guidance of the Human Library UK. The organization's website (<http://humanlibraryuk.org/>) mentions about different categories of “human books” that may be served to the users; maintains the resources helpful for organizing human libraries and a record of human

library events. In Greece a group of volunteers organized the first human library in Athens in 2009. In 2011 the European Youth Centre in Budapest launched a Living Library School Project under which living library programmes have already been organized in 40 schools.

In Japan the first “living library” was organized in 2008 and till today it has been reorganized at least thirty times. In China, the first human library event was held in Beijing and also in Hong Kong in 2011. In Malaysia the first human library event was held at Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre in 2013. In Singapore, the first human library event was held in August 2011, where Kokila Annamalai spoke about her experiences in rural India, as well as her involvement with the Adolescent Girls' Empowerment Group. In Australia, two human library events are scheduled to be held during Writers Festival in Perth in February this year.

It may be mentioned that though each library hosting a human library can work out the details, the general process is the same. First, the library needs to contact the Human Library Organization (http://accessola2.com/data/1/rec_docs/828_how_to_register.pdf), which had been founded in Copenhagen in 2008, for promoting the concept, and register the event with them. In addition to granting permission to use the human library concept, they provide a guidebook and other helpful support. Then, the library should establish a committee, which can decide how to recruit “human books”, where and when the event will be held, for how long, what will be the checkout period, and other details.

In India, the English Club of Kaniyampatta

Government High School in Wyand district of Kerala, organized the first ever “living library” in 2009, in association with two NGOs, viz., Ann Frank Research Centre for Communication and Lead Cap as a part of their concept Leadership Village. But the spread of “human library” concept in other parts of the country has not been noticed. Possibly this concept has not yet ignited the imagination and spirit of the library enthusiasts of the country though “human library” is certainly a good option for the illiterate people. Let us hope that the “human library” movement will spread in this country too soon and fast.

[Sources: <http://www.asianage.com/life-and-style/library-lets-you-check-out-people-instead-books-337>, <http://www.goodnewsnetwork.org/human-library-fosters-diversity-by-checking-out-people/>, <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2016-01-15/perth-writers-festival-launches-human-books/7091724>, <http://mentalfloss.com/article/68055/library-lets-you-check-out-people-instead-books>, http://www.hyundai.com/in/en/MediaCenter/GlobalNews/DF_WW_GLOBALNEWS_150702.html?Row=368&selx2=, <http://www.the-malaymailonline.com/features/article/the-books-that-talked-back>, <http://publiclibrariesonline.org/2013/04/human-librar/>, <http://www.worldcrunch.com/culture-society/the-human-library-check-out-a-living-book-and-listen-to-their-story/c3s5458/>, <http://the-humanlibraryproject.com/>, <http://en.people.cn/90780/7687069.html>, <http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-features/tp-youngworld/a-library-that-lives-to-reduce-prejudice/article668119.ece>, <http://www.slcolibrary.org/livingBooks/>, <https://web.FaceBook.com/humanlibraryorg/>]

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