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The Central Reference Library (CRL) in Kolkata is negotiating with the National Informatics Centre (NIC) to re-design the online dimension of the Indian National Bibliography (INB)

It is the only authentic registry of all published output in India, with a provision for user reviews and ratings on the lines of Amazon, Goodreads, Flipkart, etc.

INB records from inception (1958) have been converted into electronic data. Almost six lakh bibliographical records belonging to different Indian languages are available with CRL now.

This is inclusive of all the data belonging to the period for which printed INB is not available. Efforts are being made to make these data available online.

Soumen Sarkar, the in-charge librarian of CRL and the deputy director of the Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation, said that in addition to this initiative, the establishment of a National Virtual Library of India (NVLI) by the National Mission on Libraries would help in building a comprehensive user-friendly database of literary works in the country.

Mr Sarkar was speaking at a two-day seminar on Delivery of Books and Newspapers (Public Libraries) Act, 1956 jointly organized by Andhra Loyola College (ALC) and the Vijayawada Book Festival Society here on Friday.

Mr. Sarkar called upon publishers to submit copies of every book they publish to the National Library in Kolkata and three other public libraries, the Delhi Public Library, Central Library in Mumbai and Connemara Public Library in Chennai, within 30 days of publication to help in building the repository.

Submitting books and newspapers to the national libraries is mandatory under the law.

Compliance with Delivery of Books and Newspapers Act helps in setting up a database of literary works at a time when online platforms and mobile applications are posing a serious challenge to the authors, most of whom cannot afford to have their own websites.

Similarly, a majority of conventional publishers are unable to match the scale of e-publishers and other electronic platforms.

One million books, 100 institutes under National Digital Library

The National Digital Library in 2016 will bring under its fold 100 institutes and roll out a collection of one million digitised books and journals in the first phase, according to an official.

"The first thing that will come in February is the National Digital Library (NDL) which will come with one million books and journals which will be used by students across the country,"

R. Subrahmanyam, additional secretary for technical education in the human resource development ministry told IANS here during the launch of Global Initiative of Academic Networks (GIAN) scheme on Monday.

The NDL will ensure "uniform high standards" of e-content free of cost on a single platform.

"It will have phased expansions and in the first phase 100-odd institutes will be brought under it," the official said.

Talking about the recently launched Impacting Research Innovation and Technology (IMPRINT) India programme,

Subrahmanyam said the aim is to foster innovations that improve living standards of people.

IMPRINT is the first of its kind MHRD supported Pan-IIT + IISc joint initiative to address the major science and engineering challenges that India must address and has 10 focal domains such as sustainable urban design and water resources and river systems.

"It is primarily a call for scientists within the country and they will come up with research proposals under these 10 domains. We will fund them very liberally and at the end of five year period we expect innovations and more registering of patents," he said.

- See more at:

<http://indianexpress.com/article/technology/tech-news->

[national-digital-library/#sthash.WtImt7uM.dpuf](http://indianexpress.com/article/technology/tech-news-national-digital-library/#sthash.WtImt7uM.dpuf)

Eight Indian institutions among top 500 world universities, IISC leads the pack

Eight higher educational institutions from India have been listed in the top 500 universities

in the world by the QS rankings in 2015.

This was disclosed by Union Minister for Human Resource development Smriti Irani in the Lok Sabha on Monday.

Two of these institutions the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore and the Indian Institute of Technology Delhi are ranked 147 and 179 respectively in the QS World University Rankings for 2015-16. The other six were IITs in Bombay (ranked 202); T Kanpur (271); Kharagpur (286); Madras (254); Roorkee (391) and Guwahati (460)

Irani said Indian higher education institutions would need to work on improving their perception index if they have to better their global rankings.

QS World University Rankings® 2015/16

Link| [http://www.topuniversities.com/university-rankings/world-universityrankings/2015#sorting=rank+region="+country=faculty="+stars=false+search=](http://www.topuniversities.com/university-rankings/world-universityrankings/2015#sorting=rank+region=)

Ten Of The Most Beautiful Libraries In India

The National Library NEW DELHI:

Libraries are one of the most incredible tributes to human knowledge imaginable, and make for an even more

powerful setting when combined with historical and artistic splendour.

The national libraries of countries across the world are housed in visually stunning, imposing structures.

Countries with a rich architectural and archeological past often use buildings of historical significance as their primary libraries.

It should therefore be of no surprise that India, one of the most culturally blessed countries in the world, has an innumerable number of libraries that would put the best national libraries to shame.

Yet, neither Indians nor library aficionados in other parts of the world seem to be aware of India's stunning libraries.

Here's a list of ten such libraries in India, and the list is by no means exhaustive.

1. Raza Library

Built in 1904 as part of a palace in Rampur, the Raza Library is one of India's few protected monuments (and deservedly so).

The collection in the library dates to the royal family's efforts since the 1700s, and includes 17,000 rare manuscripts, 205 hand-

written palm leaves and 5000 miniature paintings.

The Raza Library also contains printed works in Sanskrit, Hindi, Urdu, Pashto (having the original manuscript of the first translation of the Qur'an in addition to other important books/documents), Tamil and Turkish, and approximately 30,000 printed books (including periodicals) in various other languages.

It's also breathtakingly stunning.

2. David Sassoon Library

Located in the heart of Mumbai, the David Sassoon Library was completed in 1870. Like the Raza Library, the David Sassoon Library is one of only 145 monuments protected by India's government, and the oldest library in Mumbai.

It's best feature, in addition to the design and history, is the leafy garden out back -- perfect for wandering into with a thick book (and poof, you'll forget you're in the middle of one the busiest and most chaotic cities in the world).

3. Nehru Memorial Museum And Library

Situated in a historical building that served as the residence of India's first Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, the aptly named Nehru Memorial Museum and Library has arguably one of the best collections.

Designed by Robert Tor Russell, the British architect of Connaught Place and of the Eastern and Western Courts on Janpath during the British Raj, the bhawan housing the Library was built in 1930 as part of the new imperial capital of India, New Delhi as the residence of the Commander-in-Chief of the British Indian Army. Thus, it has all the grandeur (and solace) expected to come with it.

4. The National Library of India

The National Library of India situated in Kolkata is the largest library in India by volume and India's library of public record.

It has a huge collection of over 2.2 million books. If that's not enough, the library is situated in a scenic part of the bustling

city of Kolkata, on a 30 acre green, lush plot. The building housing the library was once the official residence of the Lt.Governor of Bengal.

5. State Central Library of Hyderabad

The State Central Library Hyderabad is a public library in Telangana. The building was constructed in 1891 by Nawab Imad-ul-Mulk and was granted heritage status in 1998.

The library building has an area of 72,247 square yards and was built under the supervision of architect, Aziz Ali. The foundation stone was laid in January 1932 by Prince Mir Osman Ali Khan.

At the construction's completion, the Asafia Library shifted to the new building in 1936 to mark Nizam VII's silver jubilee. The architecture is reminiscent of a palace with its huge halls and high ceilings. Impressed?

6. Sarasvathi Mahal Library

The Sarasvathi Mahal Library is one of the oldest libraries in Asia. Located in Thanjavur (Tanjore), Tamil Nadu, it has on display a rare collection of Palm leaf manuscripts and paper written in Tamil, Hindi, Telugu, Marathi, English and a few other languages indigenous to India. The collection comprises well over 60,000 volumes, though only a tiny fraction of these are on display. The library has a complete catalogue of holdings, which is being made available

online. Some rare holdings can be viewed on site by prior arrangement. The Library's history lies in its use as a Royal Library for the private pleasure of the Nayak Kings of Thanjavur who ruled 1535 - 1675 AD. Beautiful, right?

7. State Central Library, Thiruvananthapuram

State Central Library of Kerala is also known as Trivandrum Public Library is the first public Library in India.

The Library was established in the year A.D. 1829 during the reign of King Swathi Thirunal of Travancore. Today, it houses various collections such as a Malayalam section, a reprographic section, a digital library, a children's library, etc.

8. Connemara Public Library

The Connemara Public Library in Chennai is one of the four National Depository Libraries, which means that it stores/receives copies of various books, newspapers and magazines printed in India. Established in 1890, the library is a repository of centuries-old publications, wherein lie some of the most respected works and collections in the country. It also serves as a depository library for the UN.

9. Asiatic Society of Mumbai Library

Situated in a beautiful colonial building in Mumbai, the Asiatic Society of Mumbai library houses the collection of the society, which includes 20,000 rare books. It can trace its origin to the Literary Society of Bombay which first met in Mumbai on November 26, 1804, and was founded by Sir James Mackintosh.

It was formed with the intention of "promoting useful knowledge, particularly such as is now immediately connected with India".

10. Allahabad Public Library

The Allahabad Public Library also known as Thornhill Mayne Memorial is a public library situated at Alfred Park in Allahabad.

Established in 1864, it is the biggest library in the state of Uttar Pradesh. The building designed by Richard Roskell Bayne is a remarkable example of Scottish Baronial architecture. It served as the house of legislative assembly in British era when Allahabad was the capital of United Provinces. In 1879, the Public library was shifted to the present premises at Alfred Park. The library has an approximate collection of 125,000 books, 40

types of magazines and 28 different newspapers in Hindi, English, Urdu and Bangla and contains 21 Arabic manuscripts. It also has a collection of old overnment publications, parliamentary papers, and blue books of the 19th century, old manuscripts and journals.

Source

| <http://www.thecitizen.in/>

UGC plans Bharatvani: an Indian language library of various books

The University Grants Commission (UGC) is planning to launch Bharatvani Project, with the objective of delivering content in all Indian languages through the online portal. The portal will feature content from Indian writers, government and non-government organizations, boards of education, textbook .The UGC is currently looking for institutions which can provide digitized and non-digitized books and materials already available in different Indian languages. It is also looking for individuals and institutions that wish to donate literature in various languages. Institutions and individuals willing to contribute have till the 30th of November to inform the UGC of what they can make available, and till the 7th of December to submit these materials.

Note that the UGC specifically requests for books in the available 22 scheduled Indian languages. According to the Census of India, there are 122 scheduled + non-scheduled languages and 234 mother tongues spoken in the country.

So while this initiative is a start, the UGC has a lot more languages to cover before it's anywhere close to covering all the languages in the country.

Another issue is that of IP rights. While there will be many books, texts and other content that can be freely published under Creative Commons, we wonder how the UGC will work around these issues. School textbooks, guide books, research theses etc., are all copyrightable in India. Translations of existing works are also entitled for copyright protection.

NCERT & Sakshat: Interestingly, the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) currently offers copyrighted textbooks online, covering all textbooks published by the agency including for classes I to XII in Hindi, English and Urdu. There is also Sakshat, an initiative which aims to develop a variety of content like e-content for botany, commerce, history, economics etc., and an online joint entrance examination

(JEE) item bank to help candidates prepare.

Online student grievance portal: In July last year, the UGC said it would launch an 'Online students grievance redressal portal' that would let students and the universities along with their affiliated colleges report their grievances related to unfair practices, admissions and other issues to the UGC. The portal was finally launched in March this year.

MediaNama's take: Given the IP issues, the UGC limit itself to content under the CC license, limiting the availability of regional textbooks and other educational materials on the platform. However, even with limited content the portal should help make content from Indic languages reach a certain level of ubiquity, enabling students & vernacular speakers to access it. Additionally, if UGC can manage to convince publishers and other educational boards to follow NCERT's example, it could really be a comprehensive portal for students to find basic educational material. Note that it's not clear when the Bharatvani portal is expected to launch.

Source
| http://www.ugc.ac.in/pdfnews/5882590_UGC-letter-regarding-Bharatvani.pdf

E-Shodh Sindhu of INFLIBNET Centre:

Merging of UGC-INFONET Digital Library Consortium,

INDEST-AICTE Consortium and NLIST Programme

Posted: Dec 2015

The MHRD vide their recent note F.No.16-23/2014-TEL dated 1st December, 2015

has merged following three consortia into E-Shodh Sindhu of INFLIBNET Centre (An Inter University Centre of UGC) Gandhinagar

1. UGC-INFONET Digital Library Consortium
2. INDEST-AICTE Consortium
3. NLIST Programme

The INFLIBNET Centre has been assigned the responsibility for execution and operation of E-Shodh Sindhu.

Currently INFLIBNET is in the process of negotiating the rate of e-resources for member institutions.

The UGC-INFONET digital Library Consortium is no more operational and Associate Membership Programme module

for E-Shodh Sindhu has not yet evolved.

As such, it is not possible for INFLIBNET to provide rates of e-resource for 2016.

As soon as the Associate Membership module of E-Shodh Sindhu would evolve, the same will be communicated

Here, you get access to 5, 000 libraries.

Maris Stella Virtual Library

This is the project done by with the financial assistance of U.G.C.

This website www.stellavirlib.org developed to provide one stop access to the teaching and learning community by providing free access to resources like e-journals, e-books, pure sciences, social sciences and management.