

# ADINET e-News Digest

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## Research cannot happen in isolation; universities must partner industrial houses

Prof Hariharan Krishnan, the head of Creative Sciences at Mahindra Ecole Centrale, Hyderabad, in an interaction with Akash Sinha, talks about research and unemployment issues facing the country. Excerpts:

Each year, 15 lakh engineering students pass out of colleges in India. But all don't get jobs. What can be done to tackle the issue? The answer lies in changing secondary school education exit points. No student must be asked to narrow down her choice to engineering, medicine or commerce.

Should the government limit the growth of engineering colleges and focus on quality education? Cutting down on numbers is not the answer; orienting students more towards creative thinking is important. That brings us to the far more serious issue of where do we find teachers for such courses? I believe India does not lack talent. All we need to do is to shift our focus on to a different field of talented personnel.

So, how can Skill India succeed? We have to create dynamic systems where young minds must be made to think in enterprising ways; this does not require a lot of funds. All is needed is strong political and industrial will. Educationists and industrialists have to create think tanks and

propose radical solutions which will make the skilling ecosystem more effective, as we have witnessed in South Korea and China.

Why do Indian universities rank low in research?

Research cannot happen in isolation. Gone are the days when scientists could sit alone in labs and think of new inventions. Today, most inventions are ready. We have to make them reach the common man. For that, universities must partner with industrial houses.

Can innovation help increase engineers' employability?

Innovative thinking is only possible when colleges start studying the demands of the common man. Apart from sciences, engineering students need to be trained in fine arts. When students see artists, dancers, sculptors translate their vision in myriad ways, they too will be inspired to think out-of-the-box and come up with solutions which are capable of empowering societies.

Can ICT help fill education gaps?

ICT has opened doors to young citizens across the globe to think big. There is no going back. But, so far, the verticals have been largely dominated by English-speaking community. The time has come to make it more lateral and spread the benefits to vernacular spaces. Once we do so, we will see the blossoming of smaller cultures which can help

make the digital environment more creative.

How can creativity and design help in imparting knowledge?

Creativity begins with a spirit of inquiry. Once young minds are free to think and discover on their own, you will see a whole new creative revolution sweeping the nation. Instead of classrooms as spaces where there is a vendor delivering information as goods to a student, we will see educational institutions turning into learning centres where teachers are partners and facilitators.

**E Link | [Click Here](#)**

### **Gary Price and Peter Suber Discuss Open Access**

**Published on Feb 1, 2016**

Gary Price, Editor, infoDOCKET and Peter Suber, Director of the Harvard Open Access Project and the Harvard Office for Scholarly Communication discuss key issues in the Open Access (OA) movement. Questions include:

What can librarians and libraries do today to move open access forward?

**You Tube Link | [Click Here](#)**

### **A space for conversation and debate about learning and technology**

### **10 Principles for Institutional Advocacy Using Social Media**

Institutions need critics. This need for criticism is particularly

true in higher education. Without honest critiques, our colleges and universities are in danger of succumbing to faddism, group think, and stagnation.

One wonderful outcome of the birth of social media has been the death of message control.

Today, every one of us has access to publishing and communications platforms - platforms that were once controlled by the few. Social media eliminates friction for critiques of institutional culture, priorities, and policies.

The combination of an informed critic, and the low-cost and high-reach of social media, can add up to a potent force for advocacy.

What are some principles that can maximize the effectiveness of those wishing to use social media platforms (tweets, blog posts, and comments), to advocate for organizational change at a college, university, or system?

Here are 10 principles (or guidelines) for academic social media advocacy for us to discuss:

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### **Epublishers look to bridge the gap between vernacular content and readers by translating books**

A growing number of publishing startups such as news and ebooks mobile app Dailyhunt and

selfpublishing platform Pratilipi are targeting a \$2-3 billion market, aiming to bridge the gap between vernacular content and readers by translating books in Indian languages.

The startups are leveraging technology to speed up the process of publishing books in different languages. Dailyhunt uses optical character recognition (OCR) and machine-learning techniques for translation and e-publishing of books in 12 Indian languages.

"The OCR is run across scanned images for converting a printed book into an e-copy and the machine learning converts a printed character into electronic text in whichever language is required," said cofounder Umesh Kulkarni.

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**Mumbai University set to go digital, start online courses**

*It will also start 40 virtual classrooms across its campuses, under the virtual education network (VSAT), which will use satellite based broadcasting for lectures.*

**Mumbai :** The Mumbai University is all set to go digital within the next year, an aspiration it has honed for some time. Vice Chancellor Dr Sanjay Deshmukh affirmed that he aspires to go digital for the university. Within the next year, the university will see a string of new long-distance online courses opening up for students. These include courses in mainstream subjects like the social sciences and natural sciences, along with other courses like music. It will also start 40 virtual classrooms across its campuses, under the virtual education network (VSAT), which will use satellite based broadcasting for lectures.

On the other hand, Deshmukh has assured that students of all courses passing out of the university this year, in 2016, will be given digital certificates, a promise he made when he took charge as vice-chancellor. Meanwhile, he said that digital access to marks for previous years has already been enabled for students on the website.

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**Reimagining Libraries In The Digital Era: Lessons From Data Mining The Internet Archive**

As the digital revolution fundamentally reshapes how we live our lives, libraries are grappling with how to reinvent themselves in a world in which

they are no longer a primary gatekeeper to knowledge. As I wrote in 2014 for the Knight Foundation's [blog](#), "perhaps the future of libraries lies in a return to their roots, not as museums of physical artifacts for rental, but as conveners of information and those who can understand and translate that information to the needs of an innovative world." As the Knight Foundation wraps up their most recent [Challenge](#) on reinventing libraries for the 21st century (which has attracted over 225 [submissions](#) to date) and as the nation prepares for a new Librarian of Congress to shepherd the organization into the digital era, what might the future of libraries look like?

In terms of physical space, libraries are increasingly shifting away from physical repositories of knowledge artifacts, replacing endless rows of shelving units and open stacks with open floor plans designed for collaboration and work spaces. Free Internet access, maker spaces, robotics, technical classes and an increased focus on event programming are transforming libraries into 21st century community centers bringing people together in a data rich world. Yet, at the same time, libraries still hold the vast wealth of knowledge built up by human civilization over the millennia, much of which has not yet been digitized and is now being locked away in cold storage, more inaccessible than ever. In an era where a growing faction of digital information is commercially owned and controlled, libraries

play a critical role in democratizing access to knowledge and ensuring a vibrant community of practitioners capable of bringing this knowledge to bear on societal needs.

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### **PM Modi wants overhaul of higher education regulators**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has asked for a new body to subsume the present higher education regulators and the National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog has been told to suggest a new framework after consulting stakeholders.

A committee headed by NITI Aayog vice-chairman Arvind Panagariya and having members from various fields of the academia has been constituted to give recommendations in three months, sources said.

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### **Ramanujan encyclopedia launched**

An encyclopedia of Srinivasa Ramanujan and his mathematics is being launched by Springer. This was announced by Marc Strauss, Editorial Director, Mathematics, of Springer, North America, at an international conference of mathematics held at the University of Florida. "The comprehensive encyclopedia of about 1000 pages, in two volumes, will contain everything important about Ramanujan's life and mathematics," said Mr.

Strauss during his announcement at the recently held International Conference on Number Theory at the University of Florida. "We have assembled a team of leading researchers as Editors-in-Chief, who are experts on Ramanujan, and who have considerable editorial experience, to ensure the success of this massive project," he added. The Editors-in-Chief of the Ramanujan encyclopedia are Professors Krishnaswami Alladi (University of Florida), George Andrews (The Pennsylvania State University), Bruce Berndt (University of Illinois), and Ken Ono (Emory University)."

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### **A Larger Role for Libraries**

Study explores faculty members' views on scholarly communication, the use of information and the state of academic libraries and their concerns about students' research skills.

Faculty members are showing increasing interest in supporting students and improving their learning outcomes, and say the library can play an important role in that work, a new study found.

Ithaka S+R's latest [national faculty survey](#), released this morning, shows two storylines in higher education intersecting. The results suggest the pressure on colleges to improve retention and completion rates and prepare students for life after college appears to be influencing faculty members, who are more

concerned than ever that undergraduates don't know how to locate and evaluate scholarly information.

At the same time, many faculty members view university libraries -- which are engaged in a process of reinventing themselves and rethinking their services -- as an increasingly important source not only of undergraduate support but also as an archive, a buyer, a gateway to research and more.

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### **Will the Monograph Experience a Transition to E-Only? Latest Findings**

The scholarly literature incorporates a number of different material types. Reference publishing and collections have perhaps been transformed more than any other content type; why should a database be issued in print format at all? Journals and other serials have transitioned away from the print format in so many cases to the point where publishers are winding down even humanistic titles, or considering how and when to do so. For both reference and journals, business models have been transformed alongside the format transition. But monographs are an entirely different material type. What is going on with them?

Although journals, other serials, and reference have made a large scale transition away from print, we must not assume that the same path will inevitably be

pursued for other components of our collections. A combination of business models, reading practices, and other user needs will play the biggest role in determining the prospects for the printed monograph.

**StudyLink** | <http://www.sr.ithaka.org/publications/ithaka-sr-us-faculty-survey-2015/>

### **Facebook begins using artificial intelligence to describe photos to blind users: Can we use such type of technology in the library for Visually Impaired users?**

Ask a member of Facebook's growth team what feature played the biggest role in getting the company to a billion daily users, and they'll likely tell you it was photos. The endless stream of pictures, which users have been able to upload since 2005, a year after Facebook's launch, makes the social network irresistible to a global audience. It's difficult to imagine Facebook *without* photos. Yet for millions of blind and visually impaired people, that's been the reality for over a decade.

Not anymore. Today Facebook will begin automatically describing the content of photos to blind and visually impaired users. Called "automatic alternative text," the feature was created by Facebook's 5-year-old accessibility team. Led by Jeff Wieland, a former user researcher in Facebook's product group, the team previously built closed captioning for videos and

implemented an option to increase the default font size on Facebook for iOS, a feature 10 percent of Facebook users take advantage of.

### **Using Voice Over to read descriptions of photos out loud**

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### **Kotobee Makes Self-Published Digital Textbooks Possible**

The digital revolution is well underway, but one of the original promises this new wave of electronic reading was supposed to bring hasn't happened in a major way: digital textbooks. From the advent of fully-downloadable e-books to the return shift to internet-based reading, digital publishing has evolved in just a few short years to look almost nothing like it did when e-readers first hit the mainstream.

eBooks were supposed to give rise to digital reading in every classroom around the globe. Several countries followed South Korea's lead and mandated fully-digital classrooms, but those deadlines have come and gone. India launched an initiative to develop better wifi infrastructure to accommodate the coming tsunami of digital textbooks, and tablet manufacturers developed inexpensive school versions of their devices in order to put e-books in every child's hand.

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## Stunning Jain manuscripts from the 13th century go online

**Works in Sanskrit, Prakrit, Hindi, Gujarati & Rajasthani have been digitised by the British Library.**

The Jain manuscripts currently in the British Library collections have a long history and were formerly held by two distinct institutions, the British Museum and the India Office Library.

Built over a period of more than two-and-a-half centuries, from the earliest acquisitions of 1753 (in the British Museum's Sloane and Harley collections), to the latest in 2005, the collection includes works in Sanskrit, Prakrit, Hindi, Gujarati and Rajasthani and in view of its size (over 1,000 items), range of material and state of preservation, it is one of the most important outside India.

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### You can also do these online!

We know we can pay bills, transfer money, find work, buy clothes and shoes, buy groceries, furniture and appliances, play games, send gifts and even attend meetings via the internet. But did you know you could also do the following:

#### Take a university course :

Courses from Harvard, MIT, Berkeley, Caltech, Karolinska Institute, BITS Pilani and many others are available online and that too for free. Known as massive open online courses

(MOOCs), there is a wide variety of topics available, whether you want to learn a new language or a new skill, do something for fun, or add to your existing skillset. Coursera, EdX and FutureLearn are some well-known names in this field, but there are plenty of others. MOOC courses are free — the whole point of MOOCs being open access — and you get access to course material and also instruction from professors, teaching assistants and professionals, as well as interactions with fellow students and instructors. Depending on the course, university or platform, in some cases you can sit for an exam to get a certification on the payment of a fee.

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## Intelligent Automation: The essential co-worker for the digital age

**The rise of information technology and artificial intelligence is bringing a new age to the workplace:**

The rise of information technology and artificial intelligence is bringing a new age to the workplace: that of intelligent automation, which we believe will enable employees to achieve significant productivity gains—as much as 30-40%—even in functions that are already automated.

Of course, many of the key elements of intelligent automation have been around for some time. Robotic process automation, for



instance, has long enabled enterprises to offload repetitive, rule-based tasks to machines, delivering dramatic improvements in accuracy, cycle time and increased productivity in transaction processing while elevating the nature of the work performed by humans.

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### **Do you look at a screen all day? It could be causing more damage than you think**

- Blinking is an important function for our eyes, which spreads tears over the ocular surface.
- When blinking stops, the crucial tear film evaporates, causing stress to the cells which line the cornea.

Computers have become a necessity for many of us, but they're causing an epidemic of a painful medical conditions for many office workers. Whether it's a phone, a tablet or a laptop, it's becoming increasingly commonplace to see people glued to a screen. Computers and hand-held devices have woven themselves into everyday life, and a vast number of us wouldn't be able to do our jobs without them. While it may come as no surprise that excessive screen time, however necessary, is bad for us, there's been a worrying development associated with it.

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### **Group of biologists bypasses journals and uploads their work straight to the Internet**

Since the first scientific journal was created 351 years ago, the process for disseminating scientific information has remained fundamentally the same - results are written up, peer-reviewed, & eventually published.

And while this process helps to ensure high-quality articles, it's also incredibly slow, with the average biology paper taking on average six months & sometimes even years - to see the light of day.

Now a growing group of life scientists are working to change that, by uploading their papers directly to an open-access pre-print site, [called bioRxiv](#), before submitting them to mainstream journals, as Amy Harmon [reports for The New York Times](#).

That means their work is now available for anyone to read and comment on for free.

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## **CONGRATULATIONS**

We are to announce that Jayantilal S. Parmar, Librarian at Bhavans Sheth R.A.College of Science has been awarded the Ph.D.degree by Gujarat Vidyapith for his thesis on "Library Automation in Arts, Commerce & Science Colleges of Gujarat University, under the guidance of Dr. Shivdanbhai M. Charan.

**Information for this issue has been provided by Mr. Pralhad Jadhav, Senior Librarian, Khaitan & Co. Mumbai**

