

ADINET e-News Digest

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Google Translate just got a lot smarter

The search giant says it's made a "leap" in giving you more natural translations. It's just one step in a big push in machine learning that Google detailed Tuesday. Google said Tuesday it has vastly improved its Google Translate app, available on phones and the web.

The search giant said it's now incorporating "neural machine translation" into the software, which means it can translate whole sentences at a time, instead of breaking the text down to smaller chunks and translating those pieces. The result is translations coming out more natural, with better syntax and grammar, Google said.

"It has improved more in one single leap than in 10 years combined," Barak Turovsky, the product lead for Google Translate, said during a press event at Google's San Francisco office.

Google has bet the future of the company on artificial intelligence and machine learning -- a type of technology in which computers can learn without being explicitly programmed. Last month, the company unveiled several new consumer devices that feature a digital helper Google calls "the assistant," similar to Apple's Siri or Amazon's Alexa.

When Google CEO Sundar Pichai first introduced the concept of the assistant in May, he said it was the cornerstone of Google's "journey" to becoming an "AI-first" company. The search giant isn't the only Silicon Valley giant that has made big investments in machine learning recently. Earlier this year, Facebook started an Applied Machine Learning division, where it works on technology like photo and audio recognition.

Link | <https://www.cnet.com/news/google-translate-machine-learning-neural-networks/>

Unique copy of first full-length audio book found in Canada

Set of four LPs with full text of Joseph Conrad's 1902 novella Typhoon was made by RNIB in 1935

A unique copy of the first full-length audio book ever made, a set of four LPs recorded in 1935

with the full text of Joseph Conrad's 1902 novella Typhoon, has been rediscovered in Canada. The hunt continues for surviving copies of more of the earliest titles, including The Gospel According to St John, and Agatha Christie's The Murder of Roger Ackroyd.

The stories you need to read, in one handy email

The Royal National Institute of Blind People (RNIB), which now has a library of 25,000 titles available as digital downloads rather than the heavy fragile shellac records of the 1930s, began creating audio books in 1935. They were originally intended for blind veterans of the first world war, and it is believed Typhoon must have been taken to Canada by a former armed forces member.

The recording resurfaced through research by Matthew Rubery, a professor of modern literature at Queen Mary University of London, for his new book on the history of talking books -- which he regards as an influential modern art form. A Canadian vintage record collector contacted him to say he had acquired the Typhoon set, but had no idea of its significance until he read of Rubery's work.

Rubery said he had all but given up hope of tracking down the recording. "This is a tremendous find for anyone interested in literature, sound recording or the cultural heritage of blind and partially sighted people."

Mark McCree, the senior manager of the RNIB's library and heritage services, said: "Last year was our 80th anniversary, and to find one of the original collection recordings after all these years is reason to celebrate."

The Untold Story of the Talking Book is published this month by Harvard University Press.

Source | <https://www.theguardian.com/books/2016/nov/21/unique-copy-of-first-full-length-audio-book-found-in-canada>

Alliance with Foreign Universities

The University Grants Commission (UGC) has notified the UGC (Promotion and Maintenance

of Standards of Academic Collaboration between Indian and Foreign Educational Institutions) Regulations, 2016 with a view to increasing synergy between Indian and foreign academic institutions, to offer students additional choices, improve curriculum and the delivery of knowledge and educational content. The regulations are in supersession of UGC (Promotion and Maintenance of Standards of Academic Collaboration between Indian and Foreign Educational Institutions) Regulations, 2012.

As per the new regulations, Indian Universities and Colleges, having the highest grade of accreditation/ threshold accreditation, and conforming to other eligibility conditions as laid down in the regulations, can apply online to the UGC for starting twinning arrangement with quality Foreign Educational Institutions (FEI) having the prescribed quality. The degree will be awarded by the Indian Educational Institutions (IEIs) alone; joint degrees are not permitted. The regulations provide for time-bound processing of the online applications by the UGC. The portal for academic collaboration with foreign higher educational institutions is ready to be launched shortly.

The regulations are available The regulations are available at <http://www.egazette.nic.in/WriteReadData/2016/170684.pdf> .

Source | www.pib.nic.in

Is Audio Really the Future of the Book?

Scholars have found that audiobooks teach critical listening, improve vocabulary, and increase comprehension of the written word.

For many years, audiobooks—also known as talking books and, later, books on tape—struggled for literary legitimacy. As the scholar Matthew Rubery reports in his new book, *The Untold Story of the Talking Book* (Harvard University Press), audiobooks have been cast as the Rodney Dangerfield of literature—they get

no respect! The essence of the dispute concerns whether listening really counts as reading.

Available at | <http://daily.jstor.org/the-future-of-the-book-is-audio/>

IIT Bombay set up - 'Centre of Excellence for Online and Blended Learning and Educational Outreach'

The proposal to build this Centre of Excellence was tabled in an alumni meet held last month to invite financial contributions.

THE INDIAN Institute of Technology, Bombay, (IIT-B) is planning to set up a first-of-its-kind centre of excellence to train teachers across the nation on how to integrate technology in their teaching. Through a combination of online and offline learning methodologies, the institute plans to extend its existing teacher training programmes to over hundred million teachers. The institute, which has already trained around 1.5 lakh engineering college teachers through its 'Train 10,000 Teachers (T10KT)' programme, now aims to extend the training to teachers from schools, colleges and vocational training institutes.

Original PR Source | Indian Express | 11 November 2016

Link | <http://prahadfyilibrarian.blogspot.in/2016/11/iit-bombay-set-up-centre-of-excellence.html>

New DNA-based nanowires may power gen-next computers

Scientists have successfully created gold-plated nanowires assembled from single DNA strands that can conduct current, an advance that may pave the way for tiny electronic devices made from genetic material.

Currently the circumference of the smallest transistors are tinier than the AIDS virus. The industry has shrunk the central elements of their computer chips to fourteen nanometers in the last sixty years.

Source

| <http://www.punemirror.indiatimes.com/other/scitech/New-DNA-based-nanowires-may-power-gen-next-computers/articleshow/55357024.cms>

New Digital Library @ Digital Life project: Ark Of 3D-Printed Animals, Before They Disappear

Creating a Noah's Ark Of 3D-Printed Animals, Before They Disappear

If you never make it to South America to witness a rare frog (or if it goes extinct), the Digital Life project wants to make sure you can still see what one looks like in person. If you've never seen a horned frog, a near-threatened species from South America, a new digital library will let you zoom in on every bump on its brightly colored skin. The site, Digital Life, hopes to eventually catalog 3D digital models of every living species on earth.

By preserving nature digitally—starting with frogs and sea turtles, two groups of animals that are particularly threatened—the researchers want to create new tools for science and education. "A lot of animal species are threatened or going extinct, and obviously a 3D model is not going to bring them back from extinction," says Duncan Irschick, a professor at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. "But it does showcase the animal in a new way."

"Our breakthrough really was we designed this system for living animals, which hadn't been done before," he says. "Living animals vary in how large they are, and their shape and size is just so challenging. But we created a system that's very flexible, and it's portable, so you can take it out in the field."

There are 4,000 frog species in the world, and the team plans to start by digitally preserving 40 to 60, working as quickly as possible. For one species they planned to scan—Rabbs' fringe-limbed tree frog—the last known individual in the world died in September. "We were hoping to scan it, but it died," he says. "That species is gone. But there are many, many others left in nature or captivity that there may only be a handful of individuals left. We're literally racing against time."

Source | <https://www.fastcoexist.com/3065611/creating-a-noahs-ark-of-3-d-printed-animals-before-they-disappear>

'Students taught through the flipped classroom method perform better, are more satisfied'

The model has been both hailed and criticised around the world. While some say it improves performance, others say it increases students' workload.

ACROSS THE globe, rigorous research is underway into better classroom teaching models to improve students' performance and experience. One such proposed model is the Flipped Classroom — where students watch lectures through videos at home and utilise classroom hours in discussion, problem-solving and other activities.

To determine the efficacy of this model, a team of researchers from the Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay, attempted to implement a flipped method, while constraining the work that a student has to do.

According to the study, 85% of the students said that this method was as effective as or more effective than conventional methods. It further found that about 80 percent of the students said that there should be no change in the major components of the course, such as weekly quizzes and mid-semester exams.

The report titled 'Efficacy of a flipped method in an undergraduate class at IIT Bombay' also found favourable result in the students' performance. "A limited comparison of the performance with a control group that did the same course taught by another instructor in the conventional way showed that the flipped classroom students performed better. Students who did well in the weekly quiz, did well consistently throughout the course," **Source | Indian Express | 15 November 2016**

Central Advisory Board of Education on skill and technical education has recommended introducing vocational courses from class 3

A Central Advisory Board of Education (CABE) subcommittee on skill and technical education has recommended introducing vocational courses from class 3 to ensure that school students undergo skill training from an early age. The committee also mooted developing

laboratories at primary schools to motivate students in this regard. The report was discussed at a meeting of CABE – the highest advisory body on education for the central and state governments last month.

Besides this, the body recommended collating a list of skills vis-à-vis the regions they are required in, and integrating them with the education system. “During deliberations, the subcommittee made a number of suggestions, including the introduction of vocational education from the third standard. Also, it was suggested that state-of-the-art labs be developed even at the primary school level to motivate them,” said a source.

Sources further said the National Institute of Open Schooling is planning to introduce vocational education in class 12 with three vocational subjects, besides one language and one foundation subject.

The committee stressed on the importance of infusing the existing skill education and technical education courses in both school and higher-education levels at academic institutes. It also recommended giving parents a say in picking entrepreneurship training courses for students.

“Teachers should play the role of a mentor, and help students pick the learning or entrepreneurship training of their choice in conjunction with their parents at parent-teacher meets,” said a senior official.

Source | Hindustan Times | 15 November 2016

A Library Where Kids Learn to Tinker

Walk into a North Philadelphia library, and you’ll be greeted by an unusual sight. While adult patrons surf the Web and whisper in hushed voices, adolescents giddily piece together sticks and balls to make structures that snake across the room. Grownups leave with books under their arms; kids carry out hand-sewn wallets, colorful birdhouses and wands tipped with glowing LED lights.

[Maker Jawn](#), a year-round Free Library of Philadelphia initiative funded by an [NBCUniversal 21st Century Solutions grant](#), opens branches in underutilized spaces to

middle school students to experiment with hands-on creation. The program began in 2011 as a way to fill a gap in the city’s public school education. Noticing that arts and music classes were being slashed in favor of test-prep memorization, the library stepped in to supplement project-based creative arts learning. The term *maker jawn* comes from the learning environments known as Makerspaces, in which participants experiment with creative technology, and from the slang word *jawn*, which originated in Philly’s hip-hop scene and can take on the meaning of any noun in a sentence.

Supplied with iPads, power tools, a 3-D printer, hot-glue guns, paint and buckets of marbles, buttons and other knick-knacks, the preteen participants are given free rein to build what they please. To an outsider, it might seem the kids are just messing around, making arts and crafts from leftover junk. But for many of its young devotees, the program is a welcome change from the confines of a school day shaped by strict, rote learning and a respite from some of the hardships of life in an impoverished neighborhood. The mentors who run Maker Jawn’s daily lessons see that the kids are tapping into their creativity, maybe for the first time, and building up diminished self-confidence.

“People who are always told what to do can be overwhelmed at first when you say, ‘Here’s the material. Go for it,’” says Sarah Winchowsky, the project coordinator, of working with the kids. “But by giving them avenues to branch out, they flourish.”

“This is a place to assert some agency over the physical world,” says Goda Trakumaite, a Lithuanian artist who’s been a Maker Mentor for nearly three years. “Self-esteem comes with that. ‘I never used a hammer before, and today I built a bird-house. Tomorrow I want to learn more.’ That feeling of being capable and powerful is the coolest thing that I think kids gain over time in the program.”

Beyond personal development, Maker Jawn also squeezes in academic enrichment. “Our goal is to have them learning without realizing it,” explains Winchowsky. That can happen when a mentor, for example, subtly schools the kids in

thermodynamics while demonstrating how to make a lava lamp from old soda bottles, water, oil and dye. Or when building a self-moving robot — in one instance, a rudimentary, solar-powered motor attached to four wheels became a lesson in circuitry and photovoltaic cells.

And sometimes the education is behavioral too. One 10-year-old troublemaker who poked her classmates and cursed under her breath for her first 18 months of visits did an about-face when one library branch put on a fashion show. “She was in her element,” Winchowsky recalls. “She was engaged and had a purpose.” Mentors stopped reprimanding her; instead, they applauded her suggestions during the four months of prep for the big night.

Maker Jawn is transforming libraries into more freewheeling, open spaces. The kids leaving with kites, cereal-box castles and solar-powered robots aren’t just walking away with cool new toys. Over the course of a couple hours, they’ve been tinkering with a new, stronger sense of self.

Source | <http://www.dailygood.org/story/1436/a-library-where-kids-learn-to-tinker-chris-peak/>

Now, 15% service tax on music, e-books sold on foreign portals

MUMBAI: The next time you download **music** or an e-book from an overseas site, or decide to buy some storage on a cloud from an overseas service provider, beware. Beginning December 1, a **service tax** component of 15% will be added to your bill.

Domestic suppliers, say of movies which can be downloaded by customers in India, already incur this service tax. But if the supplier is overseas, the tax doesn't apply if the recipient is an individual, government, local body or government agency based in India. Overseas suppliers incur the service tax only in respect of B2B transactions where the recipient is in India. Further, an exemption is available in such B2B transactions if the supply is related to information databases (such as a subscription for international tax journals).

In a surprising move, the Central Board of Excise and Customs (CBEC) has—through four separate

but interlinked notifications dated November 9—significantly amended the 'Place of Provisions of Services Rules' (PPSR) for 'online information and database access or retrieval services', thus impacting your bill.

The crux of the amendment is the change in the definition of 'place of provision of service'. At present, if service providers are outside India, the place of provision of service is also outside India and no service tax is payable on such services supplied to individuals, government and government bodies in India (service tax applied only to B2B transactions as explained earlier).

Original **Source**
| <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/>

Smartphones Can't Replace Libraries

Academic libraries aren’t just expensive “vanity projects” but rather a vital part of the higher education ecosystem, argue Julie Todaro and Irene M. H. Herold. While there may be other laboratories across a campus, they do not provide the access to information, librarian expertise and interdisciplinary integration that academic and research libraries sustain. In addition: Academic libraries provide (for the haves *and* the have-nots) spaces or commons -- primarily “high-tech ready” in nature -- that offer general and subject-specific equipment, software and web-delivered content for individual access and study. They also offer collaborative spaces for students to work together with each other in small groups and with classroom faculty to study and create content.

- Academic libraries provide spaces for STEM and STEAM discovery or maker space environments for students anywhere in the program or the curriculum -- especially those who don't have access to departmental labs, where spaces are often reserved for students majoring in those specific areas.
- Academic libraries provide open labs and flexible, individual computer spaces with equipment and software unique to special research or subject area populations, such as geographic information systems or statistical software packages to process data used

in the study of social and natural sciences. They also serve special needs students, faculty members and staff.

Academic libraries provide not only access to content within their buildings but also equipment and technology that students can check out and use in their educational pursuits.

Meanwhile, academic library professionals, often faculty members themselves, are experts in areas of research, and they work in partnership with classroom instructors in the design and delivery of curricula. They also partner with classroom faculty members in the design and delivery of courses requiring critical thinking and information literacy as well as subject-targeted assignments;

- are champions for and leaders in open educational resources that provide vetted, free content for students who can't afford textbooks, a large part of the price tag of college;
- build digital as well as print collections to reflect classroom faculty research, recommended research by other experts and subject content required by external regional and national accreditation bodies -- such as digital and print content for the health sciences and business-management curricula; and,
- online content and competency lessons (online tutorials, streamed office hours with library experts) for students to access on their smartphones.

We invite Van Susteren to visit one or more of our nation's fine academic libraries, such as that of her alma mater, the University of Wisconsin at Madison, or any of ACRL's Excellence in Academic Libraries award winners. She will see firsthand the role those libraries play in the life of knowledge and information and how an investment in them is an investment in the success and future of our college students -- and, in turn, the success and future of our nation.

Details Available
@ <https://www.insidehighered.com/views/20>

[16/11/10/why-academic-libraries-arent-just-expensive-vanity-projects-essay](#)

The privilege of leadership

Being a leader means your life and activity are no longer about yourself. A "leader" means life offers you a higher perch than other people have. If you sit on a higher perch and don't see any better than others, you will become an object of ridicule. People will look up to you only if you have an insight into situations and problems, and an insight into possible solutions.

Usually, people understand leadership as a position of power. But those leaders who were truly successful and loved by people lived in a position of continuous sacrifice, because a leader means your life and activity are no longer about yourself. Every thought and emotion that you generate, every action that you perform has an impact on millions of people. It is a certain privilege and a responsibility, that you can touch the lives of people around you in many ways.

When I say a "leader," I am not just talking about the leader of a nation or large group of people. From a simple housewife to a grocer to a panchayat leader to a taxi driver, anyone can be a leader because anyone who comes in contact with 10 people in a day can either impact them powerfully or let the opportunity pass. People will choose the scale of leadership according to their capabilities, but everyone is a leader in some way. If you have chosen to take at least your own destiny into your own hands, aren't you a leader?

If you want to lead any group of people and want everyone to function at their best, first you must make sure all of them fall in love with you. If you want everyone to fall in love with you, first you must fall in love with all of them. This is not a trick—"If I fall in love with you, you will fall in love with me, then you will work better for me."

Here at Isha Foundation, we have an organization with over two million volunteers across the world, doing their best all the time. This is not because we are a spiritual organization; this can even be done to a whole nation. In any organization, if the person who stands there is an inspiration to everyone, leadership will happen without uttering a word.

Source | Mint – The Wall Street Journal | 15 July 2016

All India Radio seeks to preserve Indian heritage, records 20,000 folk songs

To preserve the Indian cultural heritage of folk music, All India Radio (AIR) has recorded as many as 20,000 folk songs, including ceremonial songs of different castes and religions, sung across the country.

New Delhi: Public service broadcaster All India Radio (AIR) operates 415 stations and all of them are currently busy trying to preserve the Indian cultural heritage by collecting folk music of the nation for its archives. The broadcaster recently concluded the recording of as many as 20,000 folk songs, including ceremonial songs of different castes and religions, sung across the country. These songs will be stored in the AIR sound archives to help researchers in future.

“We want to collect music from all the nooks and corners of India—the music that has been forgotten over the passage of time. There are over 5,500 castes and mainly seven religions in our country and we want to preserve all of these. It is one of the largest projects in AIR programming,” said a senior AIR official, who declined to be named.

The songs are recorded in natural surroundings instead of studios and the locals are engaged from different regions to sing these songs. “We have not hired any graded artistes for this because we want to capture the accents of the locals pertaining to a particular caste or a region for that matter,” the official said.

Once recorded, the broadcaster also engages representatives from specific communities to certify the authenticity of these songs. These recordings are shot by AIR station officials and then a compilation of audios, videos, pictures and translations of the songs are stored.

The sound archives of AIR are possibly the largest audio library of Indian music recordings by the government of India. The library

preserves voice recordings of eminent personalities, freedom fighters, national leaders, award-winning radio dramas, features, documentaries and memorial lectures.

AIR started this mega project to collect and record traditional songs from all over the country in November 2014. The initial plan was to record over 9 lakh such songs. “The actual number may be different as a lot of castes and religions share the same music and lyrics. Our estimates may vary but we are determined to cover the entire nation,” said the official.

So far, the broadcaster has spent over Rs.2 crore on the project and has set aside Rs.3 crore from the annual budget of 2016-17. The information and broadcasting ministry has allocated Rs.75 crore to AIR for the development of new content for the year 2016-17.

On 8 June, AIR which started as the Indian State Broadcasting Service, completed 80 years. It currently covers about 92% of the area and 99.19% of the Indian population with its services in 23 languages. AIR also extends to over 108 countries

Source | Mint – The Wall Street Journal | 17 June 2016

Software To Cut Printing Costs

NEW DELHI: IT system integrator firm Hitachi Systems Micro Clinic (HSMC) has launched TonerSaver, a Windows-based software that can help organisations reduce toner consumption by up to 75 pct, thereby slashing printing costs. “TonerSaver is the ideal product for organisations as it helps generate substantial cost savings, which, in turn, make a direct difference to the bottomline,” said Tarun Seth, Managing Director, Hitachi Systems Micro Clinic, in a statement.

Access Point | <http://pralhadfyilibrarian.blogspot.in/2016/10/hitachi-systems-micro-clinic-unveils.html>

Case for a parallel higher education

We need to take a number of steps, from fixing schools to ending apartheid against distance learning, to make graduate employable

Access Point | <http://pralhad-fyilibrarian.blogspot.in/2016/10/case-for-parallel-higher-education.html>

Searching for Lost Knowledge in the Age of Intelligent Machines

As search engines are radically reinvented, computers and people are becoming partners in exploration.

Searching for lost knowledge is its own kind of science, but ultimately an incomplete one. "In that sense," Swanson wrote, "there are no limits to either science or information retrieval. But then, too, there are no final answers."

And yet people keep searching, sifting through the sands of time for traces to the past. They continue looking, in dank archives and distant oceans, against all odds of discovery. We search because we must, because in every direction, stretching back to the beginning of human history, is the irresistible possibility that we might yet find a strange new sliver of who we were, and better understand what we have become.

Available
@ <http://www.theatlantic.com/technology/archive/2016/12/the-search-for-lost-knowledge/506879/>

The Librarian on the Teaching Team An essential partnership.

I'm here to make the case that a librarian is a key member of a course development and teaching team.

First - before we talk about librarians - let's talk about teaching teams. My experience with building a team of faculty and non-faculty educators to design and run courses comes out of online learning.

Let's get back to librarians.

There are 3 immediate and obvious reasons that a librarian should be included on every faculty /

non-faculty educator course development and teaching team:

- **Reason 1 - Experience:**
- **Reason 2 - Working Directly With Students:**
- **Reason 3 - Content, Quality, and Open Educational Resources:**

What do you see as the roadblocks and the challenges involved in integrating instructors, instructional designers, media educators, assessment experts, developers, and librarians into course development and teaching teams?

How do you make the case for librarians as educators - essential partners and collaborators in today's high quality residential and online courses?

Full Article
@ <https://www.insidehighered.com/blogs/technology-and-learning/librarian-teaching-team>

Libraries in England 2016 to 2021 Corporate Report | Libraries Deliver: Ambition for Public

Libraries Deliver: Ambition for Public Libraries in England 2016-2021 has been published by the Libraries Taskforce following widespread consultation, and is endorsed and supported by central government and by the Local Government Association (on behalf of local government).

It sets out a bold and dynamic direction of travel for the next 5 years, describing how library services in England can help transform people, communities and society as a whole. Libraries Deliver: Ambition also provides a confirmation of how libraries support and add value to a range of local and national policy priorities and links to practical examples of existing good practice. It is supported by an action plan, saying what will happen to make the vision a reality.

Background

The Independent Library Report for England (published on 18 December 2014) called for a national strategy which articulated what public

libraries in England are and why they are a force for good for us all.

Highlights of the Report

- £4m library fund to help disadvantaged communities and promote new projects including literacy, reading and digital access schemes
- Strategy encourages new models of delivery for libraries
- Ambition underlines Government commitment to the library sector
- Councils urged to consider using libraries when delivering other public services

Report available @ https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/573911/Libraries_Deliver_-_Ambition_for_Public_Libraries_in_England_2016_to_2021.pdf

India's 1st Heritage-based, Multilingual Story App 'FunDooDaa Books' for Kids Launched

Chie Media Pvt. Ltd. launched **FunDooDaa Books** – a children's app dedicated entirely to learning through stories for kids. The app is an e-library of stories which imparts knowledge of Indian heritage along with morals and values to kids between 2-8 years of age. The app, launched on 2nd November in India and abroad, is available both on Android and iOS devices.

The market for using edutainment apps for children has been consistently growing in India. **Studies say that 58% Indian children have shown positive behavioural changes after using digital learning platforms. This has encouraged more and more parents to provide dedicated digital devices to their children for learning purposes. 68% parents now use online platforms to teach new concepts to their kids.**

A number of edutainment/reading apps for children are available online like Speakaboos, Stories with Playkids, Reading Rainbow; however, none offer exclusive stories written and published in India with an inherent Indian sensibility to them. FunDooDaa Books bridges that gap with stories in English, Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, Gujarati, Marathi and

Bengali, about Indian heritage and culture like royal tales and legends, *Naana and Naani* stories etc.

Apps like FunDooDaa Books aim not only at entertaining kids, but also enable them to learn and speak their mother tongue and stay rooted to Indian culture. The app ties together stories and fun learning games seamlessly to enhance kids' reading skills, vocabulary and observational capabilities.

Speaking on the app launch, Nirmala Kamath, Director and Co-founder of Chie Media, said, **"We believe in creating a bond between parents and children based on the rich foundation of Indian heritage. We are excited about providing the Indian audience with an app that will help their kids relate better to Indian culture in a fun and easy manner. FunDooDaa Books is here to revolutionize the storytelling aspect of the parent-child relationship and take it to new levels."**

When it comes to Indian storytelling apps, FunDooDaa Books is bound to stand out as it features inspiring Indian tales in multiple languages and CBSE recommended books by Indian authors. Parents in India and abroad can use it to entertain and expand their child's imagination while imparting knowledge and values of Indian culture and keeping them rooted.

Download app here:

Android: <http://bit.ly/2fgXvWj>

iOS: <http://bit.ly/2fdeUk3>

About Chie Media Pvt. Ltd.

Chie Media Pvt. Ltd. is a provider of the smart channel experience on digital television, delivers end-to-end services like content sourcing, repurposing, application development and smart-channel operations. With FunDooDaa Books, they have entered the mobile market as well.

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Director and Co-founder, Chie Media Pvt. Ltd.

Link | <http://udaipurkiran.com/indias-1st-heritage-based-multilingual-story-app-fundoodaa-books-for-kids-launched/>

Make reading a habit and books your best friends of all time

I always feel that blessed are those souls that love reading. After all, someone has rightly said, "Reading is to the mind what exercise is to the body". Reading offers not one but several benefits.

First of all, it is a good relaxant and absorbs stress and tension. It takes away boredom and introduces us to calmness; and, like music uplifts our mood and spirits. May be for the same reason Charles De Montesquieu once said, "I have never known any distress that an hour's reading did not relieve." It also holds huge power to change our mindset and this can directly enhance our personality. In other words, by making books our friends, we give ourselves an opportunity to broaden our minds just as travel does. It should also not be overlooked that having an open mind is very important as it will help in achieving success in life. Making books our best friends is one way of achieving it.

Those who never give up reading remain alert as the mind is always active. They tend to be more creative and imaginative, which boosts the health of the brain. Many psychologists also believe that this protects the brain against many of the age-related ailments that are commonly seen in elderly people, like dementia, amnesia, etc. I feel when our brain becomes creative and imaginative it also becomes easier for us to discover our hidden talent and to take it to new heights. As is often said: "Logic will take you from A to B but imagination along with creative wings will take you everywhere."

Link | Hindustan Times | 24 November 2016

New technique to prevent illegal copying of photos, videos & Books

Scientists have developed an innovative light-based technique to create secure, invisible watermarks that can be used to prevent photos, videos and books from being illegally copied and distributed. "In our research, we use a complex pattern of light, or diffraction pattern, as a unique watermark," said Yishi Shi, from the University of Chinese Academy of Sciences.

"The invisible watermark is embedded into the content we are trying to protect. Imperceptibility is one of the most significant advantages of optical watermarking," said Shi. The new approach encodes the optical watermark in a single step. It is faster and uses a less complex optical setup than other optical watermarking approaches previously pursued, researchers said.

The technique can also be used to optically encrypt data or to hide information within images. The method is based on a technique called single-shot ptychography encoding (SPE) that uses multiple partially-overlapping beams of light to generate a diffraction pattern from a complex object. Unlike other methods, SPE can encode the optical watermark in a single exposure with no mechanical scanning.

For cases where the presence of a watermark is unknown, the watermark could be extracted using existing algorithm-based detection methods. The research was published in the journal Optics Express.

Source | Daily News Analysis | 25 November 2016

Amrita's e-learning solution wins award

KOCHI: A-View, the open-source e-learning solution developed by the Amrita University, won the FICCI National Award for Excellence in Technology for 2016.

Kamal Bijlani said, "this recognition is a testimony to the immense solution A-View provides in addressing the acute shortage of quality teachers in India. It is a live audio-video educational platform used by around 11,000 institutes of higher education.

A-View allows teachers to connect with thousands of students simultaneously from anywhere in the world through online classrooms, meetings, training sessions, workshops and conferences. Students will be able to clear their doubts in the live online sessions.

Source | <http://www.newindianexpress.com/cities/kochi/2016/nov/25/amritas-e-learning-solution-wins-award-1542345.html>

Kid-lit writers say stories hold morals

The 21 winners of the Sahitya Akademi's prestigious Bal Sahitya Puraskar met at the Gujarat Sahitya Parishad in Ahmedabad.

Their stories were about ordinary children with simple wishes. The central theme of the awardees statements was the dire need for childrens literature writers who can sensitize kids to issues such as inclusion and compassion. Roohi Jan, a short-story writer from Kashmir, explained how she had started writing her own nursery rhymes and short stories for the strife-stricken Kashmiri children while teaching at a government primary school. This was the only way I could insulate them from getting influenced by the violence around them. Dilip Borkar, who won the award for his Konkani novelette said: We have to nurture our children through our stories and teach them to be good, tolerant citizens.

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/ahmedabad/Kid-lit-writers-say-stories-hold-morals/articleshow/55445018.cms>

Eminent authors hone aspiring novelists at Write India

The most popular Indian authors come together under one roof to share their stories inspiring others along the way. What started as a mere competition for writing short stories has now given a new lease of life to 111 budding writers from various parts of the country.

Write India, a crowd-sourced platform for authors, is an initiative started by The Times of India group. As part of this programme, 11 prominent authors mentored aspiring writers over a span of 11 months in the nuances of the publishing industry.

While the top 12 winners were selected from thousands of entries, the finest 36 stories out of 25,000 that were submitted were published. Vinita Dawra Nangia (Director, Write India) says: The initiative aspires to give India the next generation of writers. The quality of stories received put to rest conjectures that perhaps India doesnot read or write any more!

The grand finale, which was held in Mumbai recently, saw the authors indulging in an interactive session with the guests. While actor

Swati Das gave a dramatic narration of the winning story by Nainesh A Jadwani, the event ended with authors coming together on stage to launch Write India Stories, which has the top 36 stories written by winners.

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/mumbai/Eminent-authors-hone-aspiring-novelists-at-Write-India/articleshow/55434618.cms>

ADINET WhatsApp Group

ADINET has started a Whats App Group. As one of the reasons was to initiate a discussion on Life-Skills, an introductory write up is given:

As is well known a skill is a learned ability to do something well, so Life Skills can be defined as the ability that will help us to lead a more meaningful & successful life. These skills will help us especially the young generation to take decisions based on a logical process of "what to do, why to do, how to do and when to do".

Everyone and anyone who wants to lead a meaningful life, needs Life Skills. Life Skills development is a life-long process that helps individuals grow and mature; build confidence in one's decisions taken on the basis of adequate information and thought, and discover sources of strength within and outside.

Life Skills fall into three basic categories which compliment, supplement and strengthen each other: Social/ Interpersonal Skills, Cognitive Skills & Emotional Skills, to improve our Identity.

In our noble Library Profession 'Interpersonal skills' play a very important role. It helps us to relate in positive ways with our readers. It also helps us in making and keeping friendly relationships, which can be of great importance to our mental and social well-being. It helps us to be a 'People-Person'.

This Interpersonal Skill includes core skills like: Communication Skills, Assertiveness Skills, Cooperation Skills & Empathy.

Key Message of the day: Life skills are abilities for adaptive and positive behaviour that enable individuals to deal effectively with the demands and challenges of everyday life.

We do hope that you find this interesting & useful. If you have any comments or suggestions please do let us know....See you soon....

