

LIS NEWS

Library on wheels is just around the corner

Santosh Karale ensures that his readers are a happy lot as the Swaraj library, which runs on a mobile van, travels to their residence with books of their choice.

On a lazy Sunday afternoon, when reaching out to a good book can be a relaxing activity, what better than to have a library waiting outside your society for you. For six years now, residents of Thane city and Airoli have enjoyed this luxury. Swaraj library, with its entire stock of 4,500 books neatly displayed in a van, moves from one locality to another; enticing citizens to read. The owner, 35 year-old Santosh Karale, himself an avid reader, knows the pleasures of a good book.

He provides 10% discount on every book. His wife Swaranjali Karale, 32, oversees the van in Airoli while Karale drives the mobile van, stationed in Thane, himself.

Source

| <http://www.iamin.in/en/thane/news/library-wheels-just-around-corner-45905>

Five key debates for the future of education

How do we best educate the students of tomorrow? What we teach our children – and how we teach them – will impact almost every aspect of society, from the quality of healthcare to industrial output; from technological advances to financial services. Our GlobalAgenda Council experts join the debate to offer various visions of how education may evolve, and how governments, educators, employers and students will need to adapt to keep pace with the bewildering array of possibilities that will shape all of our futures.

The impact of technology

Rapid and dramatic developments in technology, the internet and online learning have outpaced projections from just a few years ago. And while the concept of internet-enabled study is hardly a new phenomenon, Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) could be the spark that ignites significant changes in the way the world teaches and learns. That's the view held by Professor Anant Agarwal, CEO of edX, the online learning destination founded by Harvard and MIT.

"We're seeing a revolution in education as we speak," says Professor Agarwal, "Technology is

casting a spotlight on the innovation of massively open courses, of dynamic new study options that are available to everyone, regardless of background or location.”

Flexible, mass stream and open-source learning, he argues, will revolutionize the landscape of education. “In the future, you could go to university having done the first year of content online. You could then come and have the campus experience for two years, before going on to get a job in the industry where you become a continuous learner for the rest of your life.”

The evolution of MOOCs will not only have a profound effect on how we teach in the future, but who we teach, says Professor Agarwal. MOOCs and their technology could be used to ‘virtualize’ education on a mass scale, delivering low-cost learning opportunities to developing countries that have skipped what he calls the “landline generation” – countries such as India and Kazakhstan, and Africa’s emerging economies where mobile phones are the primary form of communication. It is, he says, much easier to connect thousands of people to the internet and provide them with subsidized tablets, than to build hundreds of bricks-and-mortar campuses.

“When something is this powerful and this game-changing, we need to be steering it as a non-profit venture, and even move beyond

the concept of non-profit. It should be a platform that everybody can take, and evolve in the way they see fit. Why should any one organization be in charge of it?” he says.

Increasing globalization

Not everyone is convinced that access to MOOCs will prove to be a universal solution to the world’s educational challenges. Technology and online learning have exponentially extended the reach of the humble classroom – but this is a trend that Professor Tan Chorh Chuan, President of the National University of Singapore, approaches with some caution.

The unification of standards – a question of governance

If education is set to become increasingly globalized, who should govern the models that are used in the future? And should we be looking to build a universal set of standards, one that can be co-opted by universities, industry, MOOCs and other online learning platforms?

Dr Shirley Ann Jackson, President of the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, envisions a new model – what she calls the “New Polytechnic” – of working and learning that is required in this “data-driven, computationally powered, globally networked era.”

Dr Jackson believes that the future of education will be a collaborative effort, with

universities, businesses and governments working more efficiently together to “use and link the capabilities of advanced information technologies, communications and networking”. “Data is the new natural resource of the 21st century. The great challenge and opportunity is how to mine, manage, preserve and protect the data to ensure it is being harnessed to its full potential.”

At Rensselaer, changes are already underway to realise Dr Jackson’s vision, which, she says, will equip the next generation with more intellectual agility.

A different approach: Will commoditization benefit education?

Of course, education should be seen as a need in itself. Technology has undoubtedly made the world a smaller place and, in the 21st century education is rightly considered a basic human right. Unfortunately, this classification doesn’t negate the need for financial backing; somewhere along the chain, educators, researchers and platforms must be funded.

Dr Mona Mourshed, Senior Partner with McKinsey & Company, believes a more radical approach to education must be adopted if the world is to keep pace with future demand for skilled workers. We are, she posits, migrating towards the curation of education – an environment of accelerated

learning, based upon a modularized approach. She echoes Professor Agarwal’s theory that the students of the future will spend less time on traditional campuses.

The changing, but recognizable, face of future education

Education is constantly adapting to societal needs, and this transformation will undoubtedly gather momentum in the years to come. Technology, MOOCs and industry will all play a unique role in this evolution, and while traditional institutions may face challenges in the future, it’s likely they will still form the bedrock of learning and influence how the world teaches and learns.

Source | [Five key debates for the future of education](#)

Govt to launch single-window platform for academic information

Initiative called Know Your College to allow millions of students to access all academic information in one place

The human resource development (HRD) ministry will launch a single-window platform for higher educational institutes on Tuesday that will allow millions of students to access all academic information in one place.

On 11 November, observed as the National Education Day, the government will launch the new

initiative called Know Your College, on the lines of a similar initiative in Gujarat. It will allow students, administrators and expert's access to all the information from faculty status to lab facility, and from admission cut-offs to regulatory adherence, two HRD ministry officials said on condition of anonymity.

The ministry believes this will promote transparency and will be key for higher education reform. "There are too many institutions without enough information in the public place. So, we have tried to put in place a single window to give all information about all institutions. It's a one-stop shop," said the first official.

Institutions under both the University Grants Commission (UGC) and All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) will be brought on the new platform. India has more than 35,800 colleges under UGC and over 10,000 institutions under AICTE.

"Information, accountability and grievance redressal will be three key pillars of this scheme," the official said. The initiative will be launched by President Pranab Mukherjee in the presence of HRD minister Smriti Irani in New Delhi, an invitation from the ministry said.

On Tuesday, the ministry will also formally launch Unnat Bharat Abhiyan, a scheme under which Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) will adopt model villages for sustainable development. All the 16 IITs will adopt 10 villages

each and the main thrust would be technology infusion.

The government is planning to start a credit transfer system that will make it easier for students and working professionals to switch between education and jobs. The credit equivalent framework will be from Class 9-12 level. It will also allow seamless transfer of credit between formal education and skill education, Irani had told delegates at a panel discussion at the India Economic Summit, organized by the World Economic Forum, *Mint* reported on 5 November.

Source | Mint – The Wall Street Journal | 11 November 2014

Soon, Univ lectures in 3D

Mumbai University will soon use satellite link to transmit lectures in high-quality picture and audio to its affiliated colleges through virtual classrooms. While lectures via video conference were made available in the past, lectures, lab experiments, dissections will now be transmitted using the satellite in high-definition. Also, digital technology will make 3D visuals available. The facility will transmit lectures using virtual network and enable students to attend class anywhere in rural areas. "We should use satellite link technology for education," said principal of K J Somaiya College, Vijay Joshi., "We intend to use learning solutions that will remove time and distance

constraints," said deputy registrar Leeladhar Ban sod.

Source | Times of India | 11 November 2014

A move towards digital India: Gujarat libraries to convert over 70,000 books into 'e-books'

Gandhinagar, Nov 10: Keeping pace with changing reading habits in the wake of the digital revolution, the Gujarat Director of Libraries (DoL) has decided to convert over 70,000 books into 'e-books' to make them available to readers online.

The books will be available for members through 'e-Library Reader' software for computers as well as through Android App for mobile phones.

As per the available project details, around 1.95 crore pages of more than 70,000 books will be converted into e-book format and will be made available for their members within two to three months time, said officials.

"At present, we are undertaking this project for over 70,000 books, for which we have started searching for service provider to carry out the work. The agency will first scan each and every page of these books and convert them into PDF format, which disables unauthorised copying of texts online," said Director of Libraries (DoL) Dr Varsha Mehta.

As per the rules set by DoL, the selected agency needs to develop a specialised 'e Library Reader' (ELR) software for PCs as well as a specialised Android based App to read the converted e-books on smart phones.

"We want to reach out to people through the use of technology. Readers will also get a chance to read many rare books now, as these books will be available in digital form and we need not worry about its wear and tear," said Assistant DoL D K Shah.

"At present, most of the e-books available on websites are in English language, for example novels written by English authors. Through this initiative, readers will get a chance to read numerous Gujarati books online, as most of these books are not available in e-book format," added Shah. (PTI)

Source
| <http://news.oneindia.in/india/a-move-towards-digital-india-gujarat-libraries-convert-books-into-ebooks-1556969.html>

Two-decade-old library in Chandni Chowk serve 'rare' books

APThe library serves a variety of books which includes more than 150-year-old book of poetry by the last surviving mughal Bahadur Shah Zafar, and over 90-year-old 'Bhagavad Gita' compiled in Sanskrit and Urdu.

In the narrow by-lanes of the old Delhi, more than two-decade-old

library serves book lovers with 'extinct' or rare publications, including dictionaries and poems compiled in numerous languages.

The 'Shah Waliullah' library, situated a few steps away from Jama Masjid in Imli gali of Chandni Chowk, has over 15,000 books in Hindi, English, Sanskrit, Urdu, Persian, and Arabic language.

Now the institute is run by Delhi Youth Welfare Association (DYWA) under the care taking of Sikander Changezi, who claims to be a descendant of the last Mughal lineage.

"Since I have a connection with the lineage of the royal family, the books that I have contributed in the library have come from my descendants. I donated 2000 books when the library was formed," said Changezi.

The library serves a variety of books which includes more than 150-year-old book of poetry by the last surviving mughal Bahadur Shah Zafar, and over 90-year-old 'Bhagavad Gita' compiled in Sanskrit and Urdu.

"The library has the last Mughal ruler Bahadur Shah Zafar's poems compiled by him. It was first issue of the poems was published in 1855 inside Red Fort's 'Royal Press' The book has resonances of Punjabi language too," he added.

Among the other rare books is 'Sair-ul-aqtab' written by Qazi Syed Ali in Persian, some 225

years ago, on the Sufi teachings, Changezi added.

Students and scholar from India and around the world come here to study and examine these 'extinct' books.

Indians prefer printed books over e-books: Survey

Despite all the strides taken by India in the digital world, nearly four out of five respondents in the Tata Literature Live! Survey 2014 conducted across the country says they favour printed books over electronic reading.

In an attempt to understand the evolving landscape of literary reading, amidst technological, social and behavioural impacts, the survey brought forth key insights into Indians' reading habits, a press release from the Tata Group said.

"The Tata Literature Live! Survey 2014 is an effort to look into contemporary India's literary leisure reading. The survey has not only explored reading tastes, but more importantly how India is reading today. It is heartening to see India's love for the written word, and the findings encourage us to celebrate it even further at the forthcoming editions of Tata Literature Live! The Mumbai LitFest!" says Mr. Anil Dharker, Founder and Festival Director of Tata Literature Live! The Mumbai LitFest.

The fifth edition of Mumbai's international literary festival, Tata

Literature Live, brought internationally renowned writers and performances from all over the world to Mumbai. The festival which took place at the National Centre for the Performing Arts (NCPA), Nariman Point, and, for the first time, at Prithvi Theatre and The Easel in Juhu, had an invigorating line-up of debates, talks, and creative performances which not only started a vibrant exchange of ideas, but also connected with literary conversations currently happening on a broad global stage.

Over 120 writers, thinkers and performers from countries as diverse as England, the USA, Germany, Italy, Israel and Ireland took centre stage at the festival.

Source | <http://netindian.in/>

YCM Open University to offer around 350 textbooks online

Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University (YCMOU) is digitizing its curriculum books and making it available online to students, reports The Times of India. YCMOU vice chancellor Manikrao Salunkhe told the publication that they initially plan to offer around 350 books online.

The report also notes that the Nashik-headquartered university is planning to release a mobile app that would provide counselling, syllabus details and exam schedules to students. Important alerts will be sent to students through SMS as well.

This is a potentially good move as YCMOU is an open university and the students are spread across the state. An online repository of study materials is also an inexpensive option for students and enables colleges to reduce printing cost due to less printing. The university mentions that this move will also address the issues of hard copy shortages.

Similar initiatives

Earlier in September this year, the Union HRD Ministry had initiated its Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) platform called SWAYAM that is expected to go live within this year. It had mentioned that professors of centrally funded institutions like IITs, IIMs and Central Universities will offer online courses that will be accessible by all Indians free of cost.

Later in the month, Union Cabinet had also approved the signing of a Joint Declaration of Intent between the HRD Ministry and the U.S. Department of State, following which US universities were expected to offer post-graduate academic programs with certification on the SWAYAM platform.

Last year, the HRD Ministry and NCERT had launched an initiative called National Repository of Open Educational Resources (NROER) in a bid to provide free educational resources to school students under the Creative Common

license. This online repository includes concept maps, videos, audio clips, talking books, multimedia, learning objects, photographs, diagrams, charts, articles, wikipages and textbooks for all grades in multiple languages.

The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) had partnered with five international and national publishers to provide students with online resources for English, science, social sciences and mathematics, in August 2013.

Source
| <http://www.medianama.com/2014/11/223-ycm-open-university-online-textbooks/>

HRD ministry to create database of educational experts, persons of Indian origin

The union ministry of human resources development is likely to take immediate steps for creating a database of foreign educational experts and persons of Indian origin, so that it could be utilised by the institutions for filling up the vacant faculty positions, this was stated in a press statement issued here. This is one of the decisions taken in a two-day annual conference of the directors of the National Institutes of Technology (NIT) of India, held in New Delhi last week.

Source | Hindustan Times | 5 November 2014

Google launches alliance to promote local Indian languages

Launches speech recognition tool for Hindi; major Indian languages such as Bengali, Tamil and Marathi to be covered in 15 months. Content on Google will soon be available in multiple Indian languages.

To expand the reach of the Internet to the 60 per cent non-English speaking people in the country, Google India has initiated an Indian Language Internet Alliance (ILIA), a group of stakeholders, who will help push language content online.

Amit Singhal, senior vice-president of search at Google Inc, said information is empowering and the future of search is mobile.

"Our mission at Google is to ensure the world's information is universally accessible, and this includes the millions of users in India who are about to come online for the first time."

"If Internet is available in Indian languages, then the Internet will become accessible to 500 million people. This will help in realisation of digital India initiative of the government. It is an important initiative," Information and Broadcasting Minister Prakash Javadekar said.

Source | Business Line | 4 November 2014

HML's website linked with anti-plagiarism software

VADODARA: Hansa Mehta Library (HML) of M S University has set up link of two anti-plagiarism software on the homepage of its website for its users.

The Information and Library Network (INFLIBNET), the autonomous inter-university centre of University Grants Commission has facilitated this access for MSU's library.

According to officials, providing access to the electronic plagiarism detection tools - Turnitin and iThenticate - will help tackle the rising problem of plagiarism in academics.

Source | Times of India | 3 November 2014

New educational policy likely to come out next year : HRD minister Smriti Irani

KOCHI: The new educational policy of the BJP-led NDA government is likely to be rolled out next year, Union HRD minister Smriti Irani said here today.

Irani was speaking at a valedictory function of the 21st Annual Sahodaya conference of CBSE at nearby Nedumbassery.

Addressing principals and teachers from CBSE schools across the country and abroad, she said, "The future of the

country lies in your hands. I say this not only as HRD minister, but as also a mother of two CBSE school-going kids."

Source | Economic Times | 3 November 2014

World Library of Science

UNESCO launched the World Library of Science (WLoS) in collaboration with Macmillan Science and Education. This free, online education resource is designed to give students around the world equal access to the latest science information. It also allows students to participate in discussions with their peers in a shared learning environment.

Source|
<http://newsbreaks.infotoday.com/Digest/World-Library-of-Science-Aims-to-Open-Science-to-All-Students-100460.asp>

CONGRATULATIONS

We are happy to announce that **Mr. Upendrakumar P. Pandya**, Assistant Librarian at Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad has been awarded the Phd Degree, from the Hemchandracharya North Gujarat University, Patan during September 2014 on the topic "User's Satisfaction in Management Institutes Library in the Gujarat State" under the supervision and guidance of Dr. G. S. Patel, Librarian, R.G. Shah Science College, Vasna, Ahmedabad.

Ms. Geeta Purushottambhai Pandya, Librarian at Gujarat High Court: Judges Library, Ahmedabad has been awarded Ph. D. degree from Hemchandracharya North Gujarat University, Patan during September 2014 on the topic "Intellectual Property Rights: Library Science" under the supervision and guidance of Dr. G. S. Patel, Librarian, R.G. Shah Science College, Vasna, Ahmedabad.

Obituary

With profound grief we inform our readers about the sad demise of Mr. Satish R. Deshpande who was the Head, Resource Centre at DA-IICT.

He was formerly the Librarian of the British Library & had also helped ADINET for a brief period.

May his soul progress & may his family get the strength to bear this untimely & sudden loss!

Forthcoming Conferences

17th National Convention on Knowledge, Library and Information Networking jointly organised by DELNET, New Delhi and French Institute of Pondicherry on theme From Building Collections to Making Connections: Transforming Libraries in the Knowledge Era to be held at Hotel Anadha Inn Convention Centre, Puducherry on December 9-11, 2014.

NBT, India announces New Delhi World Book Fair 2015 at Pragati Maidan from 14th to 22nd February 2015. The Fair is organised by National Book Trust, New Delhi in collaboration with India Trade Promotion Organisations (ITPO), the nodal agency of the Government of India under the Ministry of Commerce.

10th International CALIBER 2015, HP University, Shimla, March 12-14, 2015

INFLIBNET Centre in collaboration with Himachal Pradesh University and Indian Institute of Advanced Study, Shimla is organizing 10th International CALIBER 2015 at HP University, Shimla from 12th to 14th March 2015 on the theme Innovative Librarianship: Adapting to Digital Realities. More details about the convention can be accessed from the INFLIBNET's CALIBER Website at <http://www.inflibnet.ac.in/caliber2015/index.php>