

ADINET (Advanced Information Network of Libraries in Gujarat)
e-News Digest

No. 112

Jan – 2025

CONTENTS	Page No.
Pause & Ponder	2
Retired men are main demographic at Korea's libraries. Why?	2
Bookstore starts new initiatives to promote reading in Bengaluru	2
It's official: Research has found that libraries make everything better	3
Let children own library: Edu Secy to schools	3
Crores pumped into hosp, library	4
AI in Publishing: A 2025 Industry Forecast	4
Sarah Jessica Parker voices concern over book bans and the future of libraries	4
One Nation One Subscription is important — but so are libraries and archives	5
How India's food shortage filled American libraries	5
Want to Read More in 2025? Start With 25 Minutes a Day	6

Pause & Ponder

“I’ve missed more than 9,000 shots in my career. I’ve lost almost 300 games. Twenty-six times I’ve been trusted to take the game-winning shot and missed. I’ve failed over and over and over again in my life, and that is why I succeed.”

– Michael Jordan

Readers Please Note

Tap the Title to read the full article

Retired men are main demographic at Korea’s libraries. Why?



On the second day of the New Year, the National Library of Korea in southern Seoul had its usual visitor profile: senior male citizens forming a predominant majority.

A 75-year-old surnamed Lee is among the regulars. He said he comes to the library every morning, has lunch for 5,000 won (\$3.45), and stays until 4:30 or 5 p.m.

“There’s nowhere to go once you’re over 70. It might be the same for you someday,” he said in a hushed voice in the hallway of the four-floor reading room. “I just come here to relax.”

Before retiring over a decade ago, he was a civil engineer in the public sector. At the library, he continues to study his former field. “Well, it’s what I did my whole life. I need to stay updated on recent developments.” Other than that, he currently enjoys reading Park Kyung-ri’s multi-volume historical saga “Land.”

Another man, 66-year-old Seo Tae-joon, was on his way to lunch at the cafeteria, just a one-minute walk from the library. Like Lee, Seo also visits the library every day. Six years ago, he retired from a mid-sized construction company, where he had worked in human resources for nearly 40 years...

Source: [The Kathmandu Post, 29 Jan 2025](#)

Bookstore starts new initiatives to promote reading in Bengaluru



Tucked away in Kallumantapa, Horamavu, is a book shop that evolved from a humble online store to a thriving brick-and-mortar haven. The store has now launched innovative initiatives to cultivate a reading habit among Bengalureans.

Founded by Lalitha Murugesan, Lalitha’s Book Nook was the solution to her “midlife and identity crisis”. In 2021, as a SAP consultant with a leading IT venture, she was going through a challenging period. “I wanted to take a break from my career and be more

involved with raising my two sons. I stumbled upon the book 'The Midnight Library' by Matt Haig, which opened my eyes to lost chances and made me realise that we must live in the present," she recalls.

The bookhouse started as an online store on Instagram. "I also tried selling books at flea markets. These included titles by international authors like Herman Hesse, Paulo Coelho, and Han Kang, and Indian authors like Kavitha Rao, K R Meera, Anand Neelakantan, P Sainath, Ruskin Bond, Roopa Pai, and Sonia Mehta. I had to give up eventually as stall rents were too high," she says.

Source: [Deccan Herald, 29 Jan 2025](#)

It's official: Research has found that libraries make everything better



Science has backed up what many of us have long been saying: the library rocks. A study from the New York Public Library surveyed 1,974 users on how the library makes them feel and how it affects their lives, and the results are overwhelmingly positive.

The researchers' analysis (which used positive psychology's PERMA model, if that means anything to you) discovered that libraries are good for people, their well-being, and their communities. Not only that, but the positive societal impacts are more pronounced in lower-income communities, even more reason

to make sure we're funding and supporting libraries. Don't let the ghosts of Reagan and Thatcher tell you otherwise, government can help people!

Some top-line statistics from the study:

- 92% of respondents reported feeling somewhat to very "calm / peaceful" after visiting the Library
- 74% of respondents reported that their library use positively affects how equipped they feel to cope with the world
- 90% of respondents reported that their Library use positively affects how much they love to learn new things
- 88% of respondents reported that their Library use has supported their personal growth...

Source: [Literary Hub, 28 Jan 2025](#)

Let children own library: Edu Secy to schools



From now onwards, schools will not decline the request of students to issue them library books for reading at home. Also, the library in-charge will not be held accountable if the child loses or damages the book. These are a few major directions in the guidelines issued to schools.

According to department officials, nearly all schools in the state have libraries but the books remain mostly unread, gathering dust inside the almirahs.

As per the feedback gathered from the field, the department found that major reason for books remaining unread was the reluctance on the part of library in-charge to issue it to the students due to the fear that he/she would have to pay from own pocket if the book was lost or damaged by the child.

“The focus is on keeping the books safe and in good condition, rather than giving it to the students to read,” Secretary Education Rakesh Kanwar mentioned in the guidelines.

Due to ‘keep the books safe’ approach, most schools are failing to inculcate reading habits among students and are denying young minds the opportunity to delve into the world of books...

Source: [The Tribune, 28 Jan 2025](#)

Crores pumped into hosp, library



...The MJ Library is set for modernisation with full air-conditioning of its main building and Wi-Fi services at branch libraries. The project has received a Rs 22.76 crore budget allocation...

Source: [Ahmedabad Mirror, 28 Jan 2025](#)

AI in Publishing: A 2025 Industry Forecast

As we approach 2025, the publishing industry stands on the cusp of an AI-driven revolution that promises to transform how we create, distribute, and consume content.



The AI Landscape

Since "Mass AI" launched in November 2022, we've witnessed dizzying technological development. While platforms like ChatGPT, Claude, and Perplexity have become household names, AI's impact extends far beyond conversational interfaces. From healthcare to agriculture, AI has become a fundamental operational tool across industries.

In publishing, AI is already streamlining processes—from legal contracts and royalty payments to manuscript qualification and distribution. However, the most exciting developments lie ahead...

Source: [Forbes, 27 Jan 2025](#)

Sarah Jessica Parker voices concern over book bans and the future of libraries

Sarah Jessica Parker, well-known for her role in Sex and the City, recently expressed deep concerns about the future of public institutions like libraries

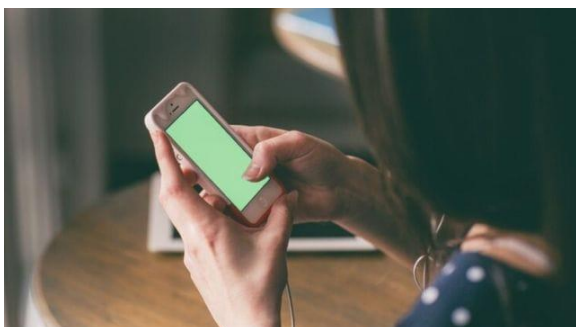
and the growing trend of book bans in the United States. Speaking at the Variety Studio, hosted by Audible at Sundance, Parker shared her thoughts while promoting her documentary *The Librarians*, directed by Oscar-nominated filmmaker Kim A. Snyder.



The documentary focuses on a group of librarians called the “FReadom Fighters,” who are fighting against book bans in states like Texas and Florida. These bans began after Texas lawmaker Rep. Matt Krause proposed removing 850 books from libraries, including classics like *Catcher in the Rye* and *The Handmaid’s Tale*...

Source: [The Times of India, 25 Jan 2025](#)

One Nation One Subscription is important — but so are libraries and archives



The central government’s One Nation One Subscription (ONOS) programme can potentially help democratise knowledge, especially for students and researchers at institutes with limited

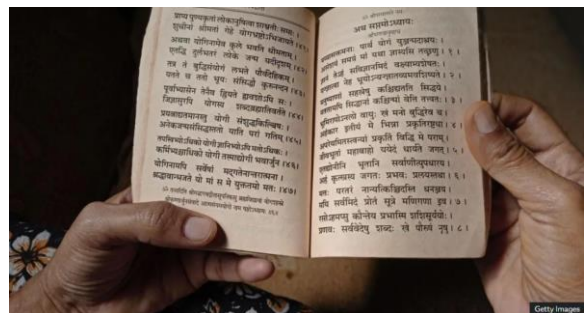
resources for expensive journal and database subscriptions. ONOS would also initiate a wider debate on digital resources, digitisation, and the challenges of conducting research in India.

In recognising the relationship between digital access and the production of quality research, the government is certainly on the right track. Large online databases have profoundly transformed the nature of scholarly work, but they have also resulted in staggering global asymmetries of information. In the sciences, publishing consortiums like Elsevier make online journal access excessively expensive for researchers in the developing world. In the humanities, databases of regional histories are often out of reach for in-region scholars. A particularly egregious example is ProQuest’s database of *The Times of India’s* archives: It is easier to access at a wealthy university in London or Boston than in the newspaper’s home city, Mumbai.

ONOS must be seen in light of two ground realities about research in India...

Source: [The Indian Express, 23 Jan 2025](#)

How India's food shortage filled American libraries



In 1996, Ananya Vajpeyi, a doctoral student, discovered the fabled South

Asia collection of books at the University of Chicago's Regenstein Library.

"I've spent time in some of the leading South Asia libraries of the world, at Oxford and Cambridge, Harvard and Columbia. But nothing has ever matched the unending riches held at the University of Chicago," Ms Vajpeyi, a fellow at India's Centre for the Study of Developing Societies (CSDS), told me.

The 132-year-old University of Chicago houses more than 800,000 volumes related to South Asia, making it one of the world's premier collections for studies on the region. But how did such a treasure trove of South Asian literature end up there?

The answer lies in a programme called PL-480, a US initiative launched in 1954 under Public Law 480, also known as the Food for Peace, a hallmark of Cold War diplomacy.

Signed into law by President Dwight D Eisenhower, PL-480 allowed countries like India to buy US grain with local currency, easing their foreign exchange burden and reducing US surpluses. India was one of the largest recipients of this food aid, particularly during the 1950s and 1960s when it faced severe food shortages...

Source: [BBC, 30 Dec 2024](#)

Want to Read More in 2025? Start With 25 Minutes a Day

I research and write about happiness, so every year before Jan. 1, I ask people, "What resolutions will you make this year?" With reliable frequency, people tell me, "I want to read more."



Perhaps that's not surprising. Most of us have the sense that reading is good for us—like getting enough sleep or eating more vegetables. And it's absolutely true. Research shows that reading benefits mental health, gives us more empathy for others, mitigates stress, sharpens memory, helps us learn, and increases our tolerance for uncertainty (particularly useful these days). One study even showed that reading books helps us live longer.

But, to be honest, while I'm gratified to know that my favorite activity is good for me, I don't really care that it's healthy. I read because it's fun. To me, reading is more fun than practically anything else. It's like listening to music or hiking—the benefits are great, but that's not why I do it...

Source: [Time, 30 Dec 2024](#)

**This issue has been compiled by the
Institute for Plasma Research (IPR)
Library, Gandhinagar**