

# ADINET e-News Digest

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## PAUSE & PONDER

“When one door of happiness closes, another opens; but often we look so long at the closed door that we do not see the one which has been opened for us.” — Helen Keller

### A critical analysis of the ‘UGC - approved list of journals’

Bhushan Patwardhan<sup>1</sup> et al

Link| <http://www.currentscience.ac.in/Volumes/114/06/1299.pdf>

### The renewed focus on RUSA is welcome, but its litmus test will be in how impartially it is administered

The Union Cabinet’s decision recently to not only continue with the Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA) — ‘a Centrally sponsored scheme launched in 2013 to provide strategic funding to eligible State higher educational institutions’ — but also give it due importance augurs well for the system of **higher education** in India. That the government is backing the scheme speaks volumes about the robustness and relevance of the scheme.

#### Ground realities

India is estimated to have over 800 universities (over 40,000 colleges are affiliated to them). About 94% of students of higher education study in 369 State universities. But the Central government’s slant toward premier institutions has continued ever since the Eleventh Five Year Plan (2007-12), where in spite of a nine-fold increase in Budget allocation State institutions have been left to fend for themselves with funding mainly directed towards starting more Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), Indian Institutes of Management and Central universities. Today about 150 Centrally-funded institutions (less than 6% of students study in them) — corner almost the entire

funding by the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD)

It was to address these critical concerns that the MHRD launched RUSA. The scheme is largely based on the conditional release of funds linked to reforms in the key areas of governance, learning-teaching outcomes, reaching out to the unreached and infrastructure support. Unlike other schemes which are foisted on State governments in a one-size-fits all manner, under RUSA, States and institutions have to give an undertaking expressing their willingness to the idea of reform and agreeing to meet the States’ share of the cost.

RUSA began with a modest allocation of ₹500 crore, but over time has seen its resource allocation being increased.

For the current year, ₹1,300 crore has been provided. Since funding is conditional to performance, it is critical to have a robust monitoring and evaluation system in place. In this regard, geo-tagging, introduction of a public financial management system, a fund tracker and reform tracker system and regular video conferences have proved effective tools, since 2015.

#### Reform as core

Governance reform is central to the scheme. State Higher Education Councils (SHECs) which have eminent academics, industrialists and other experts have been created, playing a major role, from an academic and professional point of view, in the formulation of medium- and long-term State perspective plans

To improve learning-teaching outcomes, there is an effort towards improving pedagogy by capacity-building of faculty, selecting teachers in a transparent manner, adopting accreditation as a mandatory quality-assurance framework, implementing a semester system, and involving academics of repute and distinction in decision-making processes.

## Visible change

An independent performance review (of four years) of the scheme was done by IIT Bombay in 2017. It concluded that the funding linked to reforms has had a visible impact on higher education. There has been an improvement in the number of institutions accredited and their scores. In 2012, 106 State universities and 4,684 colleges were accredited. By 2017, an additional 145 State universities and 5,445 Colleges were accredited.

RUSA can prove to be a real game changer for higher education in the country. It has not only reprioritised the country's needs, from funding just a few premier institutions to reaching out to institutions at the bottom of the pyramid, but has also changed the way regulators need to function. However its litmus test will be in how impartially the scheme is administered by the MHRD and the degree to which State governments allow the SHEC to function. Letting go of the governmental stranglehold over universities is linked to this.

Source | [The Hindu](#) | 28<sup>th</sup> March 2018

## The Habit of Lifelong Learning

Quality education is the stage on which leaders can be engendered. For this reason, it is necessary that students should be trained from their very first day to be aggressive as well as hardworking. Primary education which sets the base for basic linguistic, mathematical and literary skills is carried on with secondary education which lays the stand for personality development and gratitude of area of strengths and benefit.

Higher education is the juncture where these persons are experienced for their determination.

Source | [Afternoon](#) | 28<sup>th</sup> March 2018

**'Tech is not going to replace teachers anytime soon'**

As a founder, an angel investor and a mentor, **Zishaan Hayath** is a prominent figure in the Indian entrepreneurial ecosystem. After graduating from IIT-Bombay in 2005, Hayath worked with ITC and Opera Solutions. In April 2008, he co-founded a phone commerce marketplace, Chaupaati Bazaar, which was acquired by Future Group in 2010. While working for the new entity, he came up with the idea of a learning app after realising that students spent enormous amounts of money on coaching classes. Toppr, founded with fellow IIT alumnus Hemanth Goteti in 2013, is a freemium app — the content is free for a limited period after which students pick a paid plan. Toppr has three million registered students in classes 5-12. Hayath has mentored startups such as Ola and Chaayos, and runs angel investment group Powai Lake Ventures. He tells TOI why he thinks only ed-tech can reach India's thousands of students

**Most Indian ed-tech startups focus on students preparing for competitive exams, while those in other markets cater to mid-career professionals or teach coding. What is the reason?**

In many countries, the availability and effectiveness of school education is better than our country. We have a lot of children who need to learn but very few teachers and schools. The difference that technology can make in school learning in India is much greater. In other parts of the world, the maximum value for learning is perhaps in skilling those with a strong foundation. Ed-tech in India is vastly underserved. Anecdotally, less than 10% of school-going children have tried any method of learning using technology.

**How do you perceive India's ed-tech space compared with mature markets?**

There are more than 400 million school-age students in India. Conventional learning is ill-equipped to cater to such a large number. As per a report by Google and KPMG, the ed-tech industry in India is expected to grow 8x between 2016 and 2021 to \$2 billion, making it the fastest

growing market in the world. As technology gets better, the role of teachers will change to facilitators for more effective learning, driven and delivered by learning app ecosystems.

### **Do you think apps will eventually replace real teachers?**

There is this constant and misguided thought of technology as a replacement for teachers. Technology acts in one of two ways. One, it helps students in ways that teachers alone would not be able to, for example, on Toppr experts solve doubts for students at 4am, unthinkable without the platform. Two, technology amplifies the effect of teachers. A good teacher can now reach millions of students where he was earlier limited to the seats in his classroom. While technology will help more kids learn better with less dependence on teachers, a teacher less future is very far away.

### **How much time does a user spend on ed-tech apps?**

Publicly quoted numbers for usage on online learning platforms vary from 10-20 minutes on global apps like Khan Academy and Coursera and 40-50 minutes on local ones like Byju's. On Toppr, a user spends about 90 minutes a day. Younger students tend to spend more time with videos and passive learning modes. Older students spend more time on active learning, such as problem solving and clearing doubts.

### **What are the challenges you foresee?**

The biggest challenge is going to be reaching out to the vast number of students. Online learning platforms are not an automatic choice for students and parents.

### **While e-tailers are battling it out on customer service and product selection, what are ed-tech companies doing to set themselves apart?**

E-commerce companies are like storefronts for other brands. Hence, product selection and transactional experience is all they can improve. Ed-tech is a "full stack" business. We own what the customers get, how they get it and there is one brand that represents the relationship. This long-term relationship is the enabler for customer happiness.

**Source | Times of India | 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2018**

### **The Importance of Children's Books**

Language development is very important in early years – communicating using facial expressions, movement of the body, crying to communicate to verbal and sign language.

The mind of a young child is like a sponge, they have the ability to absorb a lot more than adults do, they are able to acquire thousands of words and use them with adults to communicate. Using the whole language approach listening, speaking, reading and writing lays the foundation for language development. The first few years lay a foundation for reading skills in later years. A print rich environment that encourages children to practice literacy skills lays the foundation for language development. Hence, one of the most important habits to inculcate in your child is reading. Reading helps children visualise different scenarios, associate with different characters; empathizes with them and understand the world around.

It is important to keep inculcating habits of the mind in children at a young age. They need to keep experiences reading about and experiencing positive life experiences. Hence it is important that we give emphasis on writing and publishing good children's books.

### **Importance of reading –**

Research shows that from as early as the first months through the second year of life, children's experiences with oral language development and literacy begin to build a foundation for later reading

success (Burns, Griffin, & Snow, 1999; Strickland & Morrow, 1988; Weaver, 1988). An infant's brain develops a 'native language map' between the 4th and 8th month wherein a neuron is assigned to every sound, hence talking and reading to an infant is very important. From 2 to 3 years of age, children begin to produce understandable speech in response to books and the written marks they create. From 3 through 4 years of age, children show rapid growth in literacy. They begin to "read" their favorite books by themselves, focusing mostly on re-enacting the story from the pictures. Eventually, they progress from telling about each picture individually to weaving a story from picture to picture using language that sounds like reading or written language (Holdaway, 1979; International Reading Association & National Association for the Education of Young Children, 1998; Sulzby, 1991

Between 2 to 6 years a child's vision wiring matures, motor coordination is achieved and is able to think critically. The preschooler is now capable of a longer attention span and rapidly develops a larger vocabulary, hence this period is a fertile ground for introducing reading. When using various forms of writing, children maintain their intention to create meaning and will often "read" their printed messages using language that sounds like reading (Clay, 1975; McGee & Richgels, 1996; Sulzby, 1985b).

Armed with this information, we now know that children need good books to refer to and learn from. Children need role models to look up to, so you need to make sure you walk the talk, introducing them to inspiring books, movies, and stories that set positive examples and help build their life story.

Even though parents today are aware that they need to be mindful when dealing with their children, yet a lot of them are lost around how to go about building strong personalities for their children. Therefore, we need to write great children's books that cover relevant topics, age appropriate

content, which connects to real life, that is fun and engaging and caters to all learning styles.

**Source | Afternoon | 4<sup>th</sup> April 2018**

### **E-learning can Transform Education**

The theorems of Pythagoras and Apollonius, the histories of the two Wars, the intricate details of the criss-crossing of the Danube and the Rhine, the Ganga and the Brahmaputra, the distance in lightyears that separates Jupiter and Mars - these constitute some of the bulk of the intake of a pupil as they enter the higher educational institutions of our country. These have their use and value, but it also bears noticing that an average student would never have seen a tax return, a voter's ID, a balance sheet, or a corporate legal document as he or she prepares to join the workforce or enroll for further technical studies. A large-scale change needs to take place in the educational sector to make both the content and method of our institutional learning vocational and market-oriented. Such a sector-wide change, at a cost that could make learning available to increasingly larger sections of the masses, could be engendered only by the rise of E-learning, accompanied by developments in information and communications technology.

The rising popularity and spread of online education augurs a transformation in our near future that is sure to render it categorically different from traditional learning. But so far, the promising advantages that lie at the hands of online education haven't been reaped to full harvest. PPTs and E-books alone do not fully exhaust these latent possibilities. Mobile and tablet-based learning apps ensuring 'learning on the go', interactive boards, animation and video-based training, graphic user interface (GUI) programs allowing for critical and creative engagement of the student with the content, are coming together in recent times to help institutions cater to the

unique potential and learning needs of the students.

As online education is not dependent on a fixed number of employees with appointed tasks and fixed positions, the human material that drives its engine is crowd sourced. It can draw upon a vast network of resources from all over the world. Time and place constraints being here obviated, the ideals long dreamt of by John Dewey in his philosophy of education like one-to-one learning, personal pupil-teacher interaction, democratic participation of the student, experimental and practical nature of imparting knowledge, are closest met by an online education powered by virtual learning environments, video-streaming, webinars and e-conferencing, and other products of a burgeoning communications technology capable of connecting people at the farthest ends of the globe.

Recorded lectures, educational videos, electronic books and materials that can be repeatedly used and for as long as one wants, contribute in a unique way to a cumulative reduction in costs in the long run. Meaning, the more they are used, the more affordable they become; and the reduction in cost at this level alone can make possible the economizing of the cost that the student is to bear.

‘Our books and our pens are the most powerful weapons’, said Malala in her address to the United Nations Youth Assembly. But the ‘pens’ and ‘books’ here stand as metaphors and symbols of technologies much more powerful, much more effective, and, in the long run, much more economical. These ‘Weapons of Mass Instruction’ are what the educational sector needs to arm itself with as it battles for a world in which education would have achieved the impossible trio of reaching the largest number, with the best quality, at the lowest price.

**Our books and our pens are the most powerful weapons- Malala**

**Source | Afternoon | 4<sup>th</sup> April 2018**

## **International Internships @ The world’s a workplace**

### **JUMP START What if you could intern at Google, the UN or the World Bank?**

**Experts tell you why you should consider the option of international internships even if they are not entirely paid for, and how you can best prepare for it ORGANISATIONS SUCH AS THE UNITED NATIONS AND GOOGLE OFFER INTERNSHIPS THAT ARE OPEN TO STUDENTS AROUND THE WORLD**

As colleges begin to prepare for the summer, so must students. Most graduates take the nearly two months of leave to intern, which get them hands-on experience and can bring a degree of clarity to how they want their careers to unfold.

Increasingly, students are opting to do these internships overseas.

“Universities in countries such as France, Germany, Egypt and the US reach out to students because many of those who intern at an international university return there for further study, after graduation,” says Arjun Krishna, co-founder of WeMakeScholars, a study abroad portal.

Organizations such as the United Nations and Google also offer internships that are open to students around the world. The benefits are immense, from cross-cultural benefits to an extended global network to help jumpstart your career. “With increased opportunities, student queries and interest in international internships on our portal have gone up by nearly 50% since 2015,” says Krishna.

There are several portals that aggregate such internships — WeMakeScholars, InternShala, overseas education portal IES Abroad, global youth organization AIESEC, Canadian non-profit organization Mitacs. Together, they offer a wide range of options that cover communication design, sustainable development,

engineering, primary education and youth organization, science and the humanities.

How does one select the right internship? “There are broadly three parameters — organization, job description and financial implications, says Udit Bhatnagar, senior counsellor at study abroad consultancy Reachlvy.

Even if it is paid, the stipend may not always cover all your costs.

Not every foreign internship will add value to your career. “Accounting internships are generally restricted to research. If you want a career as an analyst, this may not help much,” says Bhatnagar. “For lawyers, consider going abroad only if you plan to specialise in universal areas such as human or animal rights, or international law. Pick an internship if you plan to study further in that country.”

The US, Singapore are good destinations to pick for software engineering internships, Germany for mechanical or automobile, adds Hiren Rathod, business head at Imperial Overseas Education Consultants.

**Source | Hindustan Times | 4<sup>th</sup> April 2018**

**Bridge gap between rural, urban education @ reducing reliance on foreign education and products, and using more of indigenous resources**

The aim of higher education should be to use local resources and provide students an easy access to knowledge and content, noted nuclear scientist Anil Kakodkar has said. He suggested reducing reliance on foreign education and products, and using more of indigenous resources. Mr. Kakodkar called for bridging the gap between rural and urban education so that students could apply their academic skills in their surroundings.

The former chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission said universities should focus on skill-based education and give the task

of conducting exams to a private agency. “Our syllabus should be based on needs of the society and compatible technology,” he said at a symposium on higher education here.

“The aim of higher education should be to use indigenous resources and provide easy access of knowledge and content in the student’s mother tongue,” he said. “We rely on other countries for education and products and think what is imported is the best. This mindset needs to change,” he said.

The country cannot develop unless its own resources are used extensively. He said literacy is not just a tool for reading and writing. A literate person should know how to handle devices and must possess digital knowledge.

It was not just the government’s responsibility to remove the lacunae in higher education. All stakeholders have to pitch in to bring about a change, he said.

**Source | The Hindu | 4<sup>th</sup> April 2018**

**Archive of Biology in India**

The National Centre for Biological Sciences (NCBS) is creating an archive of biology in India and also opening it to the public. The old lab of the institute’s founder, Prof Obaid Siddiqi, will be converted into a 1,500-sq-ft archives space which, besides chronicling NCBS’s past, will catalogue the history of contemporary biology in the country.

Working closely with the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR), the archive is also collaborating with institutes including Delhi’s Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA), Puducherry’s Sri Aurobindo Ashram Archives and Research Library and Bengaluru’s Indian Institute of Science (IISc).

“We are reaching out to archives in the USA and Australia to get an idea of global best practices and are in the early stages of collaboration with the Social Networks

and Archival Context (SNAC) Cooperative of the University of Virginia,” said Srinivasan.

Another component of the project is to set up a digital catalogue and an open-source portal that will help people access content more easily.

**Link|** <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/magazines/panache/the-history-of-biology-in-india-will-soon-get-its-own-space/articleshow/63606996.cms>

### **Smart Change in Education**

From slide projectors to today’s digital light emitting diode (LED) or three dimensional (3D) projectors, the technology has been making a huge impact on the ways of imparting education in modern day schools.

With most of the schools in the private sector turning towards smart classrooms, which are equipped with interactive whiteboards and projectors, the education in schools has got the much needed boost.

Gone are the days when a teacher used to either read from a book or write extensively on the black board as now the teacher is able to concentrate heavily on explaining many vital concepts with the help of audio visual methods.

The classroom education has always been regarded as the most important and its significance has got enhanced after the advent of the new interactive audio visual equipment, which not only inform, but entertain children making learning interesting and fun.

Interactive whiteboards seem to be doing a great job in most of the schools as a medium to communicate and connect with the students in their own language.

The integration of Information Communication Technology (ICT) with classroom teaching has brought the sea

change in the education scenario of the country.

The teachers in schools are nowadays using digital formats to prepare lessons.

**Source | Hindustan Times | 5<sup>th</sup> April 2018**

### **Innovation, Sharing Key to Better Schools**

Even as the ranking of universities makes news, we must confront the reality that their intake is, for the most part, of poor quality, thanks to the poor learning outcomes that plague the spectrum of India’s schools. For India to take full advantage of its demographic dividend, it must focus on improving its school education system.

First-generation learners constitute the bulk of the school going population, particularly in the network of government funded schools. For these children, the school is the only available pathway to a better life. The most important step would be to empower and encourage teachers to innovate. Moving away from a restrictive textbook-based teaching, they need to have the freedom to translate curricula into practice in a manner that addresses the requirements of their students. Teachers must be able to and helped to design teaching in a manner that children can understand and relate to. This could mean higher local content and non-textbook forms of teaching. They also need to be held accountable; not to a faraway department of education in the state capital but to school management committees of peers, parents of students, and local luminaries. Many schools and teachers are already innovating in order to be more effective. These practices and approaches need to be made available to teachers and school administrators across the system. Institutions like the NCERT and SCERT should use cloud-based sharing platforms to this end.

**Source | Economic Times | 5<sup>th</sup> April 2018**

## Fifty ways to use your library

In honor of National Library Week this week, it seems a good idea to remind everyone that your Abilene Public Library does indeed have something for everyone. National Library Week (April 8-14) is a time to celebrate the contributions of all libraries and librarians and to promote library use and support. So, in that vein, I give you – 50 ways to use your library (to be sung to the tune of “Fifty Ways to Leave your Lover” by Paul Simon, if you wish.)

1. Scare yourself with a mystery.
2. Learn how to lower your taxes.
3. Reserve a book.
4. Trace a friend in an out-of-state telephone book or online.
5. Prepare for your job interview.
6. Learn how to download an audio book for your next trip.
7. Read a large-type book without wearing your glasses.
8. Check out old favorites in jazz by Louis Armstrong
9. Spruce up the house with the latest books on interior design.
10. Download Hawaiian music for your luau.
11. Get a schedule of classes for our local universities.
12. Come to a great program and learn something new.
13. Bring your child (or grandchild!) to Baby Steps story time.
14. Find out about our Books on Wheels service.
15. Look up your doctor's credentials in a medical directory.
16. Find out what was happening in Abilene in 1940.
17. Check out a legal question in "Vernon's Texas Civil Statutes."
18. Call for a quote on what First Financial Bank shares stock did today.
19. Look in Who's Who in America to see if your boss made it into the book.
20. Learn how to plan a drought resistant garden.
21. Trek to another planet in a Sci-Fi novel.
22. Find out where to send a consumer complaint.
23. Learn how to clean ink stains from a marble counter.
24. Join the Friends of the Abilene Public Library so you can get in early to the annual book sale.
25. Call the Information Services Desk to find out who said "To err is human, to forgive divine." Did you bet it was Shakespeare? It wasn't.
26. Get some Big Country demographic information for that business report you're writing.
27. Spend a couple of nostalgic hours looking at back issues of LIFE or TIME magazine.
28. Decide which large screen TV to buy with the help of consumer guides.
29. Check the financial standing of your bank or S&L
30. Borrow a set of CDs, or use Pronunciator to teach you how to speak French. . . or Russian!
31. Begin planning your vacation trip with our printed guidebooks, or AtoZ USA.
32. Refresh your resume and get it ready to submit online with 'Cypress Resume.'
33. Take home Bach, Beethoven and Brahms.
34. Entertain your pre-schooler with a book and a read-along CD.
35. Join others for the Friends Texas Authors Series program today at noon and hear a stimulating speaker.
36. Volunteer to help with the Friend's book sale.
37. Learn who won the America's Cup in 1901.
38. Let the children choose an armload of read-aloud stories.
39. Ask for information about how to start a business.
40. Get tax forms, tax filing information and even assistance (through April 14th).
41. Get a list of materials that help promote reading skills.

42. Make photocopies or print out something from the Web.
43. Get an Inter-library Loan from a library in another city.
44. Enrol your child in the Summer Reading Program (or yourself in the Adult Summer program)
45. Check on an out-of-town lawyer in "Martindale-Hubbell".
46. Ask a staff member to give a talk to your service organization.
47. Look in "Standard & Poor's" and "Moody's" Directories for information on a potential investment.
48. Check your email.
49. For a leaky faucet you might look up a book on how to do your own plumbing or check our DIY database.
50. Learn what's happening at City Hall by checking the City Council agenda before each meeting.

All libraries are a huge part of the American Dream – places for opportunity, education, self- help and lifelong learning. If you haven't yet discovered the wealth of information and enjoyment available at your Abilene Public Library, this is a great week to do so! Just "Hop on the bus, Gus and get yourself" over to any library location, or find out more by calling 676-602

**Source|** <https://www.reporternews.com/story/life/columnists/2018/04/08/fifty-ways-use-your-library/490714002/>

**'Constant learning keeps the mind sharp and active'**

Arundhati Bhattacharya, former chairman of State Bank of India, said that 'constant learning' keeps the mind sharp and active, an important skill required to excel in work life.

Delivering the convocation address to the Business Management and Business Analytics students of Praxis Business School here on Saturday, Bhattacharya spoke about the importance of life's 3L's — learn, love and laugh.

According to her, 'learning' should not be merely restricted to schools, colleges or universities, but an ideal learning process should happen on a daily basis. "One has to keep learning to remain relevant. Brain is like a knife, only if you use it will remain sharp," she said. Such learning is possible from anyone who is a thorough "professional". According to her, a professional is anyone who is capable of delivering his duty or responsibility with "impeccable perfection".

Citing instances from her life, she pointed out how people were initially apprehensive about her being at the helm of affairs of a Fortune 500 bank. "They (people) found it hard to believe as to how a woman with a post-graduate degree in English will be able to head a bank like SBI," she said, and added, "Once you are into such life-long learning process, it really does not matter which branch of study you have been into."

Love or passion for the job one does is very important to develop one's career. Without love for the job, one would easily succumb to difficult situations and accept defeat, she observed. "There could be days when you just wouldn't want to go to work; on such days it is the love or commitment which will help you deliver what is required of you," she said.

Lastly, she stressed on the need to be able to smile in the face of adversities. "Do not consider yourself indispensable and become too serious in life. You should be able to face adverse situations with a smile," she said.

**Source | Business Line | 9<sup>th</sup> April 2018**

**Book libraries hit by social media**

Book [libraries](#) in India were under threat from [social media](#), which has also affected the habit of reading, especially among the youth, said participants at a seminar in Agra. Eminent poets, writers, and social activists lamented the slow but sure death of "book [reading habit](#)", especially among

the younger generation, at the event at John's Public [Library](#). Rajendra Milan, poet and retired librarian, quoted Gulzar's "Kitaben jhankti hain band almaari ke sheeshon se... (books peer through the glass from locked cupboards)," to lament the decline of actual readers or patrons of libraries. However social media critic Abhishek Mehrotra said "this fear was pointless and unsubstantiated".

"Forms of readership had changed and not the habit. Digital books on the internet were popular and saved not only time, money but also environment. Conventional libraries may have gone out of fashion but the internet based reading material continued to be popular with the younger set. Also more writers have joined the mainstream," he said. Agra Development Foundation secretary K.C. Jain said social media was not a platform for serious thinking or promoting creative ideas.

**Source | Times of India | 9<sup>th</sup> April 2018**

### **Special Libraries and Evidence Based Decision Making**

Pilots can't fly unless they have instruments that tell them what the plane is doing at all times, and where it's heading. Library professionals need instruments too, in order to assess whether the products and services they are providing are valued, and to understand what additional products and services might be needed. Read about 4 tools that will help you maintain your situational awareness.

Here are four tools that can get your head out of the clouds. Some are free, and none are cost prohibitive relative to the benefits gained.

#### 1) Google Analytics

Most information centers have websites. Take a close look at yours. Does it showcase all the resources available to people in your organization? Can they easily access them through your site? If

not, you need to redesign your site. Furthermore, you need to set up Google Analytics so you can tell what they're finding, and what they're not. That information may spotlight the need to curate special collections, offer more resources to users outside your home country or optimize your website for smart phones and mobile devices.

#### 2) Electronic Resource Management

Do you know which electronic subscriptions are being used, and by whom? More interestingly, which subscriptions are not being used at all—and when the contracts on those subscriptions will automatically renew? Electronic Resource Management tools let you make evidence based decisions that align with organizational strategy, because you can evaluate usage patterns, confirm the value of online subscription investments, leverage detailed user/session level knowledge during contract renewals, spot content gaps and identify training or internal marketing opportunities at a group or user level.

#### 3) Request Tracking

Software companies have been using applications that manage technical support questions for decades. We do it because it helps us to identify how we can improve our products and services, and to be more efficient. With Request Tracking software, IR team members can achieve the same objective. For example, it's possible to track which departments, practice areas or individuals are submitting requests, to analyze materials used as well as what might be missing in the collection, and to quantify digital versus print usage and costs.

#### 4) Knowledge Resource Dashboard (KRD)

You can't manage what you don't measure. Key metrics your information resource center could be tracking include:

Content cost per employee, for benchmarking purposes

Progress against budget, for ongoing expense management and reallocation

Time spent supporting specific practice areas, departments, groups or seniority levels, allowing you to identify your most enthusiastic users as well as spot any underserved functions or individuals

Departmental and staff member productivity, for workload balancing and specialist designation

Repeat questions, so you can create FAQs, roadmaps or primers

Of course, you might not be interested in all of these, and you may well have a few other metrics you want to track. A good KRD can be easily configured meet those requirements and display accordingly.

Effortlessly maintain your situational awareness

Studies on decision-making have resulted in the following observations:

The greatest obstacle to efficient decision making is a lack of information

Decision-making stress increases dramatically as a result of missing information

When provided with good data, most managers enjoy making decisions

**Source| [https://blog.lucidea.com/special-libraries-and-evidence-based-decision-making?utm\\_campaign=Blog%20posts&utm\\_source=email&utm\\_content=new%20blog%20post](https://blog.lucidea.com/special-libraries-and-evidence-based-decision-making?utm_campaign=Blog%20posts&utm_source=email&utm_content=new%20blog%20post)**

## Scope in library science

**Q. I am in second year of BA (Hons.) English. I am a voracious reader and also see myself as a people person. Could you describe the role a librarian plays in this digital age?**

**A.** An ideal librarian needs to be friendly and helpful while keeping abreast of emerging fields of knowledge. Your love for reading combined with your flair for interacting with people can take you a long way in this field.

What's more, the role and scope of a career in this field has increased manifold thanks to technology. Increasingly, libraries have geared up to undertake large-scale digitisation of their rare books, periodicals, patents, manuscripts, photographs etc, for which they require trained manpower. As a result, conventional librarians have redefined their services and job profiles. From being mere book-keepers and journal managers they're transforming into information architects, content publishers, editors, digitisers, indexers and consolidators, which calls for considerable technical skills and continuous updating of knowledge. That said, we need librarians more than ever, to find creative ways to find and use data. What automated and digital systems cannot do is pique the curiosity of a reader, and inculcate a lifelong habit of reading in children.

Your profile as a librarian will be varied and change according to the institutions in which you work; schools, colleges, universities, public libraries, research institutes, archives, audio-visual media, commercial/industrial/scientific organizations, newspaper industry, public and private sector undertakings, government departments, national museums, foreign embassies, corporate offices, and other organizations that need to access large amounts of information.

You can pursue a BLib (1-year) degree after you complete your bachelor's degree, and top it with MLib

or specialised certifications in Information Science.

**Source|** <http://www.tribuneindia.com/news/jobs-careers/mastering-english-skills/571973.html>

### **Making educational innovations scalable @ Demonstrated impact, cost-effectiveness, ability to work**

India is reported to have about 15 million NGOs in the education sector. Combined with the proliferation of social enterprises in recent years, the space for non-government education innovations is rapidly becoming a network of cottage industries, with interventions often reinventing the wheel and successful practices not being appropriately leveraged to address India's learning crisis at scale.

Former US President Bill Clinton's observation while reviewing school reform initiatives in the US may hold true for India as well: "Nearly every problem has been solved by someone, somewhere. The frustration is that we can't seem to replicate (those solutions) anywhere else."

Over the past year, however, India's Ministry of Human Resource Development (HRD) has made significant efforts to identify NGO-led innovations around the country and create platforms for them to present to and engage with state education departments.

HRD Secretary, Anil Swarup, calling himself a "principal facilitator," travelled across States to identify innovative models and organised five workshops to showcase such education innovations. "A government champion," the Brookings Institution's Millions Learning report finds, is often the "linchpin behind experimentation and greater participation in policy-making."

### **Complex undertaking**

But, while a government leader's backing is crucial, scaling is a complex undertaking that comes with some fundamental questions, and the need to recognise that not all innovations are necessarily scalable. Experiences of a number of educational innovations point to factors that are critical for an innovation. It should be scalable, has demonstrated impact, cost-effective, and the ability to work with the existing system.

At the outset though, the definition of "scaling" itself must be clarified. Key here is the question of what should be scaled — an intervention as a whole or some critical components. The Millions Learning report, studying a multitude of case studies, concludes that the process of scale requires that a balance be struck between the non-negotiable elements that are imperative to the success of a program and must be replicated, and other elements that can be adapted as per specific requirements of individual contexts.

A survey of about 40 technology-based education innovations in India corroborates this. While most innovations report their reach, information on their outcomes is seldom available. This, though, is linked to a larger systemic challenge — the absence of a universal assessments or monitoring framework, because of which there is no common benchmark against which outcomes across different models may be evaluated and compared. It is critical that this gap is addressed before innovations are scaled based on personal relations and adhoc decisions instead of well-defined impact metrics.

In line with Malur's point on frugality, Sampark's Smart Class Kit costs one dollar per child per year. Other innovations which have attempted to scale reinforce this. Gyan Shala, which scaled its operations in Ahmadabad, Gujarat, to cover schools in West Bengal, Bihar, and Uttar Pradesh, operates with a total cost of education per student amounting to ₹3,000 per year. The Bharti

Foundation's schools similarly seek to deliver education at a rate that is lower than the government school system, so that they may be easily replicated by the latter.

In a similar vein, models that are able to scale must be able to operate within the constraints of the existing system, with the current set of teachers, school leadership, and government machinery. Often, social enterprises and NGOs, in an attempt to see some quick successes, actively avoid engaging with governments and teachers.

Given the state's institutional capacity constraints, Malur writes how Sampark works "hand-in-hand with the state machinery," providing support and strengthening it. Teachers, too, are provided constant support through continuous trainings, frequent visits from Sampark's coordinators, and a helpline that is available at all times. On a related note, innovators must be flexible and open to deviating from their initial model. Ark's SQA design underwent at least four changes over just one year based on constant testing.

Ultimately, the success of scaling hinges upon a productive partnership between the innovation and the government and teacher system. This is a partnership that must be established at the very outset — embedded in the core design of the model — and one that needs to be deepened as the innovation is scaled up.

### **Remedial measures**

Finally, the quest to scale should not cause us to ignore some fundamental issues. Several innovations — like remedial programmes — have actually cropped up in response to the challenges imposed by flawed policies. Scaling educational innovations is a worthy endeavour, but it is crucial that we don't replicate band-aid solutions, while ignoring deeper malaises.

Additionally, it isn't enough to think of innovation as being the domain of just

NGOs and social enterprises. The narrative about the top-down centralised nature of the Indian education system that gives little agency to teachers, school leaders, and frontline administrators, is well-established. While there is undoubtedly a rich supply of innovations outside this system, the demand to adapt and scale these will only be amplified and made more organic if last-mile functionaries and implementers are given the time and space to deviate from the rigidities of the current governance framework.

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**Source | Business Line | 11<sup>th</sup> April 2018**

**Study @ Switch from plain lecturing to project-based learning is necessary**

**Lectures bore students and push up the failure rate**

Some people have had the good fortune to attend an interesting lecture, others have lived to recount a shark attack. Largely, though, we have dozed through our lectures in college, and passed out none the wiser.

A decade-long study that monitored 550 lecturers across 25 universities in Canada and the US concluded that lectures, whether delivered as a monologue or punctuated with slides and laser dots on smart boards, are not very effective.

The study focused on science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) courses, and found that lecturing was the chief method of teaching in undergraduate courses. The main problem with lectures is that they do not involve students although student centric teaching has been shown to improve scores.

In fact, “students in classes with traditional lecturing were 1.5 times more likely to fail than were students in classes with active learning.”

So, why do colleges and teachers persist with lecturing when the talk is all about educational reform? The traditional design of classrooms is partly to blame. “Big amphitheatres with huge numbers of students can be barriers to instructional innovation.” Ironically, the researchers report that when teachers have flexible classroom layouts and fewer students they tend to fall back to lecturing.

A switch from plain lecturing to project-based learning is necessary to ensure students not only understand their subjects better but also appreciate them more. “They are not as scared of it, and they engage more easily with it.”

**Source | Times of India | 15<sup>th</sup> April 2018**

**Read to Kids Pilot in India @ Study Finds Mobile Technology: Improves Home Literacy Environment**

**Worldreader releases results from the Read to Kids pilot in India, showing the potential of mobile phones to get entire communities reading to children**

The pilot took place in Delhi, India from 2015 to 2017 and reached over 200,000 families with digital books via the Worldreader Kids app (<http://www.readtokids.com>). The first digitally focused literacy intervention of this kind, Read to Kids leveraged a behavior change campaign and partnered with community-based organizations to raise awareness on the importance of reading to children from birth. While the majority of children that the pilot targeted lived in homes lacking age-appropriate children’s storybooks, over 57,000 families browsed the Worldreader Kids library and read at least one book. Nearly 7,000 households demonstrated deeper change in their reading habits, becoming “frequent readers” who read from the application at least four times a month.

**StudyLink| [https://www.worldreader.org/wpcontent/uploads/2018/04/READ2KIDS\\_digital-1.pdf](https://www.worldreader.org/wpcontent/uploads/2018/04/READ2KIDS_digital-1.pdf)**

**Skilling to learn @ New jobs require the ability to adopt technology, adapt to generating ideas and focus on innovation**

**Prakash Menon**

Schools in Delhi will now teach “happiness” as a subject, and an upcoming private school built around that concept believes that the traditional academic systems are too structured to consider human values such as happiness. Nothing could seem more paradoxical. In an age where data and algorithms are said to be changing the paradigm of the workplace, machines may be bringing back true human values into our professional systems.

This new thinking is symbolic of the requirement of a human element in the midst of the precision that machines have been designed to bring into traditionally human-run systems. Is it time, then, to nurture the human mind for bigger and better things? As entrepreneurship, innovation and technology take the driver’s seat, the emerging jobs have a human, creative and technological touch, many of them demanding all three of those skills.

**Replacement versus redeployment**

If there are any doubts in your mind about whether or not automation poses a clear and present danger to the job market, it is because geographic and developmental indexes may have different answers. However, as automation is around the corner in countries with a high technological growth track (including India), here is the confusion-buster: While conventional jobs may indeed continue to exist, just as the bullock cart will co-exist with Bullet Trains, the size of conventional job markets will shrink substantially. But replacing those conventional jobs are

newer ones that demand skills required to enable automation.

A look at the “jobs that have the highest possibility of being replaced”, according to an Oxford University report, tells us that many of the highly replaceable jobs involve the degree of precision that machines can bring better than humans. Many of those jobs already seem redundant: data entry operators, photographic processors, and so on. But some may surprise us: Telemarketers, for example, will find themselves bot-ted out, as digital and social media intervention will replace the pesty, persistent calls. A word of caution is warranted, though, as the report itself mentions. Rather than fading out, jobs facing automation may face “redeployment”.

Predictably, digitization and automation are responsible for the bulk of this shift: Cyber security, data science, digital marketing, business analytics and machine learning offer roles with hitherto unknown skills or those that need “redeployment”. Machine learning makes virtual assistants now learn continuously using artificial intelligence. With the introduction of robots and artificial intelligence (AI), machine learning is a reality. Yet, if the history of technology adoption is any evidence, the shift will be gradual enough for us to cope: Natural linguistic processing (NLP)-based inventions in the 1990s led to the modern virtual assistant, but look how long that took.

### **Human relevance through technology-ideas-innovation**

We are familiar with education systems' investment in technology and even in entrepreneurship in recent years. In March this year, China has pledged “more” investment in innovation-driven development strategies. A World Economic Forum report says that more than 35% of today's skills will have changed five years from now. A KPMG-CEO Outlook survey gathers that 50% CEOs say their organization will be

completely transformed within three years. Yet this transformation is not all about automation. It is about people!

If there is one requirement that is changing the very concept of human capital, it is innovation. This is a skill that requires exposure to technology, openness of mind, and ideas. Yet, education systems can provide platforms for innovation, but learning innovation remains a personal system because it entails the ability to learn rather than traditional subject learning.

I will use ‘innovation’, that much-used term, to mean the ability to adopt and adapt to. In the last few years alone, a few functions have emerged on top of the pile of skill sets required in a fast digitizing and technology-driven world. Around the world, these functions are enveloping many industries from the technology industries themselves to manufacturing, and sure enough, the threefold set of competencies— ideas, technology and innovation — is at a heart of many of these new roles:

- Digital and social media marketing
- Business analytics and data sciences
- Storytelling using technology such as gamification

In addition, there is a heavy technology application to many of the other new jobs that have rapidly taken centre stage, including:

- Cyber security
- nBig data
- Machine learning

### **Skilling to learn**

Re-skilling has become a buzzword for professionals these days, and several commentators have rightly emphasised the role of skilling for learning. In February, Nasscom launched a platform to re-skill two million IT employees, focusing on the new-paradigm competencies that include focus on a variety of new

technologies including artificial intelligence, virtual reality, robotic process automation, internet of things, big data analytics, 3D printing, cloud computing and social and mobile. Learnability and adaptability will be the key to how we morph our skills into the future, and perhaps this is what India's IT Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad meant when he told the Nasscom gathering, "Even if a technology destroys ten jobs, it will create 100 jobs."

As a recent McKinsey report states, data size, qualitative decision-making, generalizability of specific solutions, and other human bugs such as bias will remain sticking points in automation based on deep learning. That is why the three-pronged skill formula will remain at the heart of new roles in our world of tomorrow.

Source| <http://www.dailypioneer.com/a/venues/skilling-to-learn.html>

### **Six Ways in Which Homework Helps Students in The Future**

Most students think homework is time wasting and that they could do better if they weren't assigned any homework. Others seek services of custom essay writer just to avoid an annoying homework. However, from experience, many who have passed through high school and college can share with you that working on assignments helped them with many skills that one needs when they are adults. Read more about ways to get homework at [domyhomeworkfor.me](http://domyhomeworkfor.me).

### **Working on an Assignment Develops Your Memory and Ability to Think Critically**

A good memory is when knowledge in the short term faculty is taken to the long term faculty. A sharp memory is not something that people are born with.

### **The Completion of Assignments Builds Suitable Study Habits**

In college, one is required to develop a study habit that suits them. Study habits include a method of study, hours of study and location of study.

### **Homework Teaches Time Management**

Managing your time is a skill that you can develop now when in high school and get to use it later in life. Learn to divide tasks and prioritize activities based on the time you have in hand

### **Assignments Teach Personal Responsibility**

When you take assignments seriously, you become accountable for the time you spend working on questions, and you become responsible for the results and marks you earn from a takeaway test

### **Homework Assignments Help One to Learn How to Work Independently**

You may think everything is simple when the teacher is explaining concepts in class. However, the best way to know if you understand what you have read is studying individually

### **The Problems You Face When Completing Assignments Make You Know How to Do Research**

Research is necessary when a difficult homework needs to be completed. You learn how to use the library, websites and other reference material necessary for assignment completion. In college, all take-away assignments contribute the final mark or grade in the course

While homework seems stressful and annoying, use the opportunity to learn useful skills that will help you in future.

Source| <http://www.finsmes.com/2018/04/6-ways-in-which-homework-helps-students-in-the-future.html>

