

# ADINET e-News Digest

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## PAUSE & PONDER

**“Life is a journey with problems to solve, Lessons to learn, but most of the time experiences to enjoy” – Unknown**

### Librarians' Day 2019

ADINET in collaboration with the Physical Research Laboratory will be conducting a Seminar on 14<sup>th</sup> September 2019 at PRL, Ahmedabad.

This year ADINET will be completing 25 years in the month of October 2019. Hence this will be a joint celebration, to celebrate both the Librarians' Day and the Silver Jubilee Celebration of ADINET. Over the years ADINET's journey has been both productive and fruitful. We have covered many milestones in spite of our very limited resources and have yet to reach many more.

Please do send us your papers as soon as you can.

The Seminar theme is **Future Libraries – Overcoming Challenges**

In order to discuss the Future of Libraries, it is essential to study the present emerging trends in libraries, since libraries are important hubs for learning and knowledge creation. These trends vary to a major extent from library to library, that is from School Libraries, up to Libraries of Institutions of Higher Learning.

The huge gap in the resources available in different categories of libraries can to a large extent be addressed by implementing the following:-

- Resource Sharing
- Networking of Libraries by Subject & Category
- Co-operative Cataloguing
- Introducing C.I.P. Data

## Registration can only be done online

### Librarians' Day 2019: Steps for Online Payment & Registration

**Last date for Registration 23.08.2019**

#### STEP 1: Online Payment

The delegate registration fee is as follows:

- Rs. 800/- for Institution Sponsored
- Rs. 400/- for Individuals
- Rs. 300/- for Individuals (ADINET Members)
- Rs. 150/- for Students

Please pay the fees for respective category. Click Here

<https://www.onlinesbi.com/sbicollect/icollecthome.htm?corpID=956972>

#### STEP 2: Keep Handy Information

Keep ready SBI COLLECT REFERENCE NUMBER of fees paid and your photo [JPEG file only: maximum size 20kb] for Online Registration (for STEP: 3)

#### STEP 3: Register Online

Once you finish Step 2 then, kindly register here

<https://www.prl.res.in/recruit/adinet/>

#### STEP 4: Please bring to the seminar venue (PRL)

- 1) Hard copy of entry pass which you have received in your mail after registration.
- 2) Your Photo ID card

### **Central Board of Secondary Education India Compendium of Academic Courses After +2:-**

CBSE releases handbook on post-Class 12 career options

The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has released a handbook on various courses with different subject combinations, including new-age courses, available to students after Class 12.

It lists 113 courses, covering fields as diverse as logistics and supply chain management, travel and tourism, sports and sports management, ceramics engineering and art restoration, to name a few.

Imp Note | Library Science also recommended in the compendium

**Compendium Available |**  
<http://cbse.nic.in/newsite/attach/Compendium%20of%20Courses%20after%20+2.pdf>

### **Drowning in Research Reading? AI Could Help :-**

Artificial intelligence that reads journal articles and highlights key findings could help researchers stay on top of the latest research. But the technology isn't ready for prime time.

Summarizing the findings of a complex and technical research paper into plain English is no easy feat, but a recent development by scientists at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology could change that.

Using a form of artificial intelligence called a neural network, scientists at MIT and the Qatar Computing Research Institute at Hamad Bin Khalifa University have created technology that can read scientific papers and generate easy-to-read summaries that are just one or two sentences long.

The research, recently published in the journal Transactions of the Association for Computational Linguistics, could potentially be used by journalists to help communicate complex research to the public, though the authors say they aren't going to be putting journalists out of a job any time soon.

**Research Published at |**  
<https://www.mitpressjournals.org/doi/full/10.1162/tacl.a.00258>

### **Google's latest app, Rivet, uses speech processing to help kids learn to read :-**

Rivet, a new app from Google's in-house incubator, wants to help children struggling to read. The app hails from Area 120 — Google's workshop for experimental projects — and includes more than 2,000 free books for kids, as well as an in-app assistant that can help kids when they get stuck on a word by way of advanced speech technology.

For example, if the child is having difficulties with a word, they can tap it to hear it pronounced or they can say it themselves out loud to be shown in the app which parts were said correctly and which need work.

There are also definitions and translations for more than 25 languages included in the app, in order to help kids — and especially non-native speakers — to better learn reading.

For younger readers, there's a follow-along mode where the app will read the stories aloud with the words highlighted so the child can match up the words and sounds. When kids grow beyond needing this feature, parents can opt to disable follow-along mode so the kids have to read for themselves. While there are a number of e-book reading apps aimed at

kids on the market today, Rivet is interesting for its ability to leverage advances in voice technology and speech processing.

Starting today on Android and (soon) iOS, Rivet will be able to offer real-time help to kids when they tap the microphone button and read the page aloud. If the child hits a word and starts to struggle, the assistant will proactively jump in and offer support. This is similar to how parents help children to read — as the child reaches a word they don't know or can't say, the parent typically corrects them.

Rivet says all the speech processing takes place on the device to protect children's privacy and its app is COPPA-compliant.

Other surprises and games keep kids engaged with the app and continuing to read. According to Rivet's head of Tech and Product, Ben Turtel, the team wanted to work on reading because it's a fundamental skill — and one that needs to be mastered to learn just about everything else.

Rivet is not the first app from Google aimed at tackling reading. An app called Bolo offers a similar feature set but is aimed at kids in India. While Bolo was not an Area 120 project, others from the incubator have focused on education, like learn-to-code app Grasshopper, or used speech processing technology, like customer service phone system CallJoy.

Rivet is now publicly available and a free download on both Google Play and the Apple App Store across 11 countries, including the U.S.

Source | <https://techcrunch.com>

**Agenda for reforming school education :-**

### **The new government must take forward the current government's initiatives on teachers' training, and initiate new steps**

There are a host of other issues relating to curriculum, vocational training, educating the girl child, school dropouts, value based education, children with special needs, ridiculous marking system in the examinations and private schools that will also need to be addressed. There is a crying need to transform school education. It can be done.

Full Info | <https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/opinion/agenda-for-reforming-school-education/article27129272.ece>

### **New-age exam tools: Apps, dedicated sites :-**

Now, a new dimension has been added to study tools in the form of multiple mobile applications, websites and social media groups that help students during exams and admissions.

Educational applications have endowed students with new tools with which they can get their doubts cleared, understand basic concepts, and assess themselves on online.

Source | Times of India | 16<sup>th</sup> May 2019

<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0?ui=2&ik=87f038b220&attid=0.1&permmsgid=msg-f:1633675594493844192&th=16abfb4c3007dae0&view=att&disp=safe>

## New-age exam tools: Apps, dedicated sites

Sakshi Chonwala

**Mumbai:** Past paper sets, extra classes and the school topper's secret notes are a few of the things that all students look for as they prepare for school exams or entrance tests. Now, a new dimension has been added to study tools in the form of multiple mobile applications, websites and social media groups that help students during exams and admissions.

Educational applications have endowed students with new tools with which they can get their doubts cleared, understand basic concepts, and assess themselves on online.

Niyoti Dhond, a Class X student, recently used the Robomate app created by a tutorial chain. "The app is like a 24x7 teacher. The animated lectures provide extra knowledge," she said. The app has video tutorials for various courses such as board exams, JEE, CAT and several other competitive tests that students can avail of at a cost.

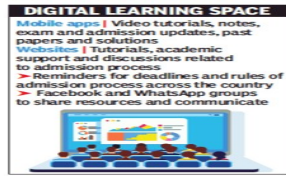
A recent survey of over 2,500 Indian students conducted by Brainly, a peer-to-peer learning community, stated that children appear to rely on parents while struggling with doubts; 35% of parents visit online learning sites to teach their children.

Apps have also been useful in various competitive exams that students focus on right after their boards. "Through these apps, the best professors who have an expertise in their respective subject come together. We have an option to choose whose lessons we will go through," said Jaishree Meharchandani who used the app 'Utopia' to prepare for SSC-CISL, which is a government recruitment exam. Students use several websites to follow admission schedules, requirements and processes for higher education.

The biggest plus of the digital learning space, say students, is the possibility of getting their doubts solved at their pace and learning capacity. "Since I didn't go for any coaching class, the only way I could clear

my doubts was through school teachers. It was impossible for teachers to be available 24x7 and hence the apps are websites worked for me. People would post their doubts on these apps, which would help others become aware of the issues too," said Vir Bhansali who secured an All India Rank 3 in the recent ICSE exam. Vir used sites such as Meritnation and apps such as Duolingo and Respaper.

It isn't just commercial ventures that are helping students and parents. For instance, each year at Santacruz's K N Podar School, all Class XII students form a Facebook group.



which is used to share resources throughout the year. Similarly, multiple WhatsApp groups of parents of students who are preparing for medical entrances handhold one another through the process.

Sudha Shenoy, mother of a medical student and a few others are available to wards of aspirants to help them with the admission process, understand rules and share resources. "We had a pre-NIEET seminar 45 days before the exam to help prep and now will host a seminar for the admission process since there are several new rules each year that parents might not be aware of," she said.

domestic help or even the rickshaw driver, if all of us pick up a book to read, our lives will change."

With this objective, Lokhande encouraged various patrons to donate books and before he knew it, his Gyan Key initiative had spread across 3,910 libraries in Maharashtra. However, the buck never stopped. He has replicated the same in seven other states including Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Jharkhand, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Rajasthan. "The project has benefited 10 lakh students in the eight states and I'm hoping this number is constantly on the rise," says Lokhande. "Till date, we have received 8,50,000 postcards from students who have read the books and written to the donors. Almost 2,65,000 responses have been laminated," says the book-man pointing to neat piles of the communication that has been preserved in his Rural Relations office in Pune. The Gyan Key initiative has succeeded in donating 9,40,000 books, worth Rs 3,91,00,000 (30 million+) till date.

Source | <https://www.dnaindia.com>

## India's Library Man - From Post Card Man to Library Man :-

...the incredible journey of Maharashtra entrepreneur Pradeep Lokhande who is committed to spreading the written word

A decade ago, Pradeep Lokhande, an entrepreneur from Pune was given the sobriquet of 'Postcard Man' by a friend in the media. Lokhande, who helps develop villages across Maharashtra and several other states, kept in touch with his people through the simple communication tool — the postcard. Yes, believe it or faint, the postcard still exists.

And, postcards addressed to Lokhande only read Pradeep Lokhande, Pune 411013 — that's it, nothing more. And they reached because of the sheer volume of traffic! Anyway, even as that aspect of his life continues, Lokhande has now been nicknamed, India's Library Man. In 2010, he took on the onerous task of setting up libraries in secondary schools in rural Maharashtra. This is the world's largest rural reading initiative. His objective was simple — "A person who reads is an enlightened mind." He says, "Reading is a habit every one should encourage. Be it, your own child, all school children, your

## Kannada Pustaka, the first digital library of accessible Kannada textbooks. The library is empowering thousands of visually impaired students in Karnataka :-

Over the years, technology has proved to be of immense help to people with disabilities. New gadgets and assistive devices aid disabled people to do things independently in their day to day lives. When it comes to education, many people with disabilities, especially visually impaired have access to technology that helps them to pursue higher education without any hassles.

Kannada Pustaka, an open online library of accessible Kannada audio textbooks, has come out with a text-to-speech project that aims to empower more visually impaired students. It's the brainchild

of **Rakesh Kashyap**, who lives in Leeds, United Kingdom, and is an eco-physiologist.

Kashyap started Kannada Pustaka in 2015 after he quit his job as a consultant scientist and was gearing up to prepare for his higher studies. A conversation with friends about the challenges faced by visually impaired people motivated him to do something to make education accessible.

One of the main challenges was that textbooks in Braille are massive in size and hard to carry around. Kashyap hit upon the idea of doing something audio-based so students can listen repeatedly, even doing a last minute revision before entering the exam hall.

I felt having exclusive audio versions of textbook chapters are ideal because a visually impaired student can keep playing it as much as they want. The software for this was developed by Shivkumar and Ramakrishnan. People usually rely on cassettes, MP3s and now WhatsApp to record. But there are many loopholes as chances of errors are also high. For instance, the syllabi changes every year. The speech versions that you hear on our website are synthesized text to speech versions so that even people without disabilities can access them. -**Rakesh Kashyap, Founder, Kannada Pustaka**

Students of any age, be it in schools or colleges, can access Kannada Pustaka. They are also free of cost. Volunteers at Kannada Pustaka record the texts which are later scanned thoroughly by editors.

“All the details including page number and headings of chapters go to Google Docs. That gives us a clear idea of the syllabus, years, and chapters etc. Our work is done free of cost and we do not have any funding either. We do not want people to endorse our project. You can also play it on your Google assistant”, says Kashyap.

Over 300 volunteers are a part of Kannada Pustaka. Currently, they have over 3,000 subscribers for the podcasts.

**Source|** <https://newzhook.com/story/22285>

## **Public Knowledge and the Public :-**

### **How we define ourselves as the public hinges on how much openness we practise in our knowledge-production**

That knowledge is power is a truism that requires no testing or validation any more. The control over the production and dissemination of knowledge determines the ranks of the social order, divided into the knowledge-haves and the knowledge-have-nots. The latter's access to quality education, and, therefore, knowledge, is restricted through various formal and non-formal mechanisms.

The Public Knowledge Project (<http://pkp.sfu.ca>) or PKP, a massive collaborative project across the universities of British Columbia, Pittsburgh, Simon Fraser, Stanford, the Ontario Council of University Libraries and the California Digital Library, is an attempt to broaden access to scholarly published materials. It encourages and develops Open Source Software, Open Monograph Systems and Open Conference Software to improve the 'quality and reach of scholarly publishing'.

**Deregulating Control**This is a welcome move to deregulate the control over knowledge-economies that have been in place for ages in all cultures.

In the modern age, the control over publication, software and archives determines a power-differential across nations and cultures. The 'Third World' is 'third' precisely because of inequalities in access to knowledge about itself, until this knowledge is produced and/or validated by western scholarly publishing.

## Monopolistic Markets

PKP flies in the face of knowledge monopolies and is tied in with the culture of Open Source. It enables the making of a particular kind of public, which is interested in *how* it remains a public at all: by resisting the power of monopolistic markets and knowledge-production.

## Informational Democracies

Such thinkers see not just the Wikipedia and Open Source but also Wikileaks as central to the making of informational democracies. We see moves towards these embodied in the Right to Information Act, the (forced) disclosure of incomes by politicians, emphasis on identifiable and documented sources of party-funding, although we in India clearly have a long way to go.

## Educational Systems no Better

However, let us not assume that governing systems alone are jealous of sharing knowledge, because educational systems are no better, as the following real life example shows: At a *public* institution in the recent past, a 'national conference' was organized with *public* funding but was 'closed', with no invites or program schedules released to the institution's own *public* till protest letters were sent to the organizers.

It is precisely this secrecy, control and exclusion around knowledge production and dissemination that hamper a democracy from becoming truly democratic. The Right to Information is, ideally, the right to know, and although information is not equal to knowledge, efforts such as the PKP are measures that go some way to reduce the gap between the knowledge-haves and have-nots. More of these are essential if we are to have an effective democracy. How we define ourselves as the public hinges on how much openness we practice in terms of our knowledge-production. There is no 'public' where there is no knowledge of the public, by the public and for the public.

*(The author is Professor, Department of English, University of Hyderabad)*

Source | <https://telanganatoday.com/public-knowledge-and-the-public>

## EBSCO Information Services Makes Its Products More Accessible for Blind and Visually Impaired Users :-

**EBSCO Information Services** joined forces with the **Carroll Centre for the Blind** to work toward improving the experience across EBSCO products for users who are blind and visually impaired. According to the press release, "The Carroll Centre will work with EBSCO to support the company's existing design and user research processes, while facilitating user testing and providing support for best practices in accessibility."

"Whenever The Carroll Center brings its accessibility expertise and knowledge of blindness and vision impairment to an innovative, industry-leading company like EBSCO, we know we will be ensuring greater access to information and research materials for a wider body of current and potential product users," says Bruce Howell, accessibility services manager at the Carroll Center. "Collaborating on projects like this supports both of our missions to provide equal access to important digital learning tools and resources."

Press Release Link  
| <https://www.ebsco.com/news-center/press-releases/ebsco-information-services-partners-carroll-center-for-blind>

## UGC's CARE to release list of quality journals :-

Source | Indian Express | 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2019

<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0?ui=2&ik=87f038b220&attid=0.1&permmsgid=msg->

[f:1634311317240430376&th=16ae3d7bec843f28&view=att&disp=safe](https://www.indianexpress.com/story/f:1634311317240430376&th=16ae3d7bec843f28&view=att&disp=safe)

## UGC's CARE to release list of quality journals

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
MUMBAI, MAY 22

THE CONSORTIUM for Academic Research Ethics (CARE) is slated to release its list of quality journals in a couple of days, said Dr Bhushan Patwardhan, Vice-Chairman, UGC, on Wednesday.

"The list has been sought for a long time. Yesterday, we conducted a meeting in this regard. The problem of predatory journals is a global issue. These journals follow deceptive practices to lure authors, take money and print anything," Patwardhan said.

The CARE was set up by the UGC in January to refine and strengthen research publication.

"The good quality research journals in disciplines under social sciences, humanities, languages, arts, culture, Indian knowledge systems, will be maintained by CARE and referred to as 'CARE Reference List of Quality Journals'. This will be used for all academic purposes. The 'CARE Reference List of Quality Journals' will be regularly updated and published by the UGC and the members of the consortium at their respective websites," a MHRD statement said.

An investigation by *The Indian Express* had last year revealed that India has emerged as one of the biggest markets for a business in which more than 300 publishers manage what are called "predatory" journals.

the Arch Mission Foundation, which built the library. [Source | Times of India | 31<sup>st</sup> May 2019](#)

## UGC to assess quality of PhDs in last 10 years


**The assessment of around 2 lakh PhDs will be done through random sampling method**

In the last 10 years, the maximum number of PhDs has been awarded across the universities. In the session, 2007-08, as many as 13,237 PhD degrees were awarded, which increased two-folds in 2017-18 where 34,400 scholars were awarded PhDs in various academic fields. Lack of a centralized record system of research topics being pursued by scholars is the reason behind increasing PhDs, says Raja Shekhar Bellamkonda, dean of the School of Management Studies and director of Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC), University of Hyderabad (UoH).

"Many times, scholars in different parts of the country are unaware of similar research being conducted elsewhere, that leads to identical studies. This has led to an increase without any value addition," he adds.

UGC has invited proposals for a six month study on 'Quality of PhD theses in Indian universities', which will analyze the quality of researches carried out in the various central, state, private and deemed-to be universities. Expressing concern over the quality of the exponentially increasing number of researches, Rajnish Jain, secretary, UGC, says, "The number of universities and gross enrolment ratio (GER) has been increasing, which is also leading to proportional growth in the number of students pursuing PhD degrees. We want to ensure that the quality is not deteriorating with increasing number of PhD theses."

The study will help in qualitative analysis of around 2 lakh PhDs awarded in the last 10 years "It is difficult to put all the researches under the quality scanner,

*The Indian EXPRESS* Thu, 23 May 2019  
epaper editions [epaper.indianexpress.com](http://epaper.indianexpress.com) 

## World's 1st lunar library survives crash landing :-

The world's first ever lunar library containing 30 million pages which flew to the moon on Israel's Beresheet lander has survived the spacecraft's crash landing on April 12, and will remain there for five billion years.

The Israeli lunar mission — the world's first private one — was a joint venture of a private body called Space IL and the Israeli Aerospace Industries. The library is made of tiny etched pages and images containing the most important aspects of human history and cultural treasures from every nation. It is a stack of 25 nickel dvd-sized discs, glued together with 24 layers of slow cure epoxy resin, and then sealed with protective material which will last up to five billion years.

"Images have indicated that at least 60,000 pages of the library have survived," said Nova Spivack, chairman of



hence, the study will be conducted through the sampling process, where a particular number of theses will be thoroughly analyzed to extrapolate the findings at national as well as state levels,” adds Jain.

The remuneration and total scholars participating in the study has not been fixed and depends on the quality of the proposals that the UGC will receive by June 10, 2019.

### **SHIFTING TRENDS :-**

PhDs in Sciences and Arts, for long, have maintained equilibrium and accounted for an average of 70% of total researches. However, theses in Sciences have increased in the last few years. The UGC official cites thrust on tech-research as a major reason behind the increase.

**Source | Times of India | 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2019**

### **NASA launches new library for photos and videos :-**

NASA *launched* its new Image and Video *Library* that allows the public to search, view and download audio, video and images from NASA.

New resource makes NASA audio and visuals available to the public

**NASA Link | <https://images.nasa.gov/>**

**Press** **Release**  
| <https://www.news4jax.com/news/nasa-launches-new-library-for-photos-and-videos>

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