ADINET e-News Digest

No. 58   July 2019

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PAUSE & PONDER

"Every thought I think, every word I utter, every deed I perform, every emotion that arises within me, every feeling, wish, that awakens within me, are seeds I am sowing in my field of life. And every seed must yield its fruit."   Dada J.P. Vaswani

Dear Professional Friends,

For the Librarians' Day Seminar to be held on 14-09-2019, we will be able to have few paper presentations, hence if you wish to submit a paper please do so ASAP.

We plan to include a Panel Discussion. Also we wish to invite any Innovative Ideas which have been implemented in your Library.

For ex. at Nirma University Libraries they have implemented a **Research Wall** on which research activities & achievements of their users are displayed. Please do send us brief write ups of any such initiatives implemented by you, which will be included in the Seminar Proceedings.

Librarians' Day 2019

ADINET in collaboration with the Physical Research Laboratory will be conducting a Seminar on 14th 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 toreach many more.

Please do send us your papers as soon as you can, but before 31st July.

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

Schools in Kerala are expected to save Rs 3,000 crore:-

Schools in Kerala are expected to save Rs 3,000 crore as they have chosen the Linux-Open Source (OS) operating system for computers being made available for teaching under a state-wide project.

Source: https://www.financialexpress.com/industry/technology/kerala-schools-to-save-rs-3000-crore-by-using-linux-os/1577396/

Soft Skills

A soft skill is a personal attribute that supports situational awareness and enhances an individual's ability to get a job done. The term "soft skills" is often used as a synonym for people skills or emotional intelligence. Unlike hard skills, which describe a person's technical ability to perform a specifically-defined task, soft skills are broadly applicable across job titles and industries. It's often said that while hard skills might get someone an interview, soft skills will help that person get (and keep) the job. Business executives and leaders are making soft skills more of a priority when hiring, as they are often essential for workers to succeed in modern organizations. In 2018, LinkedIn listed leadership, communication, collaboration and time management as the top four most in-demand soft skills.

Soft skills that are in demand

When an employee with a high level of emotional intelligence has good communication skills and interpersonal skills, they are more likely to be able to clearly articulate goals and lead a team in a positive manner. This is especially important for multimember, multidisciplinary teams that are geographically and/or cultural dispersed.

For businesses that have a customer service/relations component, strong soft skills are a way to ensure a positive relationship between customer and company without providing extensive training. Here are several

other examples of soft skills that company leaders find valuable:

- creativity
- appropriate use of humour
- confidence
- honesty and integrity
- friendliness
- ability to manage time effectively
- good manners
- enthusiasm
- positive attitude
- good listening skills
- attention to detail
- ability to grasp the big picture
- self-motivation
- common sense
- ability to make good decisions
- empathy for others
- communication skills
- willingness to see a difficult job through to the end
- willingness to change direction when something isn't working
- ability to negotiate
- ability to deal with conflict gracefully

The Best Free Software of 2019

Your phone is full of apps, but don't neglect the desktop. These free programs can make your life better on the PC, browser, and beyond.

Full Post

Impact of GST on higher educational institutes decoded

Let's make 'Study in India' happen! To achieve this, the government needs to think progressively like a business partner. TOI spoke to experts to decode the GST impact on higher educational institutions. The importance of education cannot be undermined in a country like India, where nearly half of its billion plus population is below the age of 25. In the years to come, the country will

need to cater to a huge demand for jobs, a challenging prospect in an environment which could be dominated by robotics and artificial intelligence.

Jobs will call for creative problem solving, analytics and critical thinking. Hence, helping higher educational institutions which can impart cutting edge knowledge, at times in collaboration with foreign institutions, is the need of the hour.

The GST Council's decision to continue to exempt services provided by educational institutions to its students is a step in the right direction. To this extent, the apple cart has not been rocked. However, services to higher educational institutions are not GST free. Higher educational institutions will have to pay GST when availing of a wide range of services. This dilutes the objective of keeping education outside the GST ambit.

Source | Economic Times | 4th June 2019

The changing idea of a university

The first proposal of this government to be made public was the 100-day action plan for education. It includes framing a new National Education Policy, replacing the **University** Grants Commission (UGC) with another body, and adding 10 more Institutions of Eminence. This is merely a continuation of what the previous government was doing. This

comes as no surprise; after all, it is well known that the Bharatiya Janata Party is deeply interested in education and culture. The last five years of the Modi government have shown us the nature of interventions made in the field of education.

Full Info | The changing idea of a university

Making science accessible

We need to rethink how we organise scientific knowledge

The ability to self-correct is considered a hallmark of science. Journals publish material that advances a field in new ways. Studies that yield negative or non-confirmatory results of previous findings do not get priority, leading to insufficient replication of results. The peer-review process for ensuring quality can also be marred by the personal interests of the reviewers. The dissemination of scientific findings has retained this basic form even after moving online.

We need to rethink how we organize scientific knowledge and whether it should continue to be structured in journal form. Research has become almost inaccessible to ordinary citizens due to subscription fees. Academic publishing must embrace a more democratic, dynamic and collaborative process. While the different variants of the newer open access model aim to distribute published research online and free of cost to the reader, the fees for publication is often met by the author, the employer, or through a

research grant. To increase profits, publishers sometimes compromise on quality and accept undeserving articles.

Under the OpenWetWare project of MIT, 20 labs in different institutions around the world use a wiki-based site to share data, materials and equipment. The ground-breaking work on the twin primes conjecture was done primarily in a comment thread via the Polymath Project.

The procedure of citations in a traditional journal paper accords them the same status irrespective of whether their results are presumed, strengthened or challenged. A new model would let us know with a click whether ideas are likely to become redundant or are truly load-bearing. Rapid, collaborative and iterative processes can improve veracity of scientific knowledge through large-scale participation.

The writer is an Information Scientist working in the Archives and Publications Cell of the Indian Institute of Science in Bengaluru

Source | The Hindu | 5th June 2019

Librarians must be updated about technology: Governor Vajubhai Vala

"In the age of digital technology, information is just on the tip of one's finger and it is a positive sign that even mythological books are being digitalised and made available online," he said.

Full Info | https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/hubballi/librarians-must-be-updated-about-technology-vala/articleshowprint/69681622.cms

UGC notifies hike in JRF, SRF fellowships

Research scholars are still not satisfied and feel the revised hikes of around 20% overlook the ground realities of increasing expenditure

With the UGC notifying revised fellowship amounts of Junior Research Fellowship (JRF) and Senior Research Fellowships (SRF) in Science, Humanities and Social Science, effective from January 1, 2019, the response from scholars and academicians are mixed while considering the ground realities.

"The revised hike should come as a relief, but since all junior and senior research fellows have to pay a consolidated fee of Rs 50,000 (which includes mess, hostel and tuition fees) per semester (where each is of six months duration) such a revision seems like a drop in ocean," says Priyankar Chand, senior research scholar, pursuing PhD at the Centre for Environmental Science and Engineering (CESE), IIT-Bombay.

Post the hike, the JRFs will get a

monthly stipend of Rs31,000 per month as compared to their current Rs 25,000 per month, while the senior research fellows would be entitled to Rs 35,000 per month from the current Rs 28,000 per month."Another tiring aspect of the JRF is the never ending wait for the disbursal of the scholarship. It is rare that JRF amount is credited to the scholar's account timely," says Rupak.

Source| https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/

Alexa in the Classroom? Amazon's Voice Assistant Leads Kids' Story Time

Bamboo Learning, co-founded by an Amazon alumnus, wants to be a leader in 'voice-powered education.' Some educators are skeptical. The group of kids, aged 7 to 12, sat around a table, trying to follow along with the reading assignment. It was after lunch. Energy was high, attention spans short.

Amazon.com Inc.'s Alexa was conducting story time, queuing up professional narrators to read the story aloud, quizzing the kids in its robot voice and offering hints when someone flubbed an answer to questions about "Davy Duck's Grumpy Day." Voice software has colonized smartphones, car dashboards and the living room. If the technology follows the trail blazed by tablet and cloud computing, the next frontier may be the classroom.

That's why Irina Fine convened the group of primary school students to test the latest iteration of the educational voice software built by her startup, Bamboo Learning Inc. "There is a preference for voice with the younger generation," Fine says. "It's hard to imagine for it not to be everywhere."

Founded by Fine and Ian Freed, a former Amazon executive who helped introduce Alexa to the world, Bamboo has appropriately Amazon-sized ambitions. "Our goal is to build a company that is the leader in voice-powered education," Freed says.

"So much of what's happening in the ed tech space is being driven by this notion that we have to use more technology, and newer technologies, in our classrooms," says Josh Golin, executive director of the Campaign for a Commercial-Free Childhood, which was among the advocacy groups accusing Amazon's Alexa of running afoul of COPPA. "And there's very little evaluation that takes place prior to the adoption of these technologies. If I was a principal or a curriculum director, what I would want to understand is how is this going to help me teach kids more effectively and efficiently."

In the last year, Bamboo launched three Alexa skills, as Amazon calls voice apps. They're short lessons and quizzes on music theory, math and reading. All are designed to work with Amazon devices like the Echo Show and Fire TV Cube, which let Alexa make use of visual aids, in addition to voice-only gadgets. A fourth skill went

live on Wednesday: a storybook program in partnership with Highlights for Children, the 73-year-old children's magazine.

Often, the interaction was spot on. But sometimes a kid would answer correctly, only to be greeted with a "that's not quite right," owing to their pronunciation or word order. There was an awkward delay between a kid's response and Alexa's verdict on the answer as Amazon routed the interaction through the digital plumbing of its cloud.

Bamboo isn't alone adapting voice software for education. One application deputizes Alexa as a teaching assistant for young grade school kids, offering timers and countdowns, and even guided meditation and dance sessions. Colleges are equipping dorms with smart speakers to disseminate campus information and answer common questions.

Bamboo is hoping that it can carve out a niche as a useful tool for parents who want an educational diversion for their kids on the new voice software. That could mean offering their assistance to more companies like Highlights looking for expertise in educational applications for Alexa. Or, echoing the models of internet giants that rely on user-generated content, they could build out a platform for teachers and schools to build voice tools.

Source| https://www.bloomberg.com

Maharashtra: Youth collect 54,000 books to start libraries in rural areas

KOLHAPUR: They are book collectors - but for a noble cause. Aware that no schools in the rural areas have a library while children want books other than their texts to read, some youth from Kolhapur started collecting used books to set up libraries in the slum areas of the city as well as remote villages of the district. These youth (chiefly from All India Students Federation) - first shared their idea with Uma Pansare, wife of Comrade Govind Pansare, who supported them by donating books herself.

After this, they contacted potential book donors and also appealed to all Marathi book lovers to donate used books for the social cause. These students also campaigned on social media with hashtags #EkGharEkPustak #SelfieWith Book following which a lot of people couriered them used books. The campaign, which has been going on for the last two years, has generated 54,000 books. The youths have also collected books on competitive exams. They set up their first library in Mukt Sainik Vasahat, Kolhapur, which was inaugurated by JNU student leader Kanhaiyya Kumar. Others are situated at Ukhalu village under Shahuwadi taluka and at Bambarwadi village under Panhala taluka of the district.

These youth are planning to open libraries in 18 villages and have appealed to everyone to donate.

Source| **https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com**

STRIDE shall support research capacity building as well as basic, applied and transformational action research that can contribute to the national interest.

The University Grants Commission (UGC) has approved a new scheme – **'Scheme for Trans-disciplinary Research for India's Developing Economy'** (**STRIDE)**. Broadly, STRIDE will provide support to research projects that are socially relevant, locally need-based, nationally important and globally significant. STRIDE shall support research capacity building as well as basic, applied and transformational action research that can contribute to the national interest. Union HRD Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank said that STRIDE scheme will strengthen research culture and innovation in colleges and universities, and will help students and faculty to contribute towards India's developing economy with collaborative research.

Trans-disciplinary research goes beyond the mere production of knowledge and extends to the practical use of the knowledge outside academic endeavour.

STRIDE Objectives:

- To identify young talent, strengthen research culture, build capacity, promote innovation and support trans-disciplinary research for India's developing economy and national development
- To fund multi-institutional network high-impact research projects in humanities and human sciences.

STRIDE components:

Component-1 will endeavour to identify the motivated young talents with research and innovation aptitude in universities and colleges. The scheme will provide research capacity building in diverse disciplines by mentoring, nurturing and supporting young talents to innovate pragmatic solutions for local, regional, national and global problems. This component is open to all disciplines for grant up to 1 crore.

Component-2 will be mainly to enhance problem-solving skills with the help of social innovation and action research to improve the wellbeing of people and contribute to India's developing economy. Collaborations between universities, government, voluntary organizations, and industries are encouraged under this scheme. This component is open to all disciplines for grant up to 50 lakh – 1 crore.

Component-3 will fund high impact research projects in the identified thrust areas inhumanities and human sciences through a national network of

eminent scientists from leading institutions. Disciplines eligible for funding under this component include philosophy, history, archaeology, anthropology, psychology, liberal arts, linguistics, Indian languages and culture, Indian knowledge systems, law, education, journalism, mass communication, commerce, management, environment and sustainable development. Grant available for this component is up to 1 crore for one HEI and up to 5 crores for the multi institutional network. Details of the scheme will be available on UGC website by 8th July 2019. Call for proposals will be announced by the UGC by July 20, 2019.

Last date to submit an application

Applications will have to be submitted online. STRIDE web portal will be open for receiving applications by **July 31, 2019.** Award of grant will be based on merit of the project proposal. STRIDE scheme proposals will be carefully evaluated with the help of peer review and assessment by expert committees. Shortlisted applicants may be invited for presentation.

Database

R. Subrahmanyam, Secretary HRD Ministry said that the National Innovation Foundation has a database of over 3 lakh technological ideas from over 608 districts waiting to be explored. STRIDE scheme will help students and faculty to undertake collaborative research to explore these knowledge resources for India's developing economy. The ten grand challenges facing the humanities in India described in report to MHRD are part of thrust areas identified for funding under STRIDE.

Source:-
https://www.indiatoday.in/education-today/news/story/ugc-approves-stride-to-boost-research-projects-in-india-1559794-2019-07-01https://www.thestatesman.com/india/ugc-approves-stride-boost-research-projects-1502772831.html

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