

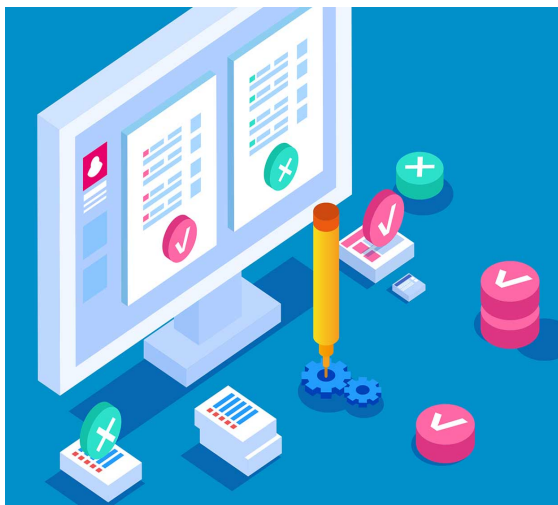
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PAUSE & PONDER

“Nothing in life is to be feared;
It is only to be understood.
Now is the time to understand more,
So that we may fear less.”

— Marie Curie

Peer Review of Scholarly Research Gets an AI Boost :-



In the world of academics, peer review is considered the only credible validation of scholarly work. Although the process has its detractors, evaluation of academic research by a cohort of contemporaries has endured for over 350 years, with “relatively minor changes.” However, peer review may be set to undergo its biggest revolution ever—the integration of artificial intelligence...

Source: *IEEE Spectrum*, 27 July 2020

Continue to Read here :

<https://spectrum.ieee.org/tech-talk/robotics/artificial-intelligence/peer-review-of-scholarly-research-gets-an-ai-boost>

How to organise a successful online conference in a pandemic :-



COVID 19 has driven most professionals online. For those of us in education and outreach, webinars have become more relevant now than ever in the history of mankind. Six months into the pandemic, however, one would have expected 'webinar fatigue' to set it...

Source: *Nature India*, 23 July 2020

Continue to Read here :

<https://www.natureasia.com/en/nindia/article/10.1038/nindia.2020.115>

Narendra Modi urges youngsters to read Tirukkural; what is the book about?



Prime Minister Narendra Modi urged the youth to read the Tamil classic, Tirukkural. Tweeting in both Tamil and English, he wrote about the text,

expressing hope that youngsters across the country read it. “The Tirukkural is extremely inspiring. It is a treasure of rich thoughts, noble ideals and great motivation. The words of respected Thiruvalluvar have the power to spread hope and brightness. I hope more youngsters across India read it!” he wrote...

Source: The Indian Express, 17 July 2020

Continue to Read here :

<https://indianexpress.com/article/books-and-literature/narendra-modi-tirukkural-6509999/>

Libraries could be leaders once again :-

As they try to re-open, public libraries have two big problems and three large advantages.

The first problem, obviously, is that they have to be so safe that people actually want to work in and visit them. I don't think anyone anywhere has solved that problem yet - but I'm sure there are experts who are trying to find a way. Without the answers, those who open aren't being brave; they are being stupid and placing other people at risk. It is the absolute and top priority...

Source: The Bookseller Blog, 16 July 2020

Continue to Read here :

<https://www.thebookseller.com/blogs/libraries-could-be-leaders-once-again-1211772>

Back to the stacks:-



When Harvard Library Access Services Director Amy Boucher returned to the Yard at the end of June, she entered a different Widener Library than the one she'd left in mid-March. Re-shelving carts filled the Circulation Room; thousands of book returns waiting to be processed topped tables in the Phillips Reading Room. Masked colleagues and social-distancing signage were reminders of the pandemic and the importance of new safety protocols...

Source: The Harvard Gazette, 16 July 2020

Continue to Read here :

<https://news.harvard.edu/gazette/story/2020/07/havard-libraries-hit-the-books-again/>

Libraries start a new chapter:-



With public libraries closed, some private ones are braving the storm: they are disinfecting books and encouraging members to have their titles delivered at their doors. Metro life spoke to libraries across Bengaluru and found them adapting to pandemic restrictions with new procedures. Interestingly, many now see children, confined to their homes, as primary customers...

Source: Deccan Herald, 16 July 2020

Continue to Read here :
<https://www.deccanherald.com/metrolife/metrolife-your-bond-with-bengaluru/libraries-start-a-new-chapter-862108.html>

Open Book: 'No rhyme or reason' on ebook prices :-



I work at a small university in the UK, with correspondingly small library budgets.

In the last few months I've noticed some ebook prices had shot up – by up to five times the original price, in some cases.

Some of the books were now priced at up to £1,000, which was bad enough, and one particular contract effectively had an expiry date – so that you might have to pay a huge amount for an ebook and then buy it again the

following year. I really don't know where that kind of thinking comes from. Librarians don't generally know how much other universities are paying for their resources; it's a very murky situation, and it's impossible to know how the publishers have worked out their prices for each institution...

Source: Research Information, 09 July 2020

Continue to Read here :
<https://www.researchinformation.info/analysis-opinion/open-book-no-rhyme-or-reason-ebook-prices>

'Reading helps cope with stress and provides creative solutions in the uncertain times of Covid-19'



Dr Shyam Bhat is a pioneer of integrative medicine and holistic psychiatry in India. He is also a published writer and a trustee of the Live Love Laugh Foundation set up by the leading Bollywood actor Deepika Padukone. He spoke to Scroll.in on the psychological aspects of reading in the context of a protracted crisis like the Covid-19 pandemic...

Source: Scroll.in, 05 July 2020

Continue to Read here :

<https://scroll.in/article/966505/reading-helps-cope-with-stress-and-provides-creative-solutions-in-the-uncertain-times-of-covid-19>

Government library gets a new lease of life:-



The government library, which has 1,300 members, and has 30,000 books, had been set up in the 1960s. Most of the library's members are school and college children as well as farmers, and local residents said that the library fulfilled a very important social function over the last five decades of its existence in the village. "For many, it remains the first place where they could access books readily, and many of the members have been members of the library since their childhood," said local residents...

Source: The Hindu, 05 July 2020

Continue to Read here:

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Coimbatore/government-library-gets-a-new-lease-of-life/article31996566.ece>

Tackling a tsunami of misinformation and myths:-



Life as we know it, whether in luxury air-conditioned homes or in over-crowded slums, has been upended. As always, a weaker socioeconomic status makes for poor outcomes, be it access to sanitation and healthcare, or brutal enforcement of lockdown guidelines. Socioeconomic disruption and uncertainty contribute to an environment that breeds myths and hoaxes, which feed on these tremendous psychological vulnerabilities. A myth can offer solace when little else is available and is often adopted without verification...

Source: Nature India, 03 July 2020

Continue to Read here:

<https://www.natureasia.com/en/nindia/article/10.1038/nindia.2020.103>

Meet the 87-year-old who guards books at Tiruchi public library:-



It is a hot afternoon as P. Subburajmans his station at the Open Public Library near Officers Colony at Puthur, opposite Mahatma Gandhi Memorial Government Hospital.

The lockdown has reduced traffic to the reading spot in recent months, but 87-year-old Mr.Subburaj is happy to be at work as one of the three guards who take care of the public library through the day.

“My shift starts at 6 a.m. and goes on until 6 p.m., when two other staff come in for the night. We keep an eye on these books, and also see that that the premises is kept clean,” Mr.Subburaj told The Hindu...

Source: [The Hindu, 03 July 2020](#)

Continue to Read here :

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Tiruchirapalli/lockdown-duty-guarding-the-books/article31973629.ece>

How technology literally changes our brains



In 1964, the Canadian philosopher Marshall McLuhan published his opus **Understanding Media: The Extensions of Man**. In it he writes, “In the long run, a medium’s content matters less than the medium itself in influencing how we think and act.” Or, put more simply: “Media work their magic, or their mischief, on the nervous system itself.”...

Source: [Vox, 01 Jul 2020](#)

Continue to Read here:

<https://www.vox.com/podcasts/2020/7/1/21308153/the-ezra-klein-show-the-shallows-twitter-facebook-attention-deep-reading-thinking>

This issue has been compiled by the Institute for Plasma Research Library, Gandhinagar.