

<b>CONTENTS</b>	<b>Page No.</b>
<b>PAUSE &amp; PONDER</b>	<b>2</b>
ASIS&T South Asia-Chapter Special Project Funds Awarded 2021	2
The paradox of open: How to build a better internet	3
Afghan librarian hopes to reopen library for women despite Taliban rule	3
I'M not a Librarian but I work in a Public Library	4
School Librarians Must Treat the Fight for Their Future Like the Political Campaign It Is	4
What does reading on screens do to our brains?	4
Sci-Hub: Journals Must Stop Exploiting Research for Profits	5
Reading good books can solve many problems of democracy	5
Changing face of Bihar's 'least literate' district: Now, every village has access to a library	5
Local initiatives are spreading the magic of public libraries across rural Karnataka	6
How Young Librarians Are Managing 118 Community Libraries In All Panchayat Blocks Of Jamtara	6

## PAUSE & PONDER

*“When in doubt go to the library.”*  
– **J.K. Rowling**

**Happy Navratri to all!!**

**ASIS&T South Asia-Chapter Special  
Project Funds Awarded 2021**



The [South Asia Chapter](#) of **ASIS&T** (Association for Information Science and Technology, USA) has been granted the ASIS&T [Special Project Fund](#) of \$7000 for the year 2021-22 on the project **‘Dealing with COVID-19 and saving people’s lives in South Asia (SA) areas & beyond - A health informatics promotion project’**. The Chapter has set up a [YouTube channel](#) to host multilingual videos for disseminating awareness on a variety of topics on COVID-19 in the South Asia region. We have collaborated with the Asia Pacific and European Chapters to bring in their experience in dealing with similar viruses in the past. Through this channel we propose to **help in fighting misinformation and disinformation regarding COVID-19** information by citing accurate and reliable sources of information. The goals of this health informatics project are:

- To spread awareness about COVID-19 issues and behavior.

- To share the experience of countries with experience of dealing with similar viruses.
- To help inform people by identifying pertinent topics to deal with COVID-19, highlighting the importance of reliable and accurate information.
- To identify and share accurate and reliable information from authoritative information to fight misinformation and disinformation regarding COVID-19.

Through these videos the Chapter proposes to reach out to the masses in the South Asia region highly impacted by COVID-19. A total of 10 videos on a wide range of topics related to COVID-19 such as, ‘Myths about COVID-19 vaccines’; ‘Stay safe from COVID-19 without or before vaccination’; ‘Vaccine Facts: All you need to know about them’; ‘Myths about COVID-19’ and many more will be added. Of these, 03 videos have already been uploaded and are available in 05 languages - Bangla, English, Hindi, Urdu, and Sinhalese. To capture the experiences of children during COVID-19, the project will also organize a series of workshops which will culminate in a creative writing and drawing competition in the SA region for school children.

We seek your support in **sharing these videos with your friends, colleagues, and acquaintances**. We invite everyone to share your opinions, comments, and feedback for these videos on our channel. We will be posting regular updates about the progress of the project through the ASIS&T South Asia website, Facebook, and Twitter pages. Please subscribe to the channel and help us in sharing accurate information to fight the pandemic.

The project team has members from 05 countries representing both Asia Pacific and South Asia regions. The project is being led by Bhakti Gala, Chair, ASIS&T South Asia, Central University of Gujarat, India with the team of members including Sam Chu (University of Hong Kong), Anwarul Islam (Dhaka University, Bangladesh), Syeda Hina Batool (University of the Punjab, Pakistan), Helen Chan (University of Hong Kong), Raj Bhardwaj (Central University of Punjab, India), Manika Lamba (University of Delhi, India) and Prasadi Kanchana Jayasekara (University of Ruhuna, Sri Lanka).

<https://www.asist.org/chapters-saasist-blog/>

The event report would be available on the [ADINET Website](#)

**\*Readers Please Note\***

Follow the "Title" of each News to continue to Read further

**The paradox of open: How to build a better internet**



The idea was a simple but powerful one: in an age of innovation, creativity thrives through an expansion of access. Just as the copyleft movement sought to allow for the free distribution of intellectual property, creative commons licences arrived in time for a digital era when such re-authorisation was necessary.

In the wake of these legal solutions, the Free and open-source software, Open Educational Resources and Open access movements have soared. Thus far over two billion works are attributed with a Creative Commons licence and the global network allows the discovery of images, audio, video and academic works across platforms (Flickr, Wikipedia, Internet Archive, Soundcloud and YouTube) to enable re-use and collaboration. (Just this year, around 500 million images were unleashed in the open domain when Wordpress took on the Creative Commons repository of 500 million free to use images)...

Source: [Scroll.in, 12 Oct 2021](#)

**Afghan librarian hopes to reopen library for women despite Taliban rule**



A female librarian in the city of Lashkar Gah, in Afghanistan's Helmand province, hopes to revive the only library for women that was shut down amid the Taliban's return.

It was mid-day on August 13 when 23-year-old health worker Homaira Nawrozi, who owned a library for women in Lashkar Gah, heard the news of Taliban entering the city.

She quickly closed her library. But when she returned with her brother the next day to take the books home, she found that all the widows had been

shattered and some books were damaged.

Afghanistan's southern Helmand province, a longtime Taliban stronghold, has never been an easy place for women to work.

But Nawrozi still managed to save 48,000 afghani (\$530) from her salary as a nurse in a local hospital to buy books and start the only library for the women...

Source: [France24, 12 Oct 2021](#)

### **I'M not a Librarian but I work in a Public Library**



"This is Sarah, my favorite librarian!" is how my friend Tim introduced me to his friends at a party a couple years ago. I mumbled something about not being a librarian even though I work in a library, but they were probably more interested in getting to the bar than my job, so I let it go. It wasn't the first time I'd been mistaken for a librarian, and it wouldn't be the last. Librarians are awesome, so I'm not offended by it, but what I do is entirely different, despite also being awesome. I also wear glasses, read a lot, and can frequently be seen in a cardigan, so I guess I fit the stereotype. Additionally, I am technically a

Goodreads "Librarian," which possibly adds to the confusion...

Source: [Book Riot, 11 Oct 2021](#)

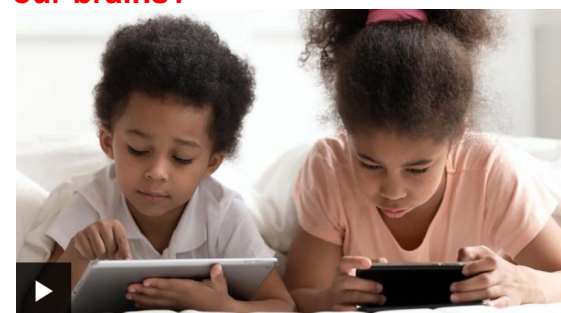
### **School Librarians Must Treat the Fight for Their Future Like the Political Campaign It Is**



This past summer, school librarians in Washington, D.C., scored an important victory. Faced with the prospect of another round of cuts, librarians and their supporters and allies in their communities (including my organization, EveryLibrary) mounted a vigorous advocacy campaign to show D.C. legislators exactly why school librarians are so vital—more vital than ever, in fact, in the wake of the Covid-19 crisis. And on August 11, the D.C. city council responded by passing a budget that will for the first time ensure that every D.C. public school has at least one librarian...

Source: [Publishers Weekly, 08 Oct 2021](#)

### **What does reading on screens do to our brains?**



We're reading more than ever before – but much of it is on screens rather than physical books. Is it changing the way our brains work?...

Source: [BBC, 07 Oct 2021](#)

### **Sci-Hub: Journals Must Stop Exploiting Research for Profits**



The purpose of research is social good. Research scholars across disciplines and institutions are part of a relay of knowledge. To conduct research, scholars start by reviewing the existing literature to make sure they are up to date.

During this review, scholars may come across gaps in the knowledge that are more often than not acknowledged in the literature itself. After identifying these lacunae, they may conduct their own study and contribute to the existing stock of knowledge, thus setting the stage for further study, by themselves and others...

Source: [The Wire Science, 06 Oct 2021](#)

### **Reading good books can solve many problems of democracy**

It's Banned Books Week, when the left and right blame each other for our tragic taste for censorship. A better use of the occasion would be to recognize the centrality of books to democracy, and to consider what we

risk by our accelerating habit of not reading them. How are books important to democracy?



First, because of what they symbolize. Consider not digital text but physical books. Through their tangibility and permanence, physical books signal that ideas are important. They are fixed in a medium that cannot be altered, the words stamped upon the page until the passage of time flakes the pages to dust, suggesting that the existence of ideas that should be pondered not for an instant but over time...

Source: [Mint, 30 Sep 2021](#)

### **Changing face of Bihar's 'least literate' district: Now, every village has access to a library**



Purnea has been among the least literate districts in Bihar for the past two censuses, in 2001 and 2011. But the district administration is trying to change that, and to that end, has set up public libraries to cover its 230 gram panchayats and seven urban local bodies (ULBs), thanks to a 21-month-

long book drive launched by Purnea DM Rahul Kumar.

The drive, called 'Abhiyaan Kitab-Daan', began on 25 January 2020. Kumar had invited people to donate books from across the country to facilitate the setting up of public libraries in the district, and a total of 1.26 lakh books were collected through this initiative...

Source: [The Print, 26 Sep 2021](#)

### Local initiatives are spreading the magic of public libraries across rural Karnataka



I love libraries. I love everything about them — the hush, the slowly spinning blades of the ceiling fan, the sunlight spilling in from tall windows, the magazines lying open on polished wooden tables, the readers slumped over books, taking notes, the rows and endless rows of books on shelves. Half my childhood was spent in libraries. Living in the different places where my father was posted, my mother would take us along after kindergarten — my sister, three years younger, and me — to the nearest library. She would sink into an armchair with a novel by Somerset Maugham or Nevil Shute, and we would settle down to play quietly on the floor. I think we started reading by sheer osmosis, somewhere during those peaceful, sunlit afternoons. Whether it was the library at the club, the city public library, or

the circulating library down the road, my sister and I grew up surrounded by the conviction that books were for devouring and sharing...

Source: [The Hindu, 25 Sep 2021](#)

### How Young Librarians Are Managing 118 Community Libraries In All Panchayat Blocks Of Jamtara



Twenty-nine-year-old Milan Kumar harbours big dreams. Starting from his village, he wants to change the perception of people towards Jamtara, a cybercrime hub of the country.

He is the librarian of Fatehpur block library in Jamtara district, one of the 118 libraries that opened recently in the region.

"The library was inaugurated on November 18, 2020, and I was clueless until a relative of mine showed up one day and asked me to continue my studies at the library. While I was a regular at the library, the initial response to it was not heartening. I was appointed a librarian here in August this year, and due to my own efforts, the number of students who come to study at the library has increased," Milan told Indiatimes...

Source: [Indiatimes.com, 16 Sep 2021](#)

This issue has been compiled by the  
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Library, Gandhinagar