

**ADINET (Advanced Information Network of Libraries in Gujarat)**  
**e-News Digest**

**No. 95**

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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**

## ADINET Librarian’s Day 2023



ADINET in Collaboration with INFLIBNET  
Organising One Day Seminar  
on  
**Open Access Resources in Libraries &  
Their Impact on Education**  
in Conjunction with Librarian's Day 2023  
Celebration of Dr. S. R. Ranganathan Birth  
Anniversary

**12th August 2023**

Venue  
**INFLIBNET Centre  
IUC of UGC, Infocity, Gandhinagar**



**Seminar Registration details**

Last date for registration  
is 31 st July, 2023.

The delegate registration fee is as follows:  
Rs. 1000/- for Institution Sponsored  
Rs. 500/- for Individuals  
Rs. 400/- for Individuals (ADINET Members)  
Rs. 200/- for Students

Additional late fee registration for all delegates  
registering after 31 st July is Rs.100/-

Please avoid spot registration  
Payment Mode by NEFT or by Cheque.

Register via link:

**ADINET Bank Details:**  
Bank : State Bank of India  
Account Name: ADINET  
Account Number: 10298781862  
Savings A/c Branch : Gujarat University, Ahmedabad  
Address: Opp. Gujarat Uni. Library, Navrangpura,  
Ahmedabad- 380009, Gujarat.  
IFSC Code : SBIN002651  
MICR. Number: 380002017

**Click for more Details**

**\*Readers Please Note\***

**Follow the “Title” of each News to  
continue to Read further**

**From Blossom Book House to  
Mobile Libraries, this is how  
Bengaluru motivates itself to read  
more**



For those who are familiar with Bengaluru, Blossom Book House is a staple sight. Rooms stacked with books to the ceiling, it is almost the A commonly-held belief lately is that people have left books behind and have moved on to other digital entertainment platforms. However, with Readers, bookstore owners, and library managers in the city suggest that despite tech advancements, reading continues to be popular habit.

Blossom Book House, where Bengaluru’s readers have thronged to for over two decades, began as a small store in 2002 on Church Street selling YS Life reached out to avid readers, bookstores and libraries in the city to understand the evolution of readers and their reading habits...

Source: **YS Life, 24 Jun 2023**

**They gather, they read quietly, they  
leave: Indonesia’s silent book club  
aims to encourage reading**

With the sun beating down on their heads, more than 50 people gathered at the Martha Tiahahu Literacy Park in south Jakarta at 3pm on June 18 to read for an hour.

Some of them sat on the benches located throughout the park, some sat cross-legged on the ground or grass.

None of them said anything for 60 minutes.



No, this was not a flash mob or a marketing stunt. It was the latest Baca Bareng (Reading Together) gathering, organised by the Indonesian Silent Book Club...

Source: [The Straits Times, 24 Jun 2023](#)

### City to host festival of libraries



A unique festival of libraries to be held in the city will launch a special ranking system for libraries across India. Aimed at encouraging a culture of reading, the two-day festival, to be held on August 5-6, will also hold exhibitions on allied crafts like cartography, calligraphy and cursive writing besides setting in motion the creation of a crowdsourced directory of all reasonably large collections of books in the country.

The festival will highlight iconic libraries from across the world in order to initiate a conversation on the

modernisation and digitisation of libraries in India and discuss a special policy for development of libraries down to village and community levels, a senior official in the Ministry of Culture told *The Hindu*...

Source: [The Hindu, 23 Jun 2023](#)

### Why libraries are liberating spaces



Baby V, 18 months old, lives in Khirki, Delhi — a largely working-class settlement with low to middle-income families. The street he lives on is riddled with potholes that never get filled and garbage that never gets cleared. He also has a free community library right next door that he saunters into daily. He's too young to be a member just yet, but he is always welcomed warmly — just like each of the nearly 4,500 library members. No fee is levied and there is no kaagazi barrier to entering this world of reading and thinking...

Source: [The Indian Express, 22 Jun 2023](#)

### Rapidly adapting to AI in education and the library

The ripples of language models go far beyond English classes and writing programs, affecting virtually any class where essays or written exams are part of the syllabus. So, when Erin Stapleton-Corcoran started seeing headlines about ChatGPT in late 2022 and tinkered with the technology, she

knew immediately that it would be a paradigm shift for teaching.

“I guess what was so surprising is that it was so easy to use immediately. It was a very low barrier of entry,” said Stapleton-Corcoran, instructional designer at the Center for the Advancement of Teaching Excellence. “I thought, this pushes the envelope on restructuring and reframing educational practices, the science and art of teaching and learning...”

Source: [UIC Today, 22 Jun 2023](#)

### **ChatGPT-powered teddy bears could read bedtime stories to kids in future, says major toymaker**



Ever since OpenAI has introduced the world to ChatGPT, the AI chatbot that responds in a human-like manner, people have used it for many tasks. From making it compose music to asking it to write poetry or even love letters, ChatGPT gained popularity quite quickly and is also credited with ushering in the age of generative AI chatbots. Soon after ChatGPT gained popularity, Google came up with Bard and Microsoft launched Bing...

Source: [India Today, 21 Jun 2023](#)

### **Everyone Likes Reading. Why Are We So Afraid of It?**

Everyone loves reading. In principle, anyway. Nobody is against it, right?



Surely, in the midst of our many quarrels, we can agree that people should learn to read, should learn to enjoy it and should do a lot of it. But bubbling underneath this bland, upbeat consensus is a simmer of individual anxiety and collective panic. We are in the throes of a reading crisis...

Source: [The New York Times, 21 Jun 2023](#)

### **Librarians at heart: City folk share book journey**



City-based library owners, on National Reading Day, traced their journeys from starting personal book collections to setting up larger public facilities, which have turned into important locales for literary discourses.

June 19 is the death anniversary of P.N. Panicker of Kerala, who is known

as the ‘father of the library movement’. He initiated the Kerala Grandhasala Sangham, which sparked a cultural movement in Kerala which led to the state achieving universal literacy.

Varsha Ramesh, an entrepreneur in education, who holds an MBA in finance, started her journey by setting up a private library ‘Books n More in Secunderabad’ in 2011, with a collection of around 8,000 books, which has now mushroomed into a trove of 25,000 books...

Source: [Deccan Chronicle, 20 Jun 2023](#)

### **Pune reviving reading culture. Not libraries or cafes but park is the new book club**



There’s a new book club in Pune. It doesn’t need membership or tea and biscuits or even a room to host weekend meetings — book lovers have chosen the outdoors.

On a bright Saturday morning last week, Alishia Stationwala, an architect, entered Kamla Nehru Park near Fergusson College around 9 am. Finding a spot in the shade under a tree, she sat down and pulled out Arundhati Roy’s *The God of Small Things* from her tote bag and started poring into it. Her water bottle stood at her side...

Source: [The Print, 18 Jun 2023](#)

### **Exploring the living legacy of MJ Library in Ahmedabad**



Inaugurated by Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel on 15th April 1938, MJ Library is now one of the most cherished spots for the youth and senior citizens of Ahmedabad, offering a serene environment for reading, writing, and studying. As one of the oldest libraries in the city, it has undoubtedly become an integral part of Ahmedabad

Situated in the heart of the city, the library boasts a vast collection of over 7,50,000 books. The vision for this public library was initially conceived by Mahatma Gandhi, who desired to create a space where his collection of books could be shared with the public.

With the support of philanthropist and businessman, Sheth Rasiklal Maneklal, the local authorities were able to establish the library, which is one of the best libraries in Ahmedabad...

Source: [Knocksense, 15 Jun 2023](#)

### **The Little Free Libraries Of The World**

Imagine you are taking a stroll through your neighbourhood, and you come across a uniquely shaped little structure in the middle of the road filled with a handful of books. In that case,

you might have happened on a little free library!



### What Is A Little Free Library?

In 2009, Todd Herbert Bol, a Wisconsin local, used wood from his old garage door to make the first library-on-a-stick as a tribute to his mother. The first library resembled a one-room schoolhouse filled with books and was for Bol's mother, a schoolteacher who loved reading. Eventually, Bol and his partner built several other wooden book houses around their neighbourhood and nearby regions. The idea spread, and since then, these Little Free Libraries have gone on to be present in 115 countries, with over 1,50,000 public book exchanges being registered with the organization. The Little Free Library nonprofit is based in St. Paul, Minnesota, in the United States...

Source: [Outlook Traveller, 08 Jun 2023](#)

### New Interactive Exhibition Showcases How Technology Is Transforming Storytelling



The British Library's new exhibition Digital Storytelling explores how evolving online technologies have changed how writers write, and readers read.

A range of digital stories are on display together for the first time, including four-time BAFTA nominated 80 Days, an interactive adaptation of Jules Verne's Around the World in Eighty Days, and the exclusive public preview of Windrush Tales, the world's first interactive narrative game based on the experiences of Caribbean immigrants in post-World War II Britain...

Source: [Fine Books & Collection, 07 Jun 2023](#)

### Are Public Computers in Libraries Becoming Obsolete?



A sound that's almost synonymous with visiting a quiet public library — the clacking of fingers on public computers — is slowly slipping toward possible extinction.

In analysis of public library data from across the country, Government Technology found that use of public computers in libraries has been on a steady decline for the last decade, a drop exacerbated by COVID-19 shutdowns and protocols.

While many libraries are back open to full operating hours, the use of public computers inside many branches hasn't returned to pre-pandemic levels...

Source: [government technology, 05 Jun 2023](#)

### AI in Modern Libraries: The Future of Information Access



Artificial intelligence (AI) has been making waves in various industries, and libraries are no exception. As repositories of human knowledge, libraries have always been at the forefront of information access and dissemination. In the age of digital transformation, libraries are now embracing AI to enhance their services, improve user experience, and redefine the future of information access.

One of the most significant ways AI is transforming libraries is through the

automation of routine tasks. For instance, AI-powered chatbots are increasingly being used to handle basic customer service inquiries, such as searching for books, providing directions within the library, and answering frequently asked questions. This not only frees up library staff to focus on more complex tasks but also ensures that users receive prompt and accurate assistance...

Source: [CityLifehe, 23 May 2023](#)

### Chotila to get Zaverchand Meghani Museum, library



Chotila, the birthplace of acclaimed poet Zaverchand Meghani in Surendranagar district, is all set to get a memorial museum and a library. Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel Friday performed the groundbreaking ceremony for the Meghani museum and library will be built at Rs 29.51 crore and Rs 3.39 crore respectively.

In August 2021, the then chief minister Vijay Rupani announced an allocation of Rs 5 crore for the Meghani Museum to mark his 125th birth anniversary. The government had also allotted land for the project. The museum will showcase Meghani's contribution to journalism and Gujarati literature, a government release said. Meghani, who was given the title of "Rashtriya Shayar" by Mahatma Gandhi for his patriotic poems and his participation in India's fight for freedom, was a

journalist with Phool-Chhab newspaper...

Source: [The Indian Express, 28 Apr 2023](#)

### From Digitisation To Remote Access: 5 Ways How AI Is Changing Libraries



As technology continues to advance, artificial intelligence (AI) is transforming many aspects of our lives, including libraries. In India, libraries have always been considered a source of knowledge and resources, but with the integration of AI, they are becoming more than just a place to borrow books. The user experience of digital libraries is being significantly improved by AI by making personalised recommendations, automating repetitive chores, and improving resource search and discovery.

Additionally, AI-driven chatbots are also being utilised to improve user experience and offer immediate support.

The Indian government has recognised the potential of AI in libraries and has taken measures to incorporate it into the library system. The Ministry of Culture launched the National Digital Library of India (NDLI) in 2019, which is a digital platform

providing access to millions of e-books, e-journals, and other digital resources to users throughout the country.

Along with these resources, the NDLI is also equipped with AI-powered features that include content recommendations and intelligent search capabilities...

Source: [abp live, 19 Apr 2023](#)

### Library culture on decline in Delhi



It has been over seven years and students of one of the Delhi government schools have neither seen their library even once nor got a single book issued. In another school, a librarian joined a month ago after four years of the post remaining vacant and complains that 80% of the books are of no use and school children will never pick them up.

When it comes to libraries, all Delhi government schools may have functional ones and there may not be any dearth of books but the usage and the number of readers are alarmingly low. Interestingly, one may find books in languages and in contexts that no children or a teacher can understand...

Source: [The New Indian Express, 17 Apr 2023](#)

**This issue has been compiled by the  
Institute for Plasma Research (IPR)  
Library, Gandhinagar**