

ADINET (Advanced Information Network of Libraries in Gujarat)
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Pause & Ponder

“Everyone has inside them a piece of good news. The good news is you don’t know how great you can be! How much you can love! What you can accomplish! And what your potential is.” — Anne Frank

Vishwa Laxmi Best Librarian Award 2023



Dr. Nishtha Anilkumar (left) receiving the Vishwa Laxmi Best Librarian Award 2023

Dr. Nishtha Anilkumar, Head LIS, Physical Research Laboratory (PRL) Ahmedabad has been recently conferred with **Vishwa Laxmi Best Librarian Award 2023** during the International Conference on "Recent Trends in Academic Libraries: Systems and Services" organised by Dr. O P Bhalla Central Library held at Manav Rachna International Institute of Research and Studies, Faridabad, Haryana during 18-19th August 2023.

ADINET, on behalf of the LIS Professionals, Congratulate Dr. Nishtha Anilkumar for the achievement.

Readers Please Note

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

Songs, skits make reading fun for government school students



Reading story books can be fun. But volunteers for the Vasippu Iyakkam project have made it superfun for students between Class IV and Class IX by singing songs and performing skits.

The project was launched a month ago by the state school education department on a pilot basis in select blocks in 11 districts. It was implemented in 101 government schools in Madurai west block. A total of 51 children story books and two books of poems were provided for each of the schools. Volunteers of the Illam Thedi Kalvi scheme were roped in as resource persons for the project...

Source: [*The Times of India*, 12 Sep 2023](#)

Internet Archive appeals loss in library ebook lawsuit

The Internet Archive announced today that it has appealed its loss in a major ebook copyright case. A notice indicates that it's filed with the Second Circuit Court of Appeals in *Hachette v. Internet Archive*, a publishing industry

lawsuit over the nonprofit group's Open Library program.



The appeal follows a settlement that saw the Archive limit access to some of its scanned books as well as a second suit filed by music publishers over the Archive's digitization of vintage records...

Source: [The Verge, 12 Sep 2023](#)

Sweden brings more books and handwriting practice back to its tech-heavy schools



As young children went back to school across Sweden last month, many of their teachers were putting a new emphasis on printed books, quiet reading time and handwriting practice and devoting less time to tablets, independent online research and keyboarding skills.

The return to more traditional ways of learning is a response to politicians and experts questioning whether the

country's hyper-digitalized approach to education, including the introduction of tablets in nursery schools, had led to a decline in basic skills.

Swedish Minister for Schools Lotta Edholm, who took office 11 months ago as part of a new center-right coalition government, was one of the biggest critics of the all-out embrace of technology.

"Sweden's students need more textbooks," Edholm said in March. "Physical books are important for student learning."

Source: [AP News, 11 Sep 2023](#)

How the UAE's oldest library is responding to the post-pandemic world of AI and fake news



Over the course of its 98 years, Sharjah Public Library has remained an anchor of consistency in an ocean of change. As the country and world around it have altered, the institution has set out its stall as a safe harbour for those seeking new knowledge.

However, as the post-pandemic world increasingly grapples with the roles that digital and physical spaces will play in the institutions of the future, SPL director Eman Bushulaibi says it's a delicate balancing act.

“Since the pandemic, people have shied away from our online programming a little, because they all really missed going to the library – but they do still ask about it,” she says.

“Even with the kinds of immersive experiences available today – now that we have augmented reality, and all the new AI applications emerging – there’s no substitute for the physical space. I think it’s both part of being human, and also a case of perception.”...

Source: [The National News, 08 Sep 2023](#)

12-year-old girl opens seven libraries, receives applause from PM Modi



Meet Akarshana Sathish, a Class 7 student from Hyderabad Public School in Begumpet, who brings smiles to the faces of hundreds of students. At the age of 12, Akarshana has established seven libraries on her own and received recognition from notable figures like Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Former Vice President of India Shri Venkaiah Naidu, among others. But how did she do it? This is her story...

Source: [India Today, 08 Sep 2023](#)

DOAJ and Lyrasis Collaborate to Facilitate Library Support for Open Access



The Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ) and Lyrasis, two prominent players in the global scholarly communications landscape, are pleased to announce a new partnership that enables libraries to provide crucial financial support to DOAJ. This collaboration underscores the commitment of both organizations to strengthen Open Access and democratize access to scholarly research.

DOAJ, a trusted directory dedicated to indexing high-quality Open Access journals, plays a pivotal role in the scholarly community. Lyrasis, a nonprofit membership organization that catalyzes and enables equitable access to the world’s knowledge and cultural heritage, shares DOAJ’s vision of equitable access to information. This partnership opens up the possibility for US libraries, without existing opportunities to support DOAJ via a consortial arrangement, to directly contribute to DOAJ’s sustainability and its mission of enhancing the visibility and accessibility of Open Access research...

Source: [Lyrasis Now, 06 Sep 2023](#)

Hanging libraries at govt schools educate children beyond curriculum

For 13-year-old Sikander, the best part about going to school is getting to rifle through the books of his library, so that he can peep into the worlds brought alive through words and lose himself in the adventures of other children, just like him.



But Sikander's library is no grand old building with wall after wall lined with polished shelves, heaving under the weight of countless books and tomes. For Sikander, it is just a classroom at his government school where over a 100 storybooks have been wall-mounted into a foldable bag.

It is what everyone calls a "hanging library"...

Source: *The Hindustan Times*, 04 Sep 2023

'Ghoda library' trots up to remote Uttarakhand villages with books for kids, parents to join in



It was just good old-fashioned horse sense — to trot up ponies laden with books for children in the remote hills of Uttarakhand with little access to either roads or libraries. And the kids seem to be loving both — the reading materials that come right up to their villages and their four-legged "librarians".

In parts of Kumaon, for instance, it is a common sight these days to see ponies with a placard around their

neck that says 'Ghoda Library' surrounded by excited children who pick books of their choice from the horse's back, sit around in a circle on the green grass and read loudly together...

Source: *The Times of India*, 31 Aug 2023

Librarians Can Play a Key Role Implementing Artificial Intelligence in Schools



That quote isn't from a teacher or a librarian or an expert in the field, although it does come directly from the source. It was written by ChatGPT, the AI-powered chatbot that has captured imaginations—and stoked fears—over the impact machines that seemingly can think for themselves might have on the future of just about everything, including education.

Most readers would be hard-pressed to discern whether that first sentence was written by a human or AI. So perhaps it's understandable why so many school leaders had an initial knee-jerk response.

"It was a very fearful reaction of like, 'Oh no, everybody is going to cheat,'"

says Richard Culatta, CEO of the International Society for Technology in Education. “But what has happened as the educator and librarian community has really started to explore the possibilities is that this has huge potential for education. This isn’t just a cool new website. This is a real tool.”...

Source: [School Library Journal \(SLJ\)](#), 31 Aug 2023

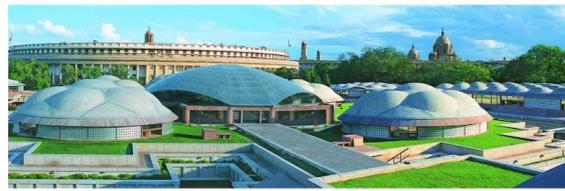
Can free public libraries catalyse communities?

As hubs of creative and critical thinking, public libraries can usher in a new social and cultural reformation. Will the idea of the free library gain momentum at the Festival of Libraries 2023?

“How do we revive the habit of reading?” is a phrase you often hear. But this question echoes an inherently false narrative—one that supposes the existence of a habit shared by everyone, when in fact this habit has historically, in India, been the exclusive purview of the powerful and privileged few. So let’s instead ask: Why have we never had, and continue not to have, a public library system that concerns itself with making knowledge and information resources—primary among them books and the internet—available to all, without exclusion? When we reframe our anxiety from being one about reading habits to one of reading access, there is another, more powerful word to consider: free...

Source: [The Times of India](#), 28 Aug 2023

Vision 2047: Free, inclusive and accessible public libraries for all residents of India



Public libraries matter. In India, with a population 1.39 billion, most Indians are not real participants of the world's largest democracy. Amid political polarisation, communal violence, social discrimination and human rights violations, large groups are denied their constitutionally guaranteed fundamental rights — of freedom and equality — everyday.

These ideals move from abstract to real guarantees only with unhindered access to information and knowledge, only with informed citizens exercising democratic rights and actively shaping their societies. A robust public library infrastructure can go a long way in creating this mass of aware and active citizens...

Source: [Moneycontrol](#), 27 Aug 2023

Preserving Gujarati Literary Legacy: Himabhai Institute Library in Ahmedabad



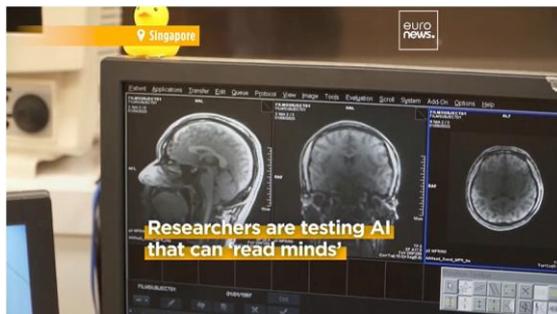
Alexander Kinloch Forbes, a British administrator of the East India Company, possessed a deep appreciation for the folk literature, art, and architecture of Gujarat.

Recognizing a lack of historic documentation and in an effort to uplift the region's languages, Forbes established the Gujarati Vernacular Society on December 26, 1857. The society also aimed at social reforms, eventually transforming into the Gujarat Vidhya Sabha in 1946.

The society established a Kitaab Khana, within the Bhadra Fort premises. This entire collection of 3,185 books and 175 members was later relocated opposite the fort. Today, this distinguished library thrives as the Himabhai Institute, staying true to its historical roots...

Source: [KnockSense, 23 Aug 2023](#)

This 'mind-reading' AI system can recreate what your brain is seeing



Researchers in Singapore have developed an AI system to decipher brain wave patterns and generate an image of what it determines a person is looking at.

The research team is collecting brain scan datasets of about 58 participants who are exposed to between 1,200 and 5,000 different images of animals, food, buildings and human activities while they receive an MRI scan.

Each lasts for 9 seconds with a break in-between.

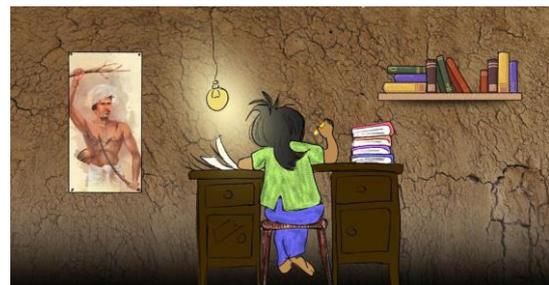
The mind-reading AI, dubbed MinD-Vis, then matches the brain scans with

the images to generate an individual AI model for each participant.

These models allow computers to "read" thoughts and re-create the visuals a person is looking at...

Source: [Euronews, 21 Aug 2023](#)

Making Adivasi dreams come true, one library at a time



The village of Galkuva lies deep in the heart of southern Gujarat, in Tapi district. On July 16, light droplets of rain pattered down as we made our way to a spacious mud house amidst fields of freshly sown paddy and verdant sugarcane. Out on the porch, young children sat on the ground playing carrom. Inside were two rooms divided by a wall, both with long tables and several chairs occupied by children playing chess or doing homework, and older youth poring over heavy textbooks. The sides of the rooms were lined with large steel and glass cupboards containing scores of books. From the back wall, a lone portrait of Dr BR Ambedkar gazed down at the children...

Source: [Scroll.in, 16 Aug 2023](#)

**This issue has been compiled by the
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