

Knowledge for all at their doorsteps



RRRLF Newsletter



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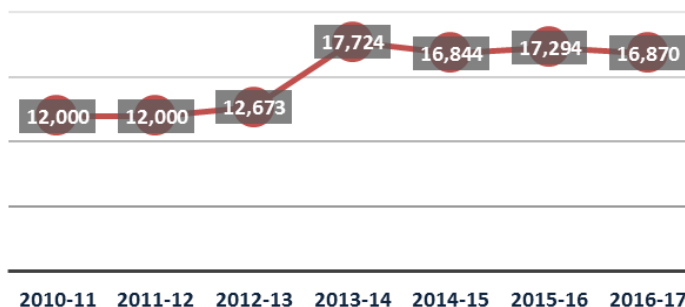
***The only thing that you
absolutely have to
know, is the location of
a library.***

- *Albert Einstein*

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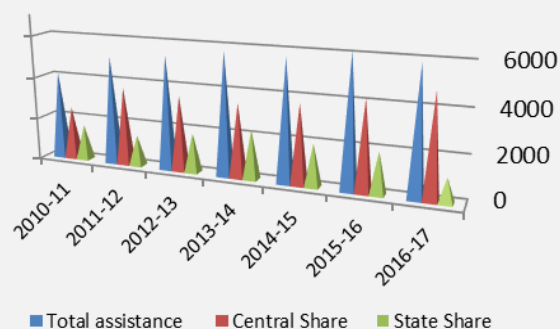
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Number of Libraries covered under the various scheme of RRRLF during 2010-2017



Assistance provided by RRRLF under various schemes during 2010-11 to 2016-17

(Rs in lakhs)



From the Editor's desk :

Dear Colleagues,

A few months have passed since the publication of the previous issue of RRRLF Newsletter and by this time some remarkable events of the expansion of library activities have taken place. It is heartening to share with you that RRRLF has fully utilized the grants received from the Ministry of Culture, Government of India for the development of public libraries in India under various Matching and Non-Matching schemes during 2016-17. About 16,870 libraries have been assisted with a total grant of Rs 59.27 crores in collaboration with the State and U.T library authorities. Under the NML schemes, an amount of Rs 11.77 crores was released through the RRRLF in favour of 19 libraries for upgradation of infrastructure and modernisation. I congratulate the library authorities for their endeavour on this feat.

At RRRLF, we are constantly monitoring the national and global trends in public library services. I have observed two significant developments on the public library front, namely, **"Inclusive Digital Connectivity"** and **"Community Engagement"**. In India, it is encouraging to note that many public libraries have been taking various initiatives for greater community engagement. To achieve desired result in the sphere of modernization and digital connectivity, we need to scale up the activities at a much faster pace and for that, huge funding is required, both at the Central and State level.

Many interesting information have been presented in this edition of the "Newsletter" to keep abreast and to share with you current trends and latest development on public library movement in India and abroad. I believe that, you will find these innovative ideas and information useful.

Kindly share your thoughts with us.

Dr. Arun Kumar Chakraborty
Director General, RRRLF and
Additional Mission Director, NML

Establishment of "RRRLF Model Library" at District Jail of Meerut



RRRLF has established a Model Library at the District Jail of Meerut, Uttar Pradesh. The project has been implemented through Ranganathan Society for Social Welfare & Library Development (RSSWLD), an NGO and a CSR arm of BIMTECH, Greater Noida. The library was inaugurated on 24 April, 2017 by Shri Brij Kishore Sharma, Hon'ble Chairman of RRRLF and Dr. Sitesh Alok, Mentor of the project with the graceful presence of Mr. Sant Lal Yadav, senior Jail Superintendent, Dr. Rishi Tiwari, Secretary-RSSWLD, Mr. A. K. Singh, Jailor and other dignitaries. Many inmates of the prison participated in the programme and some of them expressed their views on the importance and relevance of a library in the prison. After the inauguration ceremony, Shri B. K. Sharma, Chairman, RRRLF formally handed over the RRRLF Model Library Accession Register and other utilities to the Jail Superintendent.

The project was taken up and implemented after need assessment of the jail inmates through a survey. The survey reveals that, out of 2400 jail inmates, 2275 are male and 125 are female. Only 40% of the inmates is literate. Literate jail inmates preferred to read autobiographies of great leaders, religious books, books on fictions and law, RTI, career counselling, vocational training, personality development, communication skill etc. The library has been established keeping in view the requirements of the inmates.

RRRLF News

Ministry of Culture reconstituted the Foundation Board of RRRLF

1	Chairman Shri Brij Kishore Sharma M-103, Dharma Apartment, 2, I.P. Extension (Near Mother Dairy), New Delhi- 110 092	13	Dr. Uma Kanjilal Deptt. of Library of Information Science, Block-F, Academic Block , IGNOU Campus, Maidan garhi, New Delhi- 110068
2	Joint Secretary, Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi	14	Dr. Chakradhar Tripathi Professor Deptt. of Hindi, Visva Bharati, Shantiniketan Bolpur West Bengal
3	Representative, Indian Library Association 4/465, Sharafat Lodge, Near Akbar Market, Civil Lines, Aligarh 202002	15	Dr. Ishwar Sharan Viswakarma Professor Deptt of Ancient History, Archeology & Culture. Deen Dayal Upadhyay Gorakhpur University, Gorakhpur UP- 273009
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7	Nominee of Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Govt. of India, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi	19	Dr. Anant Wasudeo Vyawahare Retired Head of Department of Mathematics M. Mohota Science College, 49, Gajanan Nagar, Vivekanand Nagar Post Office, Wardha Road, Nagpur 440015
8	Nominee of the Ministry of Finance, Govt. of India, North Block, New Delhi	20	Prof. Kandarpa Viswanath Retired Professor of Applied Geology Andhra University SF-3, Sita Apartment, KRM Colony (Backside of Raithu Bazar), Vishakapatnam, Andhra Pradesh 530013
9	Director General, Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation	21	Dr. Amarjiva Lochan Associate Professor in Ancient Indian History & Culture, Shivaji College, University of Delhi, 95 Vidya Vihar, Outer Ring Road, Pitampura, Delhi- 110034
10	Prof. Alaka Buragohain 79, 2 nd By-lane, Ajanta Path, Survey, Beltola-Bashistha Road, Guwahati, Assam - 781028	22	Dr. Devendra Deepak D-15, Shalimar Garden, Kolar Road, Bhopal Madhya Pradesh -462042
11	Dr. Ram Gopal Garg Professor, Deptt. of Library Science, Jiwali University, F-9, Malaviya Bhawan, University Campus, Gwalior - 474011		
12	Shri. P. Jayarajan, MBE "Devaki", 33/6305-E, Poonkkavanam Colony, PO-Chevayur, Kozhikode, Kerala-673017		

Achievements during 2016-17 :

Matching schemes (State + Central share)	No. of Libraries assisted	Amount of assistance (Rs in Lakhs)
Books	16,599	1,575.43
Library Building	115	996.13
Seminar/ Training/Outreach	70	101.58
Modernisation	583	371.05
Furniture & Equipment	4,764	380.83
Total	22,131	3,425.02

Non Matching schemes (Central share)	No. of Libraries assisted	Amount of assistance (Rs in Lakhs)
Central Selection of Books	378	2,115.46
Voluntary organisation Libraries	51	55.36
Facilities for differently abled readers	42	166.77
Different Library Sections	103	66.44
Children Corner	45	54.74
Centenary Celebration	15	9.17
Seminar / Conference	37	28.54
Centrally Sponsored Libraries	35	5.5
Total	706	2,501.98

- Plan grant received from the Ministry of Culture, Government of India: Rs.46.95 Crore.

- State contribution received from various State Government/UT Administration: Rs.22.45 Crore.
- Assistance rendered under the Matching Schemes: Rs.34.25 Crore (Central share Rs.22.87 Crore + State Share Rs.11.83 Crore).
- Assistance rendered under the Non-Matching Schemes: Rs.25.02 Crore.
- Total Number of Libraries covered under various schemes : 16,870

Events

आर. आर. आर. एल. एफ. के कार्यालय में हिन्दी कार्यशाला का आयोजन



हिन्दी में प्रवीणता प्राप्त तथा कार्यसाधक ज्ञान रखने वाले कर्मचारियों को दिन-प्रतिदिन के कार्यालयीन कार्यों को राजभाषा हिन्दी में करने के उद्देश्य से आर.आर.आर.एल.एफ. के कार्यालय में 28 नवम्बर, 2016 को हिन्दी कार्यशाला का आयोजन किया गया। इस कार्यशाला में श्री वेद प्रकाश गौड़, निदेशक (राजभाषा), संस्कृति मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार उपस्थित हुए तथा उन्होंने “ भारत सरकार की राजभाषा नीति, नियम एवं अधिनियम ” विषय पर व्याख्यान प्रस्तुत किया।

Seminar on “Library Services for the Visually Impaired” organized by Blind Boys’ Academy:



RRRLF organized a seminar on the topic **“Emergence of Library Services for the Visually Impaired”** in collaboration with the Ramkrishna Mission Blind Boys’ Academy, Narendrapur on 21 January, 2017. The welcome speech was delivered by the Secretary of the Ashram Revered Swami Sarvalokananda Ji. Dr. Arun Kumar Chakraborty, Director General, RRRLF in his Keynote speech emphasised the need for using assistive technologies in all public libraries for extending support to the specially challenged readers. Shri Soumen Sarkar, Deputy Director, RRRLF spoke on the role of RRRLF in promoting public library services for the mentally and visually challenged persons. Shri C.M. Jatua, Hon’ble M.P. graced the occasion as Chief guest.

The Technical Session was chaired by Professor Swapn Chakraborty, Kabiguru R.N. Tagore distinguished Chair in Humanities, Presidency University. Various topics such as **“Need for General Libraries to Sate the thirst for Knowledge of the visually impaired”, “Role of Braille Press in improving facilities for print handicapped in Public Libraries”, “Importance of audio books over Braille books”, “Library Facilities for the visually impaired in the Age of**

information technology” were discussed by various distinguished speakers.

RRRLF North Zone Regional Consultation Meeting held at Lucknow:



A One-day regional consultation meeting with the Secretaries, Directors and Conveners looking after the library services was organized on the 8th February 2017 at Lucknow, in collaboration with the Library Cell, Education Department, Uttar Pradesh, to discuss various issues related to implementation of the schemes of RRRLF. Principal Secretary, Secondary Education, OSD, Libraries and other officials from the Library Department of Uttar Pradesh, Director(Libraries), Uttarakhand and other dignitaries participated in the programme. On behalf of RRRLF, Director General, Deputy Director (II&M) and Shri D.P. Sinha Member of the Administrative Committee attended the meeting. A presentation on the schemes of RRRLF was made and various issues related to implementation of RRRLF schemes and development of public library services were discussed. Having considered the need to keep pace with the changing scenario in the field of library services in the perspective of Digital India Programme, recommendations were drawn for modification of the existing schemes and introduction of new schemes.

South Zone Regional Consultation Meeting held at Hyderabad:

IPLM, NASSCOM, Foundation organised a Regional Consultation meeting on Public Library Policy and Legislations at Hyderabad during March 17-18, 2017 with the financial assistance of RRRLF. Representatives from Andhra Pradesh, Telengana,



Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu participated in the meeting. On behalf of RRRLF, Chairman, Director General, Deputy Director (II&M) and System Manager participated in the meeting. Mr Shrikant Sinha, CEO, NASSCOM Foundation, Dr. B. Shadrach, Asia Coordinator for the World Wide Web Foundation and other Officials of IPLM participated in the programme. A presentation on various activities and schemes of RRRLF was made in the meeting. Various topics, like library legislation, Public Library System and initiatives required to be taken for development of public libraries were discussed.

Primary objectives of the programme were:

- Understanding the current status of public libraries in the southern region.
- Initiating a consultative dialogue on public library state legislations and framing a National Policy on Library and Information System.

- To identify the gaps and challenges and suggest ways to strengthen them to serve the changing knowledge and information needs of the society.
- To identify unique feature/s of State legislations for sharing and replication in other States.
- Based on the consultation, producing a set of recommendations to be presented to the Central Government.

Consultation Proceedings:

The Consultation witnessed deliberations on the current status of implementation of state legislation at the ground level and the changes required to strengthen the legislative framework to suit the needs of digital era and the emerging knowledge needs of the communities. Also, the consultation deliberated upon the need for national policy to help these public Institutions respond effectively to the changing knowledge environment.

Digitization of Bangiya Sahitya Parishad:

During the year 2016-17, RRRLF had continued the programme on digitization of rare books of Bangiya Sahitya Parishad. Digitization of two (2) lakh pages out of the targeted five (5) lakh has been completed.

Zonal News

Eastern Zone :

Digitization of Rare Books and Catalogues of Public Libraries of West Bengal

West Bengal has a robust public library system with 13 Government libraries, 2460 Government

sponsored libraries and 7 Government aided libraries. In addition to that there are about 2000 Non-Government and Non-Sponsored public libraries in West Bengal which are run by NGOs. The Directorate of library service of West Bengal has created the West Bengal Public Library Network WBPUBLIBNET (www.wbpublishnet.gov.in/) for providing digital information service.



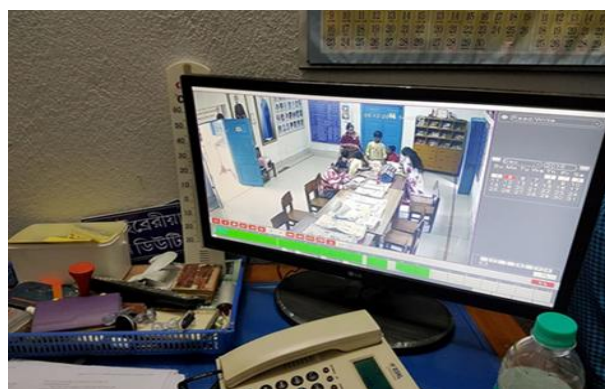
The Directorate of Library Service (DLS) of West Bengal has taken up an initiative to digitize the catalogues of 107 public libraries including State Central Library and 13 Government Libraries. Retro-conversion of catalogues of about 20 lakh books has already been completed and these are being entered in Koha, an open source library management system. This retro converted catalogues of the libraries would be made available online through the WBPUBLIBNET. The retro-conversion work is being done with the financial assistance of RRRLF.

Once this catalogue is made online, citizens would be able to search the catalogue to ascertain the availability of any book in the public libraries. Initiative has also been taken to digitize the rare books available in various public libraries through CDAC. About 31000 rare books have already been digitized and these contents are available in the

WBPUBLIBNET for online reading. Community Information Service (CIS) is also being provided through WBPUBLIBNET.

Modernization of services of Old Malda Bani Bhavan Town Library

Old Malda Bani Bhavan Town Library is noted for its exemplary and exquisite work rendered for providing public library service to the citizens of old Malda municipality area. The library was established in the year 1960. The library has 13567 books in its holding and it subscribes to 7 periodicals every month.



The library has 1340 registered members. The library has automated its services and installed CCTV with the financial assistance of RRRLF. It has also opened a children corner and different other sections dedicated to various segments of users with the assistance of RRRLF.

The library organizes various community outreach programmes, like felicitation of meritorious students, cultural activities, during the birth anniversary of Kobi Gururabindranath Tagore.

[Comp. by: Shri S. Chakrabarti, FA, EZO]

Durmut Bani Pathagar organizes programme on Women Empowerment:

Durmut Bani Pathagar, a rural library located in Purulia District, West Bengal was established in

the year 1960. It has 6494 books in its holding and it subscribes to 6 periodicals every month. It has 1062 registered members with 598 children members.



The library organizes various community outreach activities like, public library Day, awareness building programmes, cultural competitions for Music, Recitation, essay writing, Drawing, story-telling etc. The Library celebrated women's day at the library premises on the 8th March, 2017. The library invited women Govt. officials, ASHA workers, Anganwadi workers and Self-Help group persons working within Raghunathpur sub-division, library members and local residents to participate in the programme. About 300 women participated in the programme. Various issues, like women freedom, women empowerment, women's right, women healthcare, women safety & security etc were discussed.

[Comp. by: Shri S. Biswas, FA, EZO]

North East Zone :

State level seminar on Public Librarianship organized by the Karmabir Nabin Chandra Bordoloi Library, Guwahati

A two-day state level seminar on public librarianship and history of the Karmabir Nabin Chandra Bordoloi Library was organized during 22-23 January, 2017 in the premises of the library at Guwahati with the assistance of Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation, Kolkata.



The programme was inaugurated by Sri Naba Kumar Doley, Hon'ble Minister of Cultural Affairs, Govt. of Assam. Various topics, like glorious history of the library, renovation and conservation, transforming it into a modern hybrid public reference library and study Centre etc. were discussed. A commemorative volume was also published on this occasion.

[Comp. by: Shri S. Dutta, FA, NEZO]

Construction of library building of District Library, Nalbari and Sub-Divisional library, Dhansiri of Assam completed:

The extension of the library building of District Library, Nalbari and construction of a new library building of the Sub-Divisional library Sarupather at Dhansiri in Assam have been completed with the financial assistance of the RRRLF.

[Comp. by: Shri R. K. Shaw, FA, NEZO]

Northern Zone:

उत्तर प्रदेश में डिजिटल पुस्तकालय सेवा के विस्तार के लिए नई पहल

देश के वृहद राज्य उत्तर प्रदेश में सार्वजनिक पुस्तकालयों के आधुनिकीकरण परियोजना के अन्तर्गत डिजिटल पुस्तकालय सेवाओं के विस्तार हेतु वेब पोर्टल तथा ई. लाइब्रेरी प्रोजेक्ट को शीघ्र लांच

किया जा रहा है। सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी सेवाओं को जन सामान्य तक पहुँचाने के उद्देश्य से उपरोक्त पोर्टल एवं प्रोजेक्ट को लांच करने हेतु प्रथम चरण में आई. टी. सी. सेवाओं से जोड़े जाने वाले प्रदेश के सार्वजनिक पुस्तकालयों में अमीरुद्दौला पब्लिक लाइब्रेरी, लखनऊ, राजकीय जिला पुस्तकालय, रायबरेली एवं उन्नाव के संबंध में कार्यवाही गतिमान है तथा भविष्य में चरणबद्ध रूप से प्रदेश से सभी सार्वजनिक पुस्तकालयों को उपरोक्त हब से जोड़े जाने की भी योजना है। ई. पुस्तकालय सेवाओं के लिए वेब पोर्टल को विकसित करने का कार्य विशेष कार्याधिकारी (पुस्तकालय) की देख-रेख में राज्य पुस्तकालय सहयोग यूनिट लखनऊ के द्वारा किया जा रहा है, जिसके लिए आर. आर. आर. एल. एफ. की “ सार्वजनिक पुस्तकालयों को शिक्षा के उद्देश्य से टी. भी. सह भी. सी. पी. सेट एवं सी. डी. / डी. भी. डी. प्लेयर को अभिग्रहण करने / पुस्तकालयों के अनुप्रयोग हेतु कम्प्यूटर के लिए वित्तीय सहायता की समतुल्य योजना ” के अन्तर्गत वित्तीय सहायता प्रदान किया जा रहा है।

वेब पोर्टल एवं मोबाइल एप्लीकेशन का कार्य पूरा होने पर ज्ञानवर्द्धक सामग्री तथा सरकार की विभिन्न योजनाओं की जानकारी साधारण लोगों को डिजिटल प्रारूप में मिल सकेगी, साथ ही उन्हें ई. बुक्स, ई. जनरल एवं ई. मैगजीन्स भी उपलब्ध हो सकेगी। स्टेट ऑफ आर्ट पब्लिक लाइब्रेरी वेब पोर्टल को विकसित किया जा रहा है, जो मोबाइल पर आधारित है। पंजीकृत पुस्तकालय उपयोगकर्ताओं को स्मार्ट पेट्रोन कार्ड भी प्रदान किया जा रहा है। इसके अतिरिक्त उक्त पोर्टल के जरिये ऑन-लाइन प्रशिक्षण कार्यक्रम को भी संचालित किया जा सकेगा।

सार्वजनिक पुस्तकालयों के डिजिटिकरण का कार्य पूरा होने पर प्रदेश का सार्वजनिक पुस्तकालय सूचना एवं संचार तकनीकी से लैस होकर बहु क्रिया-कलाप केन्द्र के रूप में पुनः स्थापित हो सकेगा, जो समाज

को विकास की मुख्य धारा से जोड़ने में मददगार साबित होगा।

Adarsh Pustakalaya : lighthouse of Ballia

Adarsh Pustakalya located at Agrawali village of Ballia was founded on August 15, 1947. The library has about 17,000 books in English, Urdu, Sanskrit and Hindi. Valuable collection of the library include, Encyclopaedia Britanica, Hindi Vishwa Kosh of Nagri Pracharini Sabha, Hindi Sabd Sagar, Sabd Kalpdram, four Vedas, 18 Purans and all the Upanishads in its collection. Many research scholars use this library for their research studies. RRRLF has assisted the library for further improvement of library services.

Hare Rama Hare Krishna Library, Naimisharanya, Sitapur , U.P.

Naimisharanya is a small village located in one of the holiest places of India in the district of Sitapur, Uttar Pradesh. This village is famous for its rich cultural tradition and religious history. Hare Rama Hare Krishna Library, located in Naimisharanya, is run by an NGO which also runs a public school, providing education to the local children of this remote village. This library organizes different seminars and religious workshops for the spread of education among the villagers.

[Comp. by: Shri D. Ghosh, FA, NZO]

Rizwan Library, Sitapur, Uttar Pradesh

Rizwan Library situated at Tambour town of the Sitapur district is run by an NGO. The library has a lot of valuable reading resources and rare books such as, Gita in Arabic language and Quran in Hindi. It has been registered under the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 1976. This library is providing excellent service to meet the reading needs of local people.

[Comp. by: Shri D. Ghosh, FA, NZO]

राजकीय जिला सुमन पुस्तकालय, नई टिहरी, टिहरी गढ़वाल, (उत्तराखण्ड) के आधुनिकीकरण की आवश्यकता

राजकीय जिला सुमन पुस्तकालय, नई टिहरी क्षेत्र के सामाजिक, सांस्कृतिक तथा बौद्धिक विकास का एक केन्द्र बिन्दु रहा है। इस ऐतिहासिक पुस्तकालय की स्थापना तत्कालीन टिहरी रियासत के महाराजा नरेन्द्र शाह बहादुर जी के द्वारा 07 अक्टूबर, 1923 को टिहरी पब्लिक लाइब्ररी के नाम से की गई थी, जिसमें उन्होंने अपनी व्यक्तिगत पुस्तकालय से कुछ बहुमूल्य पुस्तकें दान स्वरूप दिया था। प्राचीन ऐतिहासिक शहर टिहरी का केन्द्र बिन्दु होने के कारण तथा स्वामी रामतीर्थ महाविद्यालय तथा राजमाता इन्टर कॉलेज के मध्य स्थित होने के कारण इस पुस्तकालय के उपयोगकर्त्ता विद्यार्थी के अलावा सरकारी अधिकारी, शोधकर्त्ता तथा आम जन साधारण हुआ करते थे। टिहरी डैम के निर्माण होने के फलस्वरूप इस पुस्तकालय को 09 सितम्बर, 2000 को घंटाघर के नजदीक न्यू टिहरी टाउन में स्थानान्तरित कर दी गई।

राजकीय जिला सुमन पुस्तकालय, नई टिहरी में पुस्तकों की कुल संख्या लगभग 35,000 तथा पंजीकृत सदस्यों की संख्या लगभग 850 है। इस पुस्तकालय में करीबन 500 पांडुलिपियाँ हैं जिसमें चरक का आयुर्वेद ग्रंथ, अतृ मुनि का आयुर्वेद ग्रंथ, वीर सिंह द्वारा रचित कर्म विपाक, टिहरी रियासत के राजा द्वारा रचित सभा सार तथा नरेन्द्र शाह जी द्वारा दान किया गया प्रिन्सली स्टेटस के वायसराय के काफी रेयर फोटोग्राफ हैं। टिहरी रियासत के प्रशासनिक रिपोर्ट्स इस पुस्तकालय की शोभा बढ़ाते

हैं। तत्कालीन यूनाईटेड प्रोविन्सेस के डिस्ट्रीक गजेटियर्स के पूरे खण्ड यहाँ उपलब्ध है।

इस पुस्तकालय के नजदीक स्थित एन.टी.आई.एस., सेन्ट एन्थोनी पब्लिक स्कूल तथा राजकीय इन्टर कॉलेज के विद्यार्थी अपने शिक्षकों के साथ पुस्तकालय से लाभान्वित होते रहें हैं।

नवीनतम प्रतियोगी परीक्षाओं की पुस्तकें, ओपेन एक्सेस सिस्टम को विकसित किये जाने, पुस्तकालय के अध्यापन सामग्री का डिजिटाइजेशन किया जाना अत्यन्त आवश्यक है। पुस्तकालय में उपलब्ध पांडुलिपियों का डिजिटाइजेशन किये जाने की नितान्त आवश्यकता है।

[संकलन : मनोज कुमार वर्मा, पुस्तकालयाध्यक्ष,
रा.जि.पु., नई टिहरी, टिहरी गढ़वाल, उत्तराखण्ड]

Renovation of the library building of Government District Library, Meerut completed:

The extension of building, electrification and sanitization of the Government District Library, Meerut, Uttar Pradesh has been completed with an assistance of Rs. 49.20 lakhs from the Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation. This renovation work has facilitated considerable improvement in the readers' services.



[Comp. by: Shri A. K. Keshari, FO, NZO]

Book reading competition organized by the Government District Library, Mohali, Punjab

Government District Library Mohali, Punjab organised a Book-Reading Competition on 4 December, 2016 at the library premises. Children of local schools participated in the programme.



[Comp. by: Shri A. K. Keshari, FO, NZO]

Southern Zone :

IAS Corner, Branch Library, Anna Nagar East

Anna Nagar Branch library was established in the year 1983. The library has its own two-storied building with a reading room

providing 83 seats. The library has 56,039



books in its collection, 2903 registered members out of which 1161 are male, 1451 are female and 291 are children. About 450 readers visit the library daily. It has a very active library committee to look after library service and development related issues.

The Rotary club of Chennai Sun City has contributed to the setting up of a 1000 sqft IAS corner, which was inaugurated on March 15,

2017. IAS aspirants using this library are extremely happy with the facilities provided and for the adequate collection of relevant books available in the holding of the library.

[Comp. by: Shri A. K. Sen, FA, SZO]

Periyar Nagar Branch Library, Chennai : a reader's paradise

Periyar Nagar Branch Library was established in the year 1991 and is situated in the heart of Chennai. The library has its own two-storied building with a reading room accommodating 95 seats. The library has approximately 89,579 books in its collection. It subscribes to 22 daily news papers and 150 periodicals. The Magazine and Newspaper section of the library remains fully occupied. The library has 10,759 registered members and on an average 700 users visit the library daily. The library has a children corner and a separate text book section.



The library receives about 350-400 books from RRRLF every year. It was

awarded as the **"Best Library"** of Chennai in 2014. It has also received many other awards of excellence for its dedicated service provided to the readers.

[Comp. by: Shri A. K. Sen, FA, SZO]

Western Zone :

Ashta General Library, Ashta, Walva , Sangli, Maharashtra

"Ashta General Library" was established in the year 1928. The library is registered under the

Public Charitable Trust act, 1950 and is recognized by the Government of Maharashtra as 'A' Grade Public Library.

The library was started with the soul intention of inculcating reading habit among the masses. The library has its own building with a working area of 2000 Sq feet. It has 18901 books in its collection. It subscribes to 16 daily newspapers and 75 periodicals. It has 1260 registered members and about 2400 books are issued per month.

The library has opened a separate children's corner in 2008 with the financial assistance of RRRLF. Primary objective of the Children's Section



is to enhance the intellectual abilities of the children through Read & Play.

Children section has 4052 books, which include encyclopaedia, fairy tales, folk tales, educational toys, a multimedia system and books on various subjects suitable for igniting the young minds. The library organises various types of weekend activities, such as, story-telling, drawing competition, essay competition etc.

[Comp. by Shri W. A. Vishnu, FO, WZO]

Public Library Status Report

Public library system of Gujarat

His Highness Sayaji Rao Gaekwad III, Maharaja of Baroda, was a great visionary, who pioneered the development of Public Library System in India as early as 1910. He carefully devised a programme of mass education compulsory in one district in 1893, and extended

it to the entire State by 1907, and also made elementary education compulsory to all boys and girls in the State. His Highness also realized that, a network of free public libraries would enable men and women in rural areas to have access to source of knowledge.

The Maharaja insisted that "libraries should not limit their benefits to the few English-knowing readers, but should see to it that their good work permeates through to the many", and that "the vernacular libraries should be encouraged" so that every citizen of the State "may enroll himself as a pupil in the peoples' university-the library". With this noble idea he set up free public libraries in the State beginning from 1910.

For this purpose he established a separate Library Department with Mr. W. A. Borden as the first full-time Director of State Libraries. The next step was to establish a Central Library at Baroda with a nucleus collection of 88,764 volumes, which included the Maharaja's private collection of about 20,000 books. A full-time Curator of Libraries with a supporting staff strength of around 50 was appointed to manage it.

It is heartening to learn that even a century ago the Maharaja arranged to purchase a Photostat camera and a camera projector by the State. The projector was utilized to view the silent (Mookee) films etc. He also launched publication of a quarterly journal called "*Library Miscellany*" in English, Gujarati and Marathi with Shri J. S. Kodalkar as its first editor. He started Library Associations from Taluk level, organized "*Mitra Mandal*" (friendly groups in the libraries) in the town and village libraries and organized regular library conferences. Mobile library service was organized to cater to the book need at remote villages. The Maharaja also established an Oriental Institute and Library with 6,846 printed

books and 1,420 manuscripts in Sanskrit, Gujarati and other languages. He was the first to initiate the publication of Gaekwad's Oriental Series in 1915.

This was the first public library system in the country. The successors of Gaekwad III had no interest in the public library programmes and due to lack of royal patronage, the great public library system of Baroda gradually wore off. It again gained momentum only after the implementation of the Gujarat Public Libraries Act in 2001.

Gujarat has a separate Directorate of Library Services (DLS), located at Sector-17, Near Town Hall, Gandhinagar-38201, with a full-time Director of Libraries. The DLS functions under the Sports, Youth & Culture Activities Department.

Information regarding library services and public libraries could be obtained from the DLS website www.dolib.gujarat.gov.in.

Government Public Libraries in Gujarat

Category of Library	No. of Libraries
State Central Library	02
State Art & Culture Library	01
Government District Libraries	26
Government Taluka Library	116
Government Womens Library	03
Mobile Libraries	08
Village libraries cum Cultural centres	142
State Book Repository Centre	01
Total	299

Grant-in-Aid Public libraries (NGOs) in Gujarat:

Type of Library	No. of Library	Annual Grants
City Library	52	100000.00
Blind Library	09	100000.00
City Branch Library	87	50000.00
Town Library -1	109	35000.00
Town Library-2	265	30000.00
Women's Library	113	20000.00
Children's Library	98	20000.00
Village Library	3445	10000.00
Total	4178	

[Comp. by Shri W. A. Vishnu, FO, WZO]

National Mission on Libraries

Achievements 2016-17:

The Ministry of Culture, Government of India has launched the scheme of National Mission on Libraries (NML) for sustained development of Public Library Services in India. The scheme consists of the following four components:

- **Creation of National Virtual Library of India (NVLI)**
- **Setting up of NML Model Libraries**
- **Quantitative & Qualitative Survey**
- **Capacity Building**

Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation (RRRLF) is the nodal agency for implementation of the activities undertaken by the National Mission on Libraries (NML).

• National Virtual Library of India (NVLI):

NVLI is one of the flagship projects of the Ministry of Culture which has been envisaged to create a multilingual digital platform for Rare Books, Manuscripts, Indian

Culture, Tradition and Heritage, Virtual Museums, Union Catalogue, Virtual Learning Hub, Government Websites and Schemes, Wiki, Newsfeeds, Indian Culinary Art, Crowdsourcing, Webcasting, Big data analytics for predictive answering of queries, National Awards, Ontology based Semantic Search, Multilingual query engine and many other interesting applications. NVLI is being developed as a complex digital discovery service platform for Indian knowledge resources in the form of documents, books, images, maps, audio, video, e-news, 3D objects and many other interesting themes.



Development of NVLI has been entrusted to IIT Bombay, CDAC Pune and IGNOU by the Ministry of Culture. System installation and integration of a prototype of the NVLI System is being done in the “Mini Cloud” platform setup at IIT, Bombay as part of the project. Metadata and digital contents are being collected from various organizations under the Ministry of Culture. About twelve (12) lakhs of curated metadata have been migrated to a system developed using open source software Koha and VuFind.

A Prototype of the National Virtual Library of India (NVLI) demonstrated :

A NVLI Workshop was held on the 28th February, 2017 at the IGNOU Conference Room New Delhi to demonstrate the prototype version of the NVLI.

Representatives from various organizations of the Ministry of Culture participated in the workshop. Various issues regarding sharing and uploading of digital contents available with the organisations were discussed.

• Setting Up of NML Model Libraries:

A financial assistance of Rs. 857.87 Lakh was released in favour of the following State Central Libraries and District Libraries for upgradation of Infrastructure and modernization during 2016-17.

State	Library Assisted
Arunachal Pradesh	State Central Library, Itanagar District Library, Pasighat
Assam	District Library, Jorhat District Library, Guwahati
Karnataka	State Central Library, Bangalore
Mizoram	State Central Library, Aizawl District Library, Kolasib
Odisha	H.K.M. State Library, Bhubaneswar
Rajasthan	Dr. Radhakrishnan Rajya Kendriya Pustakalaya, Jaipur
Telangana	State Central library, Hyderabad District Central Library, Mahabubnagar
Tripura	Birchandra State Central Library Unakoti District Library
Uttar Pradesh	State Central Library, Allahabad Government District Library, Etawah
West Bengal	West Bengal State Central library North Bengal State Library, Coochbehar

In addition to the above libraries, two (2) Central Libraries under the Ministry of Culture were also provided with a total financial assistance of Rs.317.81 Lakh for up-gradation of Infrastructure and modernization during 2016-17.

• Quantitative & Qualitative Survey:

Data collection from 5000 Public Libraries and 7000 users and non-users has been completed and a draft final report has been submitted by the agency entrusted for the survey. The final report of the Survey would be published after incorporating the modifications suggested by the members of the Survey Committee.

Summary of findings of the "Survey"

The survey reaffirms the importance of public libraries in the Indian context. Overall, 60% of the users mentions that their (public) library, had it not been present in the city, would be a major loss for them - a finding that ascertains the indispensable role played by libraries. Despite the lower visibility, there is a set of users who rely on the system.

Infrastructure and amenities

Findings from the study prove that infrastructure and amenities in public libraries have certainly improved over the years. However there is still tremendous scope for improvement.

✚ Electricity connection

A study carried out by RRRLF 10 years ago highlighted the need for electricity connections, particularly in rural libraries. The study had then stated that penetration of electricity in libraries is very poor. In comparison, at present, 85% of all public libraries has electricity connections. This stands at 76% in rural libraries and 66% in tribal libraries.

✚ Drinking water facility

With regard to drinking water facilities, about three-fourths of the libraries provide drinking water to users, however the goal for the system should be to reach 100% soon. The number of libraries having drinking water facilities is lower in village and tribal libraries, where it stands at 67% and 49% respectively.

✚ Toilet amenities

Overall, 41% of the libraries has a common toilet, and 35% of them has a separate toilet for ladies. Users, express that they are not satisfied with toilet amenities (only 6% users rate it to be 'very good').

✚ Others

Librarians across most categories of libraries have also expressed the requirement for better furniture and infrastructure such as racks and shelves.

✚ Computer penetration

At present, approximately one-fourth of public libraries has computers for library use. About 17% of them has computers for the use of library visitors. This penetration is particularly poor in case of village and tribal libraries. It is not 100% in larger libraries like district libraries either.

✚ Internet penetration

Internet penetration is poor as well, with 15% libraries having internet for office use and a miniscule 4% having internet for the use of library visitors.

✚ Need for digitization

Across all categories of libraries and all segments (users as well as non-users), a desire for public libraries to get adequately equipped to provide computer and internet access has been expressed.

Library resources and collections

The study conducted by RRRLF 10 years ago stated that libraries were poorly equipped with magazines, educational books and newspapers. In contrast, libraries today are better equipped with these resources.

- At present, village and tribal libraries have about 5000-6000 books, compared to average of 1.2 lakhs books in state central libraries and 51000 in district libraries.
- Most public libraries unanimously emphasise the need for increased availability of books, particularly children books and books on competitive examinations.
- A majority proportion of the users have cited that they are satisfied with the range and quality of resources offered by public libraries.

Budget allocation

Libraries across all categories however have seen an increase in budget allocation between 2012 to 2015. On an average, state central libraries get allotted a budget of Rs.1.5 crores. It is lowest in village libraries where it ranges around Rs.3.2 lakhs.

Staff quality and training

Other than State Central Libraries, most other categories of libraries are poorly equipped with professionally qualified staff or those with basic computer/IT skills. Staff in public libraries state that they require training in Computer/IT skills, library management and staff management. Overall, about only one-third of the libraries have had their staff attending professional training during the last 5 years. This is further emphasised by users, who affirm the need for qualified staff with helpful attitude to cater to their needs.

Views of users & non-users

Change in usage over the years

It is a highly encouraging sign to note that over 70% of the members (users holding a membership in libraries) pays their visits to libraries, and the information availed indicates that the percentage has increased over the last two years. Over one-half of them also indicates that their visits to libraries are likely to increase in the next 2-3 years. However, the library system has to revamp and keep itself in tune with changing times, to retain its current membership as well as attract new members.

Resources and services availed and desired

- Books and newspapers are the most-availed resources across all library categories.
- With regard to public information services, users avail a great amount of information on career and work-related aspects, filling government forms and other employment information.
- Internet access and Wifi facility are the highest desired facility, as expressed by users from both urban and rural libraries.

Importance attached to presence of libraries

Overall, 60% of the users mentions that their library, if not present in the city, would be a major loss for them. This goes to show that libraries play an indispensable role in our social set-up.

Reasons for non-usage of public libraries

- In today's busy schedule of life, prominent reason for non-usage of libraries among non-users (mentioned by 52% non-users) was found to be lack of time. Non-users are,

instead, seen referring to the internet to avail information.

- Private library users, on the other hand, respond that the major reason was not having been to a public library before.
- The perception among private library users is that, books in public libraries are old and that there exists a shortage of textbooks. They also respond that books or periodicals desired by them are likely not to be available.

Suggestions to increase utilization of public libraries

Amenities: Public libraries should be provided with toilets, drinking water and furniture like chairs and tables, in order to attract more users. Funds have to be allocated for this purpose.

Buildings: Public library buildings should be well maintained and necessary renovation work of old buildings should be undertaken.

Staff: Emphasis should be laid on training staff to adopt a more user-friendly approach, develop a mindset to go the digital way as well as equip them with basic IT/computer skills so as to serve users better. It has also been observed that most categories of public libraries are understaffed, with total staff strength of only 1-2. Thus, a renewed focus is required to increase manpower strength in the system.

Computer and internet penetration: Users of all age groups across cities, towns and villages desire that libraries should have a higher digital focus, and be better equipped with computers and internet access.

Public service information on employment/career: Services required include

public information, like employment info, filling in forms for govt. services, work-related information and information on bank loans and payment facilities.

Resources: Libraries have indicated a need for providing books on competitive exams and this may increase the number of library users.

Opinion on new initiatives

Nearly fourth-fifths of the users and two-thirds non-users indicate that a service, such as, talks on topics of health, career, jobs, etc. is useful.

Opinion on voluntary contribution

About 44% users, when asked, have expressed that they are likely to contribute towards a development fund created for public library in their area. They are also willing to make a subscription for membership, if offered, for internet access. Both users and non-users are willing to make a one-time contribution of between Rs.150 to Rs.200 towards such development funds.

Opinion on service access points in public areas

It is ascertained that, more than 60% users opine that it will be useful, if public libraries provide service access points in areas such as malls, railway stations and so on for users to avail borrowing of books and other services.

Capacity Building

Under the Capacity Building programme, seven (7) training programmes were organized in various locations, such as - Lucknow, Kalyani (West Bengal), Chennai and Puducherry. More than 200 library personnel from various States/U.T have been trained.

News from the National Library of India

The National Library, India is the largest library in the country, having a collection of about 26 lakhs, which includes books in 14 languages, foreign language books, manuscripts, Indian official documents etc. It is an



institution of national importance under the Ministry of Culture, Government of India. The library is designated to collect, disseminate and preserve the printed material produced in the country. It is situated on a scenic 30 acres Belvedere Estate, Alipore, Kolkata 700027. It is one of the four libraries covered under the Delivery of Books and Newspapers (Public Libraries) Act 1954 to receive documents published in India.

The National Library subscribes to huge number of E-Resources which include E-Books, E-Reference Collection and E-Journals, which could be accessed by the citizens, free of cost. National Library also procures huge number of foreign books every year.

Primary objectives of National Library:

- Acquisition and conservation of all significant national production of printed material, excluding ephemera.
- Collection of printed material concerning the country, no matter where it is published, and as a corollary, the acquisition of photographic records of such material that is not available with in the country.
- Acquisition and conservation of foreign material required by the country.
- Rendering of bibliographical and documents services of current and retrospective material, both general and specialised.
- Acting as a referral centre purveying full and accurate knowledge.

Vietnam corner opened in National Library

The National Library of India has opened a “**Vietnam Corner**” at the Bhasha Bhavan on 4 November, 2016. Mr. Tran Quang Tuyen, Minister, Vietnam Embassy in India inaugurated the Vietnam Corner. Dr Syed Tanveer Nasreen, Professor of History, Burdwan University was present as Guest of Honour. Mr. VoVan Thang, Director, Cham Museum, Shri Geetesh Sharma, President Vietnam Solidarity Committee and Smt. Kusum Jain, Secretary, Vietnam Solidarity Committee were also present on the occasion. A seminar on “**India-Vietnam Relations : Glorious Past Nurturing Golden Future**” was organised to commemorate the occasion. The programme was presided over by Dr. Arun Kumar Chakraborty, Director General, National Library.

Collection of Indian Official Documents at National Library

In India a good number of official documents are published every year by the Government of India, State Governments and Government organizations. National Library of India possesses a rich collection of such government documents since the 19th century.

The collection includes the documents published by the East India Company and the official documents of Burma, Ceylone etc.

At present Indian Official documents are collected from:

- Legislative bodies like Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha of parliament and legislative assemblies of state governments.
- Executive bodies like different ministries, departments both at central and state level, subordinate bodies, bureau, commission, directorate, division, office, autonomous bodies of central and state governments, government undertakings, local bodies etc.
- Judicial bodies like Supreme Court, High Courts and other lower courts of different States.

Library Success Story

Kali Kit Kot (KKK)

Library on Wheels or Kali Kit Kot (in Khasi), based in Shillong, started functioning in 2013 as a mobile library and bookshop by two friends, Avner Pariat and Joshua Rynjah who wanted to help children with disadvantage background (rural, impoverished, and orphaned) to gain more access to the wider world of knowledge and encourage critical engagement with the ideas found in the book, texts, etc. To achieve this objective, KKK started lending and donating books which were mostly gifted to them by friends and well-wishers. They also used to buy some second-hand books to augment their collection. These books were then taken to various locations for distribution to the children.

They first started this exercise with children from the SOS village and then proceeded to other orphanages like the one in Jaiaw as well. Story-reading to children formed an important part during such meetings. The target was generally

the age group of 7 to 19 and the selections were also sensitive to their needs. Though the aim was to promote mostly light reading, a lot of children also asked for technical manual and vocational materials as well, which were later procured and distributed. Since KKK had been operating independently it lacked any financial or material support. All activities were undertaken with personal contributions from among the members of the organization, donation from the friends and supporters, material help in the form of books. Ri Khasi Book Agency is one of the most ardent supporters of the cause and they have donated many books in the past and they will continue to do so in the future as well.

But the change came in February 2015, when KKK started its collaboration with SSA (SEMAM) on a pilot project basis. An extension of the mobile library initiative came about after discussions between the SPD (SSA SEMAM) and coordinators of KKK. The focus was on reaching out to rural children in the eight blocks that comprise the East Khasi Hills district. Altogether 16 schools in eight blocks were covered. And more than 2000 school students, ranging from class I to class V, were covered in the programme. The activities undertaken in the sites are as follows : book-lending, occasional reading sessions, instruction to teachers on how to run a library.

All through these programmes, KKK had always targeted children as the audience. On the 3rd October 2015, however, it "broke" form and launched a community library at Saiden, Ri Bhoi district, Meghalaya. It came about after the local heads of the village approached us to aid them. This was a 'first' for KKK because it had to conceive of a "space" which could accommodate both adults and children. After discussion with the headman and other members of the village a part of the community hall was agreed to be converted

into the library. More than 1000 books were donated to the library which KKK collected from various sources. After the library in Saiden, KKK has since established two more community libraries, viz., Mairang (6th August 2016) and Khliehumstem (5th September, 2016). As was the case with Saiden, the Sordar and the members of his executive body in these two villages decided to give some space in the community hall to be converted into a library. The libraries have been functioning since then and are being managed by the library committee constituted from among the community themselves.

Currently KKK is in the process of supplementing the collection by approaching various groups and individuals. In the future it is hoped that the network could grow to encompass the whole State of Meghalaya.

One of the principal objectives of Kali Kit Kot (KKK) is to build a community resource system through the library. It was with this objective in mind that it invited, Mr. Rohit Matthew George who is working in Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and Environment (ATREE), to help build a biodiversity database in the village of Saiden, Ri Bhoi. This database would be located in the community library established by KKK. Thus, a workshop was organized on the 12th October, 2016 in the Saiden Community Hall with the younger members of the village to teach them the skills of biodiversity documentation. More than 50 students took part in the workshop. Among other things, a very important concern for the youth is about their future career. Therefore on demand from the community Kali Kit Kot (KKK), with the help of Trained Psychotherapeutic Professionals of Meghalaya, helped conduct a workshop on the 2nd November, 2016 in Khliehumstem, Ri Bhoi, Meghalaya. All expenditure for the two programmes was borne by individual

contributions from the executive members of KKK. Apart from these two workshops KKK also helped in organizing Awareness programmes on Environment and Social Problems, in the villages.

Kali Kit Kot believes that the true empowerment of an individual or society comes with knowledge. To this end it will continue to work in the future as well.

[Comp. by Shri Shri Bhogtoram Mawroh, Shillong]

Trichur Public Library : A splendid history and promising future

A. Sankarayya, the famous Diwan of Cochin, with the help of a handful of youths of Thrissur started a reading room in 1873 in the St. Mary's college. It turned out to be a honeycomb for the readers.



The visitors of the reading room were provided with a

few journals and books. However, the services have been continued for six and a half decades in the same premises, growing gradually and feeling strongly the inconveniences of an old building.

It was in 1938, the Maharaja of Cochin embarked on the regal Thrissur Town Hall. As soon as it was completed, he ordered to shift the reading room to the facades of the Town Hall, the most beautiful edifice even today, situated in the middle of a 4 -acre square compound, one of the most important land marks of the town. The King generously contributed money and materials for the shifting.

Sri. C Achutha Menon, the visionary Chief Minister of Kerala granted more space for Trichur Public Library in the upper story of the building.

Feeling the pangs of growth, the entire frontal room of the Town Hall is today insufficient to house one of the oldest and biggest libraries of Kerala.

Trichur Public Library is the first of its kind in the State to cope with the changing times by fully computerizing it. Sri. K Karunarakaran, the former Chief Minister granted Rs. 5 lakhs from his M P fund to facilitate the computerization in the mid-nineties.

Thus the Library, born from the imagination of the Diwan, grew up to an adult centre of learning through the care and concern of the Maharajas and later on, of the Chief Ministers and Ministers. Thrissur Municipality had played a pivotal role in the healthy growth of this premier centre of learning. It used to provide special grants occasionally which was unfortunately stopped at a later stage. Trichur is acclaimed as the cultural capital of Kerala. This Library has contributed significantly to the intellectual and cultural development of the masses.

Services:

Memberships: There are five types of memberships: Life Membership, General Membership, Student Membership, Patron Membership and Life Membership.

Collection: The library has a collection of about 1,60,000 books including reference books, thaaliyola grandha (written on leafs), the first English-Malayalam Dictionary by Rev. Dr. Herman Gundert.

Other Services: Reference section, Mobile Library service, Magazine Circulation Library (to member's door step), Children section, Internet service, Photocopy Service etc.

Literary Programmes: The library organises monthly programmes like Student skill development named as CHARISMA, Book Release, Talks on different topics, Awareness programmes,



Poetry in motion programme for School / College Students, discussion on

Central/State Budget, Book Exhibitions in collaboration with organizations like NBT, Publishers, etc.

Managing Committee and Staff: The library is run by a Managing Committee with a staff strength of 10.

[Comp. by : Unnikrishnan V N, Librarian Incharge, Trichur Public Library, Thrissur, Kerala.]

World Library Review

Report presented to the Parliament for revamping of Public Libraries in England

Public Libraries in England are run by the Local Authorities and supported by the Department for Culture, Media & Sport (DCMS) as per provision of the Public Libraries and Museums Act 1964.

The 1964 Act places a duty on local authorities to provide a comprehensive and efficient library service. Public libraries are funded and run by local authorities and they remain best placed to assess the needs of their local communities and design library services to meet these needs, within the obligations of their statutory duty to deliver a comprehensive and efficient library service. The 1964 Act also places a duty on the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport to superintend and promote the improvement of the public library service provided by local authorities in England and to secure the proper discharge of the statutory duties on local authorities.

A Report was presented to the Parliament pursuant to the Public Libraries and Museums Act 1964 for revamping of Public Libraries in England.

Highlights of the report:

- The Government believes that public libraries are a valuable resource for all members of the public. They are an important part of every community; entertaining and educating, acting as meeting places and are an important source of information.
 - There is a strong library service in England, with the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy, annual library statistics indicate there are 3,036 libraries and the total net expenditure amounting £701 million invested by the local authorities in 2015/16.
 - Libraries are still popular with a large number of visits each year. In 2015/16 alone there were 177 million book loans and 211 million visits to libraries in England. This is more than the total attendance at the English Premier League football matches, cinema admissions in England and the top 10 UK tourist attractions combined.
 - The way people use libraries and their expectations of public services are changing. Councils have to make important decisions about resource allocation, to meet local needs and also legal requirements under the 1964 Act and these decisions should be based on robust evidence. However the Government would prefer to work with councils and support them to deliver strong library services for their communities.
 - Local authorities continue to invest in their library service and this has included the development of new libraries and the refurbishment of others across England to provide modern and updated services and facilities.
 - A number of local authorities continue to review the provision of their library service and it is essential that they are mindful of their duty to provide a comprehensive and efficient service. The Ambition document highlights a range of practical and innovative options, they can explore to maintain and transform library services, including the potential to consider other library delivery models such as, public service mutual and seek to ensure that library services are sustainable for the long term, before they decide to make significant changes to their library services.
 - In 2016, the Arts Council initiated a WiFi programme across libraries in England. WiFi has been installed in 99.3% of all static public libraries in England and these libraries are now providing a free, good quality Wifi services to the visitors. This ensures, libraries remain a vital and well-used service at the centre of the community for all members of the society.
- DCMS officials will monitor and keep under review local authority proposals to change their library service provision and provide advice to the Secretary of State accordingly.

The Libraries Taskforce, constituted by DCMS, published ***Libraries Deliver: Ambition for Public Libraries in England 2016 to 2021*** on 1 December 2016. The Taskforce will constantly monitor the Library Progress and will submit periodic progress reports to the Government.

Libraries, Development and the United Nations 2030 Agenda

The role of public library has been very well defined in the UNESCO Public Library Manifesto which has proclaimed the following:

1. Unesco's belief in the public library as a living force for education, culture and information, and as an essential agent for the fostering of peace and understanding between people and between nations ;
2. The public library is a practical demonstration of democracy's faith in universal education as continuing and lifelong process, in the appreciation of the achievement of humanity in knowledge and culture ;
3. The public library is the principal means whereby the record of man's thoughts and ideas and the expression of this creative imagination are made freely available to all ;
4. The public library is concerned with the refreshment of man's spirit by the provision of books for relaxation and pleasure, with assistance to the student and with provision of up-to-date technical, scientific and sociological information.

The United Nations 2030 ***Agenda for Sustainable Development*** is a framework of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with a total of 179 Targets spanning economic, environmental and

social development. They lay out a plan for all countries to get engaged actively in making our world better for its people, with no-one left behind.



Libraries are key institutions for achieving the Goals. Over the last few years, IFLA has been actively involved with the creation of the UN 2030 Agenda, advocating for the inclusion of access to information, safeguarding of cultural heritage, universal literacy, and access to information and communication technologies (ICT) in the framework.

In August 2015, after more than three years of negotiations, the Member States of the United Nations agreed to a final version of the post-2015 Development Agenda – now known as the 2030 Agenda. This Agenda was adopted by world leaders in September 2015 at a historic UN Summit.

On the UN 2030 Agenda, access to information has been recognised as a target under Sustainable Development Goal 16:

“Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.”

Target 16.10:

“Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements.”

Culture (target 11.4) and ICT (targets 5b, 9c, 17.8) have also been included in the SDGs.

“Half of the world’s population lacks access to information online. In our knowledge society, libraries provide access and opportunity for all and universal literacy is recognised in the vision for the UN 2030 Agenda.”

IFLA launched the International Advocacy Programme (IAP) in 2016

A new capacity-building programme is designed to promote and support the role libraries can play in the planning and implementation of the UN 2030 Agenda and the SDGs.

Objectives of the IAP :

- Raise the level of awareness on the SDGs of library workers at community, national and regional levels, and to promote the important role libraries can play in development by contributing to the UN 2030 Agenda and the SDGs;
- Increase the participation of library associations and public library representatives in advocacy work at national and regional levels to secure sustainable public access to information through library services and programmes.

[Source: <https://www.ifla.org/libraries-development>]

Digital Library Initiative

“Know How” National Knowledge Portal

India is one of the oldest civilizations in the world with a kaleidoscopic variety and rich cultural heritage. It is the 7th largest country in the world. ‘Know India Web Portal’ launched by the NIC as part of India.gov.in initiative contains valuable information on various subjects of national significance.

Culture and Heritage:

This section contains information on Indian History, Monuments, People and Lifestyle, Organisations engaged in Cultural Activities, link to World Heritage Sites, National Academies, Visual Arts and Literature, Mass Media, Performing Arts, Schemes, Scholarships and Fellowships.



Kids' Corner:

This section acts as a window for the kids and contains significant information related to various aspects of the country. The page aims at not only enlightening children about the history, culture, and nationalism of India, but also providing a

medium to indulge their inquisitive minds in something enriching.

General Information:

This section provides basic information about the past and present occupants of various important offices and positions, outstanding citizens who have been recognised for their bravery and achievements, general geographic information from rivers to highways, and basic amendments made in our Constitution.

Districts of India:

This section provides a one-stop source for all the information about districts of India at one place with links to village level mapping of demography and amenities maps to the GIS based system.

[Source :

<http://knowindia.gov.in/default.php>]

Centre launches e-guide for visitors at historical monuments

To help visitors get information about artefacts and sculptures, the Ministry of Culture and Tourism has arranged for an 'e-Guide' in historical monuments across the country. This means that those who earlier paid for an audio guide during their visits to monuments, will now be able to take a guided tour-free.

Culture Minister Mahesh Sharma launched a Mobile Application that visitors can use to gather information about the artefacts they come across. Sharma said the app. will change the visitors' experience.

Since many historical monuments have poor telecom reception, the audio-visual app. will work on Intranet. Visitors can connect their phones to

the Intranet and scan the QR code beside each artefact. "Once the users scan the QR code with their phone, they can get all the details,".

The Government of India is also consulting with States to ensure that an area up to 500 m from protected monuments is kept polythene-free. At present up to 300m from the boundary of a protected monument is marked as a polythene-free zone. The Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation are working together to use Intranet to help tract garbage in residential colonies.

The app. being developed will not use Internet, so it won't lead to huge data usage bills. A router placed at one end of a colony will create the local network (Intranet). Once a citizen in the Wi-Fi zone is connected to the Intranet, he will get a message, asking if he could see any garbage and then the citizen may click a photograph and send it to the garbage-monitoring system.

Contribution of Dr. S. R. Ranganathan to Public Library Movement

A Public Library is regarded as the "People's University", as it caters to all sections of the public with information and supports the individuals in their



12 August 1892 –27 September 1972

lifelong learning. Ranganathan was the first to introduce the Public Library system in India, as an integrated nation-wide network of public libraries giving free library and information services to all sectors of the citizens – literate or illiterate, rich or poor, rural or urban.

Ranganathan's modern concept of Public Library system was a socialist information system for the people, which can pool the total information resources of the nation and make it available to all citizens in an equal and unbiased way. Ranganathan introduced the concept of public library which is distinct from unitary libraries. This concept emphasizes the public library system at different levels - State, District, City; district along with lower service units should be so interlinked as to form part of a system.

Dr. Ranganathan played a significant role in the public library development. He visited England and keenly examined the functioning of the public libraries in that country. He was very much influenced by the British pattern and wanted that such a system should be developed in India. While returning from England in 1925, he was thinking about a library legislation for India without flaws as seen in UK legislation. He began to work ceaselessly for organizing a movement for library legislation. In 1930, a draft of Model Public Library Act was presented in library services section of the First All Asia Educational Conference held at Banaras. This Act was of compulsory nature as it was obligatory on the part of local bodies to levy library cess and on the government to give grants to public libraries. This Model Act is the seed out of which modern library legislation grew.

Even though Ranganathan was the prime mover of these acts, his ideas found full manifestation only in the case of Karnataka Library Act. He also prepared draft library bills for other states such as U. P., Gujarat, Kerala and Assam. But these were not taken up by the then respective governments. In addition to his efforts for adoption of library legislation at state level, Dr. Ranganathan wanted library legislation at all-India level. In 1950, he prepared a model library Bill which was published in his book "Library Development Plan : Thirty

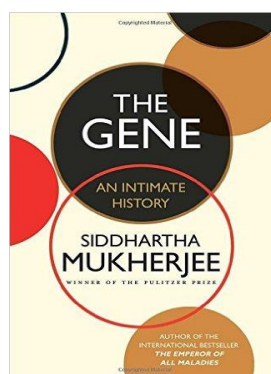
Year Programme for India with Draft Library Bills for Union and the States". He also prepared a 'Model Public Libraries Act' and published it as part of the book entitled 'Public Library System' in 1972. Incidentally, RRRLF was established in the same year.

S. R. Ranganathan has continuously advocated for a library and information system which would enable any poor or wealthy citizen to get any recorded information available anywhere in the nation or outside through the information service outlet maintained by the state near his home in the village or town. He has always stressed that the Government should give high priority to public library system legislation because it is the only system which would facilitate seamless, easy and free access to information.

[Comp. by: Dr. Shahina P. Ahsas, Assistant Editor, Central Reference Library, Kolkata]

Book Review

The Gene: An Intimate History by Siddhartha Mukherjee



Publisher: Scribner

Year: 2016

Pages: 592

ISBN: 978-1-4767-3350-0

The author has written a biography of the '*Gene*'. It is a magnificent history of the gene and a response to the defining question of the future: What becomes of being human when we learn to "read" and "write" our own genetic information? This is an epic, moving history of a scientific idea being brought to life.

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