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PATHWAYS TO HAPPINESS

Mankind longs to be happy & healthy, hence the importance of discussing this topic. Again when we are happy, our work output increases and we become more successful.

Let us start with Gratitude which is very powerful & important, as it makes us happy & also attracts abundance in our lives. To understand why this is so, it is essential to know that we get about 60 thousand thoughts in one day. We are constantly thinking. Most of these thoughts are either negative or habitual & repetitive.

Since thoughts have energy, immense energy, both our health & our circumstances depend on our thoughts. Every thought is a cause, every condition that we experience is an effect

Even if there is only one problem area in our lives, we keep thinking about it & focus all our attention & energy on it. This energises & magnifies the problem. If there is no immediate solution for the problem, we need to change our focus on what we have in our lives.

* It helps to count our blessings & thank everything we have.

We thank others several times a day. How often do we thank our Creator? Don't most of us take everything we have for granted? Pause & Ponder!

* We could keep a Gratitude Journal.

* The simplest way to rewire our brain or to train our brain to focus on the positive is by cultivating Gratitude.

**Success is not the key to Happiness,
Happiness is the key to Success.**

Change Your Thoughts to Change Your Destiny!

Twitter for Libraries (and Librarians)

For many people, the word "twitter" brings to mind birds rather than humans. But

information professionals know that Twitter (www.twitter.com) is a fast-growing, free messaging service for people, and it's one that libraries (and librarians) can make good use of—without spending much time or effort. Twitter lets people send and receive short messages (called Tweets) via the web or via SMS using a mobile phone.

Messages on Twitter are limited to a maximum of 140 characters, including spaces, and they're generally public. Because each message is just a sentence or two, a carefully crafted post can convey a good deal of information without taking a lot of time to read or write. In addition, because Twitter has millions of users, it's a good place to find and connect with people interested in your institution and your areas of expertise.

To automatically see what someone else is saying, you "follow" them. Those who regularly receive your posts are your "followers." You don't need to give each other permission to follow, and you can view Tweets without signing into Twitter, but you must sign in to follow someone.

For example, a library could share all kinds of news that patrons want. Short messages can tell people about events such as lectures, book sales or newly available resources.

Libraries on Twitter

Libraries of all kinds are already using Twitter to good effect. Public libraries such as Ada Library in Boise, Idaho (<http://twitter.com/adalib>), and the Cleveland Public Library (http://twitter.com/Cleveland_PL) use Twitter to point out highlights on their websites—everything from exhibit announcements to specific links. The Missouri River Regional Library (<http://twitter.com/mrrl>) posts information

about the value of libraries in lean economic times.

University libraries have a somewhat different focus. The Undergraduate Library at the University of Illinois–Urbana-Champaign (<http://twitter.com/askundergrad>), for example, lets students know about upcoming deadlines, service issues, etc. Twitter also gives special libraries a new opportunity to share information not just with their internal clients but also with people outside the institution who are interested in their topics.

The essence of Twitter is conversation. Libraries, however, tend to use it as a broadcast mechanism. Libraries on Twitter should encourage followers to interact with the library—ask questions & share links. Given the many potential uses of Twitter for libraries—not to mention the likelihood that your patrons are already on it—it’s a great medium to embrace. And at just a few sentences a day, the lightweight format doesn’t require much time to make a big impact.

As a service designed for exchanging information, Twitter holds great promise for libraries of all kinds, and your creativity will expand its utility.

Twittiquette for Institutions

Before you do anything else on Twitter, sign up for an account at Twitter.com (it takes just a few minutes), and then spend 5 or 10 minutes a day clicking around and learning how people use the service. Make it a point to follow at least a few interesting people and institutions.

Source | <http://www.infotoday.com/cilmag/may09/milstein.shtml>

Stressors and Librarians. How Mindfulness Can Help

Mindfulness has many definitions, but most of these focus on maintaining awareness in the present moment & treating ourselves and others with patience & kindness. Librarians seem to be naturally acquisitive and persistent (esp. when seeking information) and demonstrate a desire to help others. In fact, one recent review of the literature exploring why individuals pursue an MLIS determined, “The most influential factors were love of books & reading, nature of library work, interesting job & *desire to help people* .”

It was this emphasis on helping others that influenced us to write *The Mindful Librarian: Connecting the Practice of Mindfulness to Librarianship*. Throughout the text we drew upon what we felt were numerous natural connections between the practice of mindfulness and the everyday work of librarians.

We now felt that we needed to know more about how our colleagues perceived mindfulness and stress, something that was beyond the scope of our original text. As such, we launched a survey to determine how many librarians in general had been exposed to the concept of mindfulness or had participated in mindful practice, whether various libraries were engaging in specific practices related to mindfulness, and, since many proponents of mindfulness emphasize its ability to help manage stress, what were some of the major stressors affecting librarians in 2016.

Our brief survey, which investigated librarian awareness of mindful practice but especially targeted library stressors, was circulated among a wide variety of library listservs. One of the more common findings was that many libraries are now providing a space that can be used for meditation or even sponsoring mindfulness activities.

Conclusion and recommendations

The results of the survey have proven to bear out interesting points as we look forward to more studies and conversations about

librarians, librarian stressors, and mindfulness. RUSA's "Guidelines for Behavioral Performance of Reference and Information Service Providers" can be very readily connected to "mindful behavior," such as being in the moment with patrons. There are many simple and easy things, however, that we can all do right away. Taken from our text they are as follows:

☐ **"Just breathe."** This is the simplest and easiest thing we can do to get back in the present. It seems obvious, but we often do not take the time to just catch our breath.

☐ **"Consider mindfully doing chores."** It may seem silly, but instead of just blasting through things that "need to get done" there is value in paying closer attention and just accepting that we are doing them.

☐ **"Pay attention to your senses."** So often we ignore interesting or pleasant surroundings because we are wrapped in other thoughts.

☐ **"Don't over commit your time."** Easier said than done, right? Still, many times we do often say yes to a project or assignment when we know that we are already overwhelmed.

☐ **"Spend time in nature."** This goes along with paying attention to our surroundings, but we feel it should get its own bullet point.

☐ **"Be thankful."** Being thankful is a great practice for developing a more mindful state of being.

☐ **"Be aware of your thoughts."** With mindfulness it becomes especially important to be aware of negative thoughts and not beat ourselves up about the past or obsessively worry about the future.

☐ **"Choose to start your day."** Try to set aside a few moments to wake up and not rush into your daily routine. We know this is often easier said than done but do believe it can be helpful.⁴

☐ **"Commit to listening to those around you."** Steven Covey framed this by explaining that we should first seek to understand and only then to be understood. Remember, the important thing is to be kind and patient with yourself. If you can't do that then it can be hard to be present and caring with the other people you interact with and serve.

Source | <http://crln.acrl.org/content/77/11/534.full>

Why Universities Need Scholarly Communications Experts

Pamela Samuelson, President, Authors Alliance

Note: This article appeared in the [Chronicle of Higher Education](#) on December 11, 2016

Universities have long felt victimized by proprietary publishers who charge their libraries large sums of money for the journals, books, and other materials in which faculty research is regularly published. Why, university administrators often ask themselves, do we have to pay twice for this work: once when we pay faculty members' salaries, and then again when we pay for the journals and other publications in which their research appears?

In the last two decades, many administrators have come to realize that advances in communications technologies present opportunities for their institutions and faculty members to achieve their missions of producing and disseminating knowledge more effectively than ever before.

In an effort to take advantage of the opportunities of the digital age and reverse or at least mitigate the more troubling trends in scholarly publishing, some leading research universities, including the University of California at Berkeley, Duke and Harvard Universities, and the University of Toronto, have hired scholarly communications experts. They can help faculty members, students, and other researchers become more knowledgeable about managing their copyrights and publishing contracts, understanding what they can and can't do with the work of others, and complying with federal or grant mandates about enabling public access to research and data.

Scholarly communications officers and directors are generally located in research library offices, but their responsibilities include answering questions and offering guidance for the entire campus community.

Here are just some additional services they can provide:

Translate contract terms that faculty members don't understand and explain why publishers might ask for them.

- Provide advice about open access options and help faculty to decide whether those options might better achieve faculty goals for dissemination of their work.
- Help authors comply with grant obligations, especially now when government agencies and other funders often require public access to research conducted with their grants.
- Talk with professors about fair use issues. If a historian, for instance, wants to quote from a subject's letters or use photographs from the 1950s, a scholarly communications officer can point her to resources about copyright law's fair use doctrine.
- Make suggestions about how an author can clear necessary rights if the intended uses go beyond what fair use would reasonably allow.
- Help authors recapture, through rights reversions, faculty whose books may have been out of print or otherwise commercially inactive for decades. Authors Alliance, of which I am president, has published a [guide to rights reversions](#) and [templates for letters](#) to send to publishers to regain control of copyrights, but most faculty members don't know about these resources. Scholarly communications experts do.
- Advise graduate students about whether to agree to embargos of their dissertations & how to think carefully about the terms of any embargo. Today's scholarly work that is "born digital" has the potential to reach a global audience immediately, yet graduate students face insecurities about publication and job prospects. The scholarly communications office

can help them learn at the very outset of their scholarly careers about how to establish their academic reputations and maximize the impact of their scholarship.

Designation of a scholarly communications officer is not a silver bullet that will reverse the rising costs of scholarly journals or shrinking budgets for monographs and other resources. Nor can it ensure that scholarly communications will reach its full digital age potential. But experts in the field can build valuable connections between the researchers who consume and produce scholarly works and the librarians who are responsible for acquiring these works and making them accessible. And their universities are investing in a better future for scholarly communications.

Source | <http://www.authorsalliance.org/2016/12/20/why-universities-need-scholarly-communications-experts/>

Online Learning Grows by 50 per cent in India in 2016; Coursera Reveals this Year's Most Popular Courses

Tech, English Are Most Sought After Skills In India

Coursera, the largest provider of online courses from top universities, has revealed the list of the 'Most Popular Courses in India of 2016', based on an analysis of enrollments by Indian users in online courses in 2016. Coursera has a whopping 1.8 million learners from India out of 23 million registered learners globally, establishing the country as the second largest base of online learners after the US.

Over the past year, the country has witnessed an uptake of high quality, flexible, career-relevant online courses. The most popular courses of 2016 include a healthy mix of courses that teach skills for some of today's hottest technology careers as well as skills that are broadly useful for career and life.

"Considering, the crucial role played by the IT industry, employing over 13 million people in India, it's no surprise that 7 out of the top 10 online courses in India are technology-focused. Indians are vying for top jobs at startups and at the many multinational technology companies that continue to come to India to find talent. Most of our Indian learners see online courses as a way to stand out in a sea of qualified job applicants," said Nikhil Sinha, Chief Business Officer, Coursera.

"If a university's primary job is to augment and disseminate knowledge, it is platforms like Coursera that will be a key partner in bringing that knowledge to people at unprecedented scale. Indians have been early adopters of online education. Over the next few years, we predict that online courses and credentials will become extremely common and even requirements to be considered for job roles that need specific skills," he added.

Source | businessworld.in/article/Tech-English-Are-Most-Sought-After-Skills-In-India/20-12-2016-110081/

A New Digital Platform in India Wants to Provide Books to Every Child

With more than 800 languages spoken in the country, access to written stories in every native tongue is limited.

In the Northern India state of Himachal Pradesh, about 45 miles from the Dalai Lama's residence, lies a village called Suja, where Tibetan Children's Villages is located. While the school's library has enough books for teens in their native language, contemporary, entertaining material for younger readers is completely missing. "Books for primary grades have hardly been written in Tibetan," says Tenzin Dhargyal, a senior English teacher at TCV School.

Six months ago, Dhargyal discovered StoryWeaver, a digital storehouse of multilingual books for kids where users can read, write, translate, modify, and even download books. He fell in love with it. "It has so many relatable stories for children," he

says. Dhargyal requested Tibetan script be added to the platform, and in no time he had translated the first story and was using it with his students.

Suchana, a community group that focuses on education and health, is translating stories on StoryWeaver in Santali and Kora, two tribal languages that lack written stories. India has more than 800 spoken languages and dialects, many of which don't have their own script. UNESCO's [Global Education Monitoring Report](#) estimates that "40% of the global population does not access education in a language they understand," which can be especially detrimental to poor children, as their already limited educational opportunities become less available.

StoryWeaver is the brainchild of Pratham Books, an Indian publisher working with the aim of "putting a book in every child's hand." To address the critical shortage of reading material for children, Pratham Books has published affordable books for kids in 18 languages in the last 12 years. Suzanne Singh, chairperson at Pratham Books, says that StoryWeaver was born to extend its reach to all 300 million children in India. "We felt the need to be innovative and decided to pursue a digital strategy," she notes.

StoryWeaver has 2,500 books in 53 languages on its platform. "The ease of our embedded story creator and translator tool is something our users love," says Singh.

With its outreach partners, StoryWeaver has been able to influence children in underserved rural communities, where the digital infrastructure and connectivity can create a roadblock for reading and learning. Educators and storytellers are downloading stories and using them as wall projections, flash cards, reading comprehension modules, and activity books, as well as in local language apps and in Braille books.

In the last 14 months, the number of languages on StoryWeaver has doubled, and almost all new ones added have been at the

request of users. The organization is working with passionate Indian linguists to add languages that are at risk of dying out. "We hope we can play a small role in their preservation," Singh says.

Source | <http://www.takepart.com/article/2016/12/25/storyweaver>

LIBRARY 2 LAST

Vijender said the revival plan fructified thanks to Rs 3 crore fund granted last year by the then Lt Governor Najeeb Jung. "The fund would be utilised for restoration and digitisation of books, restoration of buildings. Meanwhile, we held festivals and event in December to popularise the library and bring the spotlight on the heritage landmark," she said.

"This library was the place where people congregated for cultural activities. When Gandhiji came here in 1948, he met cloth merchants at the Hardinge Library. And, so many memories are associated with this library.

As part of heritage fest, an international conference on Protecting, Conserving and Preserving Literary Heritage Collection was held from December 11-13 at the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts. "Around 300 participants and 23 speakers from all over the world participated in the conference, including from British Library and Germany," she said.

"India has so many libraries. We must try to project them as cultural and tourism landmarks," Vijender added.

The library, bearing a European design, has a dome on top, with ornate bordering. The old name -- Hardinge Library --embossed on one of its porches, has survived, besides a wrought-iron gate (Clark Gate) near it.

The oldest book in the library is A Relation of Some Years Travaille Beginning in 1626 by Thomas Hardy Esquire, published by Willaim Stansby and Jacob Bloome in 1634 "A consortium of heritage public libraries has also been set up with IGNCA as its nodal

agency. Besides, Hardinge Library, libraries at IGNCA and South Asian University (SAU) are also part of it, and we expect more to join it," she said.

Link | <http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/library-2-last/1/847013.html>

Balbharati to Use Organic Waste to Print Textbooks

Paper made from wheat and sugarcane by products will now be used for printing Balbharati textbooks. The Maharashtra State Bureau of Textbook Production, popularly known as Balbharati, has decided to use paper made out of agricultural waste products to print over 10 crore state school textbooks from the 2017-18 academic year.

Balbharati has decided to use agricultural waste-based pulp to make paper for printing textbooks. Sunil Magar, director of Balbharati, said, "We have issued an all-India tender to procure paper made out of agro waste."

Magar said the bureau requires 30,000 tones of paper per year to print the textbooks. "We will be using paper made out of agricultural byproducts like wheat and sugarcane waste from the next academic year itself," he added. Currently, Balbharati prints books in eight languages--Marathi, English, Hindi, Urdu, Kannada, Telugu, Sindhi and Gujarati. This will prevent the huge damage done to the environment.

Source | [Times of India](#) | 3 January 2017

TABLETS TAKE OVER TEXTBOOKS!

Many Mumbai schools are going digital, with teachers and students becoming tech-savvy in the classroom

"Videos and Presentation helps Kids Grasp Concept, Especially Science and Math, From the First lesson itself, Students remember and process information faster and more effectively".

Source | [Times of India](#) | 3 January 2017

Follow Four Simple Principles to Make a Difference, Premji Tells Employees

In his New Year message to employees, Wipro Chairman Azim Premji has asked them to follow four simple principles ranging from finding a common ground to solve issues to being committed to values.

Premji, one of the leading philanthropists in the country, said the success of the company will help make a difference to some of the most disadvantaged people in the world. He pointed out that almost 40 per cent of the company is owned by a philanthropic trust, which is completely focussed on trying to contribute to developing a better world. Hence, the more successful Wipro becomes, the more the disadvantaged will benefit.

The four principles that, he said, should help guide them are:

Finding common ground: We must find common ground, rather than focussing on conflicts. The reality of the world is that there will always be disagreement and differences between people, but finding common ground is the only way of moving forward.

Concern for others: We must have a genuine concern for others. We must respect all human beings equally and we must have the same respect for nature. This respect must manifest in action.

Connectedness: We must recognise that societies, economies, and the environment are all deeply connected. Individual human beings and peoples find meaning in this connectedness, not in separation and isolation. Our problems and solutions are deeply connected. So every effort of ours to find solutions and to find meaning must strengthen this connectedness.

Commitment to values: The bedrock of everything must be an unflinching commitment to Values, at the core of which is Integrity. Integrity is certainly about honesty and honouring commitments, but it is more

than that. It is about having the courage to persevere for what is right and what is good.

Premji, hailed by the *Time* magazine in 2011 as among the 100 most influential people, said during his recent visit to Sirohi in Rajasthan he happened to watch the assembly proceedings of a school and during that time, one of the young girls asked him what was it that he has done that makes him feel really happy and fulfilled.

The question, Premji said, provided greater clarity and insight for himself. "The greatest fulfilment is in knowing that the work that we are doing at the Foundation has some role in shaping confident, thinking, caring and ethical human beings like her."

Source | [Business Line](#) | 3 January 2017

Thirst for Knowledge

There is no limit to learning online; the Internet is full of information—all one needs is a thirst for knowledge

He hasn't been to high school, yet he's been a research guide for several Ph.D. scholars over the years. He is a grandfather but his agility is remarkable. He has been a calligrapher, historian, photographer, author, traveller, tourist guide and weaver; and now he's also a digital salesman, social media practitioner and website manager.

I remember my first meeting with Muzaffar Ansari aka Kalle Bhai. I remember being surprised by how well-versed he was in Urdu. Kalle Bhai turned out to be a great motivator for us to understand the culture, tradition, people and problems of Chanderi and that eventually led us to start a project called Chanderiyaan in the town.

Besides narrating folklore, Kalle Bhai also spoke to us about problems of Chanderi, and one of them was the lack of a railway station. This remains a problem even today. With no railway station, Chanderi rarely figures on the itinerary of tourists. People who travel to Madhya Pradesh visit Khajuraho, Jhansi,

Ujjain, Gwalior and other places but hardly ever head to Chanderi, even though there are about 350 monuments in a 5km radius of the town.

At home, Kalle Bhai has a rich collection of historic and ancient stones, coins, papers and utensils of various eras. And he can identify each one of the coins, and tell you to which period they belong. In Chanderi, he can take you to historic places not known to many and he has filed several papers on the unknown history of Chanderi and various possible excavation sites. He's like a walking-talking encyclopedia on Chanderi.

To help him get published again, we took along two interns from the manuscript division of the National Museum, New Delhi, which hosts a post graduate program under Delhi University, to Chanderi for a month. Every morning, Kalle Bhai and the interns would set off on his motorcycle and travel around the town, photographing its many monuments. In the evening, they would return and Kalle Bhai would dictate the history of each of the places they visited during the day. The result of this month-long exercise was a 200-page coffee table book called *Chanderi: History, Heritage, Culture*.

Over time, Kalle Bhai and I have become good friends. When we started our project in Chanderi, he taught us history and we taught him technology; it was an unstated pact between us. Gradually, he has learnt to operate a computer and camera on his own. Today, he looks after the website for Chanderiyaan, photographs the monuments for his books, takes orders for weavers on WhatsApp, manages social media pages and even doubles up as a tourist guide for visitors. He can speak Urdu, Hindi, Arabic, English and a little French and can write in Gujarati, Bengali, Brahmi and Kharosthi. All this, despite having studied only till Class VI.

It is this thirst for knowledge that has encouraged him to build a brand for Chanderi tourism, learn how to set up a wireless network, manage an e-commerce portal,

handle social media platforms and even design/weave with the local weavers.

Osama Manzar is founder-director of Digital Empowerment Foundation and chair of Manthan and mBillionth awards. He is member, advisory board, at Alliance for Affordable Internet and has co-authored NetCh@kra—15 Years of Internet in India and Internet Economy of India.

Source | Mint – The Wall Street Journal | 4 January 2017

Information literacy a Human Right: Researcher

So much information! But how do students discern what they need to know, and what a reliable source is? Two Massey education researchers have been awarded nearly half a million dollars to lead a project that aims to help secondary school and tertiary students learn to make the best use of digital information.

The Teaching and Learning Research Initiative-funded project is led by Professor Lisa Emerson, Director of Teaching and Learning for the College of Humanities and Social Sciences, along with Mr Ken Kilpin (Institute of Education). The three-year project, titled Transforming information literacy space(s) to support student learning is one of six funded by the Teacher Leadership for School Improvement (TLSI) programme this year.

Professor Emerson, will help led a team of researchers from five tertiary institutions and nine secondary schools, and says information literacy is fundamental human right to personal development, prosperity and freedom in the modern era. "We need to ensure our young people have the skills and insights to intelligently navigate the increasingly complex, and constantly evolving digital information space and to be able to sort and assess its quality and validity - for work, education, health and to be active citizens."

She says very little is known about how information literacy is taught across

secondary and tertiary sectors in New Zealand. Over the next three years, the project will focus on developing partnerships with teachers and librarians in schools and tertiary institutions to integrate information literacy into the curriculum and to develop resources.

Information literacy is, she says, "the ability to identify information needs, locate and critique information, and then use it in a way that suits your needs. It has been identified by education leaders both nationally and internationally as essential to student achievement."

Quoting from the Alexandria Proclamation on Information Literacy and Lifelong Learning (released at a World Summit on the Information Society in 2005 in Alexandria, Egypt - the location of one of the world's greatest libraries founded in 332 BC), she says information literacy is "one of the beacons of the information society, illuminating the courses to development, prosperity and freedom."

Information literacy empowers people in all walks of life to seek, evaluate, use and create information effectively to achieve their personal, social, occupational and educational goals. It is a basic human right in a digital world and promotes social inclusion in all nations." Professor Emerson says that in the past, information literacy "has been seen as the domain of the library and has been narrowly described as information searching."

In line with current scholarship her team is taking a broader approach, "involving the processes, strategies, skills, competencies, expertise and ways of thinking which enable individuals to engage with information to learn across a range of platforms, transform the known, and discover the unknown.

"Using this definition, Information Literacy becomes the responsibility of teachers and librarians working together to improve student learning."

Professor Lisa Emerson's career has been characterised by her interest in and commitment to teaching. Her research on pedagogy includes work on literacy in students transitioning from the secondary school to the tertiary sectors. Her investigations into the development of scientific writers have been described as a significant bridge between the sciences and the humanities. She is a senior fellow of the Higher Education Academy in Britain, a Fulbright Senior Scholar (2013)

Mr Ken Kilpin comes to this research project via a 35-year career in education initially in the secondary school sector and then in adult education as a pre-service secondary teacher educator.

Link | <http://www.voxy.co.nz/national/5/272395>

On the Map; New Mapping Function to Help Find Items @ Library Mapping

Austin Public Library has a new tool to help patrons find their books and other items to check out.

Earlier this month, the library debuted a program through Stack Map where library patrons can look up items on the SELCO and Austin Public Library sites and generate a map to their location.

"So for people who don't know the Dewey Decimal System or aren't really sure where some of these smaller collections in the library are, it will actually show you physically in the library where it is, and you can even print it off from home," Technology Librarian Jake Fejedelem said.

Austin is the first SELCO library to use the system after the idea came up at a tech team meeting. Stack Map takes a floor plan of the library and all the shelving and the library then plots all the call numbers for books and movies to the map. When people log in at the library or at home, they simply hit the "Map It" button and then get a printable map that

shows where the item is located. Though it will take a bit for people to learn about and get used to the program, Fejedelem said it will help answer one of the most commonly asked questions at the library: Where is this item?

Source | <http://www.austindailyherald.com/2016/12/on-the-map-new-mapping-function-to-help-find-items/>

Nashik Gets its First 'Talking Library'

NASHIK: Four days after International [Braille](#) Day, celebrated on January 4, the [visually challenged](#) people in the city received a 'Talking [Library](#)' as a gift on Sunday. Om Sai Welfare Association for the [Blind](#) and Disabled, a non-governmental organisation for visually challenged people, has started the first ever library of talking books at their Nashik Road office. The library was inaugurated by DCP (Crime) Dattatreya Karale.

"The library has three types of services, books based on digital accessible information system (DAISY), books recorded in MP3 format and e-books that can be read with the talk-back software," said president of the organization, Vikas Shejwal.

The books recorded in MP3 format will be accessible for the people even on their cellphones and MP3 players. "It's going to be a free service for visually challenged people. We have recorded textbooks from Std X to different post-graduate courses in MP3 format. Books for competitive examinations like MPSC, UPSC and banking are also available, in Marathi, English and Hindi," Shejwal said.

The library will also host an 'on-demand' recording facility for blind students. "We have trained volunteers who will record the books on demand for academicians and researchers. We will maintain a digital record of these books to make them available for free," Shejwal said. The digital books are also beneficial for people who have impaired vision, dyslexia and other issues.

Source | [Times of India](#) | 10 January 2016

Govt Plans Push to Improve Quality of Learning in Schools The Programme Will Focus on Making Classrooms in all Government Schools Digital

The Maharashtra education department is set to accelerate efforts to implement its initiative to improve education quality in Maharashtra over the next two months. Renaming the programme as 'Jalad Pragat Shaikshanik Maharashtra' (Fast-paced Progressive Education Programme), the department will take swift efforts to turn all the classrooms digital. This would also help to discourage students from dropping out of school and to ensure that children out of school are absorbed into the formal schooling system.

"Chief minister Devendra Fadnavis had given us targets to bring down the drop-out rate in secondary section. Despite our efforts we were unable to meet them," said Nand Kumar, principal secretary of the department, in a government resolution issued recently.

Under this programme, the main focus will be to make digital classrooms in all government schools. This means that each child must have at least one tab; interactive boards set up inside each class, equip them with android sticks, projectors and other devices that will help in engaging their attention.

"Going digital doesn't mean teaching only through projectors or interactive boards in class. It means changing the teaching learning experience in schools so that they can prepare students to become 21st century learners," said Kumar. The department has already turned 25,000 schools in Maharashtra digital in the last year.

Teachers would be trained to become tech-savvy and develop online educational content which would be more appealing to the students, claimed sources. WhatsApp groups will be formed to promote exchange of ideas. Training on effective leadership and management will be imparted to teachers to

transform them into better planners and visionaries, added Kumar.

Source | Hindustan Times | 10 January 2017

First Braille Library Opens in Guwahati With 200 Books

Guwahati, Jan. 4: Assam got its first braille library for the visually impaired on the Guwahati Blind High School campus here today. January 4 is marked as World Braille Day to commemorate the birth anniversary of Louis Braille, the inventor of the braille code.

The library, set up by Amway Opportunity Foundation (AOF)'s corporate social responsibility wing in partnership with the school, will offer braille versions of books and journals to around 100 visually impaired students and former students of the school.

"We started off with around 200 books, including a few educational magazines and all the text books of courses. Our aim is to have at least 500 books by the end of this year," Bhaben Burman, principal of the school, told **The Telegraph** during the inauguration of the library. "AOF has also provided us with a librarian and has promised to give Rs 6,000 every month to run it. Now the students can enhance their knowledge," Burman said. The school has a campus of 20 *bighas* and 75 students.

G.S. Cheema, senior vice-president (north and east) of Amway India, said the company aims to open 31 braille libraries in India over the next few months. "At least four of these will be in the Northeast. We will be setting up one at Bethani Society in Shillong while we are trying to partner with other NGOs to establish one in Mizoram and another in Tripura," Cheema said.

Source | https://www.telegraphindia.com/1170105/jsp/northeast/story_128597.jsp#.WG3UEsk1SAV

Hidden Figures: Librarians

A librarian explains why grad students should consult her colleagues more often.

In my humble opinion, librarians are one of the most underutilized resources on college/university campuses. I know this from experience. As a graduate student, I only consulted librarians when I was in a bind or hit a brick wall... hard. I would have been spared a lot of headache and heartache early on in my graduate program if I had simply asked for the help I needed. Instead of seeking assistance from a trained information professional, I stubbornly spent countless hours searching for articles when it should have only taken me 20 minutes.

When I finally broke down and asked for guidance, the librarian was super helpful and showed me how to effectively (and efficiently) conduct searches. At the time, I did not recognize that there was a science (or method) to searching, but now I know better.

At the University of Virginia where I work, there are over 200+ library staff located across the grounds with expertise in a variety of areas. For example, there are subject liaisons who are experts in English, music, physics, etc. There are also those who specialize in virtual reality, 3D printing, learning technologies, research and data services, rare materials, teaching and learning and so much more!

Becoming acquainted with your college/university librarians is not simply a nicety. Instead, it is a necessity—especially if you would like to maintain your sanity and boost your scholarship. If you ever need help managing 200+ references for your thesis (FYI: many libraries offer citation management workshops!), identifying keywords that will lead to informational goldmines, or would like to utilize materials that are not currently housed at your institution, librarians know how to address these issues and more. It is in your very best interest to become acquainted with a librarian (or some librarians) at your institution and here's why:

Librarians 101: How to Effectively Utilize These Hidden Figures

1. **I don't mean to brag, but librarians are smart... really smart.** However, if we do not know an answer, it is not the end of the world. 99.9% of the time, we know (or can find) someone who does. Plus, we are super savvy at searching, organizing, and accessing information. If you are feeling overwhelmed about how to [organize](#) your data, need advice on citation managers, etc., ask a librarian. You'll be glad you did.

2. **Librarians have intimate knowledge of services and resources** our library/libraries offer. Instead of trying to figure out every service/[resource](#) that is available at your college/university library, schedule an appointment to speak with a librarian or take part in a library orientation. We can familiarize you with materials and collections that are relevant to your work and/or personal as well as professional interests.

At the University of Virginia, users can reach librarians via [telephone, chat, text message, email, and in-person](#). If you would like help from a subject expert librarian (e.g. education, English, math, etc.), look on your library's homepage for the library directory or for a list of subject specialist (or liaisons) and go from there. That said, it never hurts to go to your campus library and speak with someone at the front desk. He/she will direct you on where to go from there. If you cannot (or prefer not) to physically visit your library, calling the main line and/or sending an email is a lovely way to start!

3. **Librarians are here to serve you.** However, you don't pay us a penny for our help. (Well, maybe through your tuition...) Ask us for help for as long or as little as you like. This is our JOB.

4. **Librarians can point you to prime real estate within the library** (e.g. special collections, [study spaces](#), technological equipment, etc.) and explain [borrowing privileges](#). If you are a first-year student (or an

advanced one), you may be unaware of the precious gems found in your very own academic library.

5. **Librarians are not your peers or professors. We are neutral professionals.** As such, we will not hold it against you if you request assistance at the very last minute. (Though it is in your best interest to seek assistance as soon as possible so we can ensure that you receive the resources/help you need in a timely manner.) Again, we are here to serve you.

I can say with 100% confidence that developing relationships with one or more librarians at your educational institution can serve you well now, throughout your graduate school career, and beyond.

Source | <https://www.insidehighered.com/>

Do More With YouTube

Now a day's YouTube can be one of the best resource in the library!!!!

Source | [Economic Times | 18 January 2017](#)

Speech Difficulties? IIT-Bombay App Helps you Communicate

An icon of an orange juice matched with a happy face means "I like orange juice" Likewise, one with a sad face means "I don't like orange juice". This is how people with speech difficulties can now communicate using images via a free app developed by the Industrial Design Centre (IDC) of the Indian Institute of Technology – Bombay (IIT-B).

The app, called Jellow Communicator, can be used by children with cerebral palsy, autism spectrum disorder, Down syndrome and brain injury, and adults who have lost their speech to a stroke.

The idea to develop such an app originated in 2004 for children with cerebral palsy. "Children with cerebral palsy have speech problems, and that affects their ability to communicate and this blocks all channels of learning. It affects social, cognitive and motor development," said Sudha Srinivasan, post-doctoral fellow, IDC, and paediatric speech

therapist, who provided clinical content for the app.

Over the last two years, an interdisciplinary team of therapists, graphic designers, software programmers and animators at the IDC School of Design worked on developing the app. Around 8,200 lines of pre-programmed vocabulary each in English and Hindi enables users to communicate what they'd like to eat for breakfast – from eggs and bread to upma and dosa – or learn about animals and birds through the Google text-to-speech converter app available on playstore. A keyboard feature in the app enables the app to speak out custom-typed sentences. The content, icons and accent of the app are developed bearing in mind the socio-cultural context of India.

The app can also be used by children who are learning to speak to communicate daily activities such as brushing, going to the toilet and bathing. "Toddlers now are interested in mobiles. So when they explore the app, seeing the images and hearing the sounds associated with it will help them improve their vocabulary," said Srinivasan.

The team is now collecting data to document the app's effectiveness, improve it based on user feedback. Next, the vocabulary will be available in Bengali and Marathi. "We are waiting for Google text-to-speech engines to be available in other languages to translate the pre-programme vocabulary," said Srinivasan.

Source | Hindustan Times | 17 January 2017

Changing Role of Libraries

A new survey of approximately 1,000 participants sponsored by McGraw-Hill Education indicates the librarian-faculty relationship is strong. However, a disconnect exists between what faculty perceives is the role of a library and what usage statistics from libraries show. This discrepancy in perceived value and actual usage is the real issue: There is misalignment in what makes libraries most

useful, and therefore misalignment in how their success should be measured and how budgets should be allocated.

Link to Download
<https://learn.mheducation.com/rs/303-FKF702/images/The%20Changing%20Role%20of%20Libraries.pdf>

State's Classrooms to go Digital

The State government plans to make all government school classrooms digital by March 2017. The classrooms will be equipped with 32-inch television monitors, which will be connected to a Miracast device or Android computer stick, and used as interactive boards.

Last year, the State government launched the digital initiative in a few schools, but decided to extend it to every classroom as it would cost only between Rs. 75,000 and Rs. 1 lakh per school.

In a government resolution, principal education secretary Nand Kumar gave a cost breakdown of the project: TV set (Rs. 12,000), Miracast device (Rs. 1,500), Android computer stick or tablet (Rs. 20,000). Schools could also replace the tablet with mobiles phones, the government order said.

A projector would cost around Rs. 15,000 and any surface could be turned into an interactive board. Schools facing electricity problems could also turn to solar-powered batteries, which would cost Rs. 15,000. All government schools have been asked to set up smart classrooms by March.

The initiative is part of the Fast Forward Maharashtra Educational programme being implemented by the State to promote digital technology and alternative teaching methods to help children learn concepts quickly. The decision to introduce the programme was taken by Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis in December after he found more than 50 per cent of primary schools were lagging behind in going digital. All teachers have been asked to visit digital schools in their areas to pick up necessary skills.

Tech-savvy teachers

So far, 25,000 schools have been upgraded as part of the digital school movement. Schools have been asked to seek the help of 48, 611 teachers in the State, who have declared themselves as tech savvy. Teachers have been told to get tech-friendly in the next two months and to use mobiles, which are more developed than the super computers that were used to launch the Chandrayaan in 1961.

Teachers are being taught to make use of technology in a big way in classrooms to augment classroom teaching and help assess children. The State also seeks to keep tabs on the progress of students using educational platforms. Technology would also be used to reduce the number of dropouts in government schools.

Source | [The Hindu](#) | 18 January 2017

ALA, Google to Train Future Librarians to Code

Libraries often act as tech-enabled hubs that play a central role in making sure students have access to tools and resources that support learning. And soon, librarians will be assisting schools in implementing programs that teach computer science (CS) and computational thinking (CT). The [American Library Association](#) (ALA), the largest association of libraries in the world, and [Google K-12 Education Outreach](#) have launched the next phase of a program that trains university faculty members to teach future librarians on how to implement high-quality CS programs at public and school libraries.

The [Ready to Code 2](#) (RtC2) program will select seven individuals from Library and Information Services (LIS) faculty that will redesign their technology and media courses based on RtC2 concepts and priority areas. "The resulting curricula will challenge future librarians working with children and teens to

develop requisite teaching skills and pedagogical expertise to engage with children and teens through programs and experiences that foster computational thinking," according to [a call for applicants](#).

Access Point
| <https://campustechnology.com/articles/2017/01/17/ala-google-to-train-future-librarians-to-code.aspx?admgarea=news>

Centre Intelligence Agency Library@ You can now access 13 million pages of top-secret CIA documents online. CREST: 25-Year Program Archive

The documents include Henry Kissinger's papers, CIA scientific research records, intelligence reports and more.

Millions of top-secret CIA documents have been posted online, making them accessible to the public in an unprecedented move. The now declassified documents are a part of the agency's Crest database, otherwise known as the [CIA Records Search Tool](#). Nearly 13 million [pages of classified](#) "historically valuable" CIA records, covering a wide variety of issues and events are now available online.

Link to Access the Database
| <https://www.cia.gov/library/readingroom/collection/crest-25-year-program-archive>

Learning Outcomes at Elementary Stage @ HRD Draft Document

Union Minister also reiterated government's commitment for improving the 'Quality' of Education. He said that in this direction Ministry of HRD will be codifying the learning outcome to set assessment standards for abilities with regards to comprehension, mathematics, language etc. and thus ensuring that "all children acquire at least the minimum levels of learning" from Class I to Class VIII under Right to Education Act, 2009.

Learning Outcomes are assessment standards indicating the expected levels of learning that children should achieve for that class. These outcomes can be used as check points to assess learning at different points of time. The learning outcomes would help teachers to understand the learning levels of children in their respective classes individually as well as collectively. Learning outcomes should be the point of reference for conducting achievement surveys. Hence it is necessary that the defined Learning Outcomes are also shared with parents and community at large. Ministry of HRD has uploaded **draft document** on its website in this regard to invite comments and suggestions through email address given. (feedback.lo@ciet.nic.in)

Draft Document Link
| http://mhrd.gov.in/sites/upload_files/mhrd/files/Learning_outcomes.pdf
Source | <http://mhrd.gov.in>

Bookworms Turning to Audiobooks

Audiobooks have witnessed to boom in this digital, multitasking age and account for 10 per cent of total print version sales.

Source | [Financial Chronicle](#) | 19 Jan. 2017

Virtual Medical Lectures, Telecast of Surgeries for Students Soon

Source | [Times of India](#) | 19 January 2017

Coming soon: First-of-its-kind Indian sign language dictionary

Over 6,000 Words have been Compiled in Languages Specific to Indian Context.

THE TERM 'hearing and speech impaired' is a pejorative for Sachin Singh. "I am deaf and I have my own language. From where I stand, those who cannot understand my language suffer an impairment," he gesticulates, as his interpreter Kushboo Soni spells it out through the spoken word.

Kushboo, who is proficient in the language of her deaf parents, and Sachin are part of a

dozen-member team that is currently working on a central government project for documenting the first-of-its-kind Indian Sign Language (ISL) dictionary, which is expected to be released in March. Under the ambitious project, commissioned by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, so far over 6,000 English and Hindi words — of everyday usage, legal, medical, Link | <http://pralhad-fyilibrarian.blogspot.in/2017/01/coming-soon-first-of-its-kind-indian.html>

Grappling with Fake News on Digital

It would not be incorrect to say that the internet is fast, uncontrollable and rapidly becoming dangerous. I don't mean to scare you here, but look around you. Post something on Twitter and it is picked up in a matter of seconds by those following you. They, in turn, share it on their feed. And bingo! The news is no longer restricted to a small group of people. Everybody who is remotely interested in you will know. Needless to say, the good, bad and at times downright ugly (news) will also spread. And so will the bane of fake news, basically false stories that have no basis at all.

I have a few suggestions to make for brand managers grappling with fake news:

- ☑ Track your brand keywords 24 by 7
- ☑ Respond quickly and promptly
- ☑ Identify the right spokesperson
- ☑ Communicate Clearly
- ☑ Use all channels of communication

Access Link | <http://pralhad-fyilibrarian.blogspot.in/2017/01/grappling-with-fake-news-on-digital.html>

Paris has a University with no Teachers, Syllabi or Fees

Night is the best time to catch the action at France's École 42 experimental university that has no teachers, syllabi, entrance requirements or even fees. Rush hour is 2 or 3am, says Xavier Niel, the French telecom

billionaire who set it up in north Paris three years ago. "We're open 24 hours--the French president was here taking selfies at midnight."

In 2013, Niel, who learned to code at 16 on a Sinclair ZX81 and dropped out of school to work on Minitel phone-connected monitors, declared the education system didn't work and decided to reinvent it by funding an ambitious merit-based coding school. He chose to name it École 42 after an answer in The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy. And it did so well that in autumn of 2016 he opened a second branch in Fremont, California.

Although prior degrees are not required, admission is based on merit. "We have 80,000 applicants a year who play an online game, and 25,000 finish, " Neil explains. "We take the 3,000 best and ask them to come to the school for a month-that's 450 hours of 15-hour days, including Saturday and Sunday. After five or six days, a third of them leave. And then we take the 1,000 best."

Access Link @ [Paris has a university with no teachers, syllabi or fees](#)

'Books will Prevail in the Face of Technology'

Ample conversation and insight summed up the fourth day of the Jaipur Literature Festival. In conversation with journalist and author Manu Joseph, Richard Flanagan revealed that not everyone enjoyed his Booker Prize winning novel — *The Narrow Road to the Deep North*.

"But everything in the book is deeply considered." Mr. Flanagan was convinced that books would prevail as a form of entertainment and insight, even in the face of technologically sophisticated media.

Access Link | <http://pralhad-fyibrarian.blogspot.in/2017/01/books-will-prevail-in-face-of-technology.html>

Now, Students can Outsource their Homework to an App

Students across the world will be thrilled to hear that they can now outsource their homework to an app. Socratic, which is available for free on the App Store, is designed to tackle a range of subject matter, but has just been updated with enhanced mathematical capabilities.

Students need only feed a picture of a question -printed or handwritten -to the app, which will then proceed to work it out.

Link | <http://pralhad-fyibrarian.blogspot.in/2017/01/now-students-can-outsource-their.html>

The Reading Life

Finally, the point of a life built on reading. As you trek back down the centuries, returning to myth and legend, to stories told by people gone for hundreds of years who had the same fears and hopes as you, who hoped that their future, the world you inhabit, would be a kinder and happier place, you understand that there will never be an end to the exploring.

That is the pleasure and the challenge of it — a reader's life has no full stop.

Link | <http://pralhad-fyibrarian.blogspot.in/2017/01/the-reading-life.html>

Information for this issue has been provided by Mr. Pralhad Jadhav, Senior Librarian, Khaitan & Co. Mumbai