

ADINET e-News Digest

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Task force set up for new education policy

Government has set up a task force to monitor the consultation process in drafting the new education policy.

The body would comprise secretaries of HRD Ministry, representatives of various ministries and heads of education bodies such as UGC, AICTE and NCERT, officials in the Ministry said.

The consultation process was launched on January 26 this year with the public being asked to participate in the process on the website <http://www.Mygov.In>.

Suggestions are invited on 33 themes identified for discussions.

The National Policy on Education was framed in 1986 and modified in 1992. Since then, several changes have taken place that has seen calls for a revision of the policy.

HRD Minister Smriti Irani had earlier said that the consultation process would be exhaustive in nature and, unlike previous years, when only a few officials were involved, all stakeholders, starting from children and parents from village to block level, would be involved in the exercise.

The setting up of the task force comes ahead of a crucial meeting of the HRD Ministry with the state education ministers and secretaries here on Saturday.

Source | Business Standard | 20 March 2015

UGC Notification: B.L.I.Sc. and M.L.I.Sc. Should be Restructured / Changed to B. Lib. I. Sc. and M. Lib. I. Sc.

In University Grants Commission (UGC), Specification of Degrees, New Delhi March, 2014, Published in the Gazette of India, New Delhi, Saturday, July 5 - July 11, 2014, the UGC asked the Universities and Institutes to restructured / changed the B.L.I.Sc. to B. Lib. I. Sc. and M.L.I.Sc. to M. Lib. I. Sc. Again both the B. Lib. I. Sc and M. Lib. I. Sc should be of one year programme. As per UGC, the University / Institute can also offer B.Lib.Sc. and M.Lib.Sc. of one year duration.

This Gazette notification clearly pushing us to go backward. Here are some of my personal observation regarding this: -

1. A one year M.Lib.I.Sc. degree holder will not be in a position to equate themselves to the general master degree holders in others subjects as there will be a gap of one year in comparison to other's two years master degree programme. Even the master degree holders in other subject, will treat our subject as an inferior to their subject and there will be a sound logic behind this. It happened when we used to have one year B.Lib.I.Sc. and one year M.Lib.I.Sc in the

past and was the logic behind now two years M.Lib.I.Sc. programme.

2. If any university will introduce two years M.Lib.I.Sc degree then the entry qualification should be one year B.Lib.I.Sc. degree. So, in such cases, the students should have to undergo three years programme to complete the M.Lib.I.Sc degree. If it is the case why we cannot have three years B.Lib.I.Sc and two years M.Lib.I.Sc. degree programme. It will make the whole programme at par with other subject.
3. Some universities and institutions are not offering hostel facilities to the students who are enrolling for a single year programme. So, both the B.Lib.I.Sc. and M.Lib.I.Sc. degree aspirants will not be able to apply for the hostel facilities.

There are obviously other issues that will negatively influence the subject.

Source | <http://goo.gl/V93DvW>

5 ways to stay happy at work

Around 24% of employees globally were disengaged at work, according to a Gallop study in 2013, indicating they were unhappy and unproductive. Considering employees deal with crushing lows and ecstatic highs at work, building a self that's balanced, happy and motivated is

critical to survive and sail through. ET shares tips on becoming happier at work.

1. Gain Clarity

Understanding the significance of your role can lead to a sense of fulfillment, says Pallavi Jha, chairman and managing director, Dale Carnegie Training India. "Internalise the objectives. Competition is high and people need to be clear about their objectives," says Abhishek Goel, assistant professor, behavioural sciences, IIM Calcutta.

2. Build your Network

In both good times and bad, one needs a support system in order to stay calm. "It could be peers, someone senior, or across functions and divisions. Forging lasting relationships and building one's own network can help employees," says Jha.

3. Use Feedback

Most progressive organisations have robust feedback mechanisms, which can be used to address one's career dilemmas and progress. "Feedback can help one assess shortcomings, which could be behavioural or technical," says Goel.

4. Note the Good Things

A positive state of mind, which can be forged by taking note of things going right, and building a sense of gratitude can help one tide through the lows. "The important thing is not to dwell on something negative and not to let the negativity sap you," says Jha. Taking stock of things gone

wrong factually and with reason and not taking them personally can help one stay balanced.

5. Build Balance

Research by the University of Warwick reveals that happiness makes people more productive at work. Taking time out from work, going on vacations and spending time with family or friends to build a work-life balance can help one unclog.

Source | Economic Times | 20 March 2015

EBSCO Launches Orbit, an Online Catalog of EBSCO Discovery Service Apps

Libraries Can Now Browse and Request Apps; Subscribe to Service that Helps Manage Them
IPSWICH, Mass. — March 19, 2015 — EBSCO *Orbit*[™], an online catalog of apps that enhance the EBSCO discovery experience for library users, is now available from EBSCO Information Services. The self-service environment allows libraries to browse and request apps, and offers the opportunity to have EBSCO manage these apps.

Orbit includes a collection of nearly 100 apps which will continue to expand. These apps augment the search experience, highlight content, enhance library interaction and integrate with a wide variety of third-party environments.

For those libraries that prefer to have EBSCO manage their apps,

a cloud services package is available for a low annual subscription fee. The cloud services include implementation and consulting, hosting in the EBSCO cloud as well as ongoing support and maintenance for both functionality enhancements and required fixes. With cloud services, all apps are centrally managed as part of EBSCO's Software as a Service (SaaS) infrastructure so libraries automatically receive software updates to their apps as well as the security, availability, and performance of the platform.

EBSCO supports open source software and choice, and that is reflected in *Orbit*. All *Orbit* apps will be available as open source at no charge to libraries that wish to implement and maintain software locally. Libraries that do not choose the cloud services package can request apps from EBSCO, download the code, and implement it independently within their EBSCO discovery environment.

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

Surviving in the information age

From information hoarding we have to make a shift to information choosing and it's not an easy transition

In August 2010, Eric Schmidt of Google said that "every two days now we create as much information as we did from the dawn of civilization up until

2003", and since 2010, the pace has only hastened. To put this into a Malthusian construct, human ability to meaningfully process information is growing at a snail's pace, if at all, and it has to contend with this steeply exponential glut of information. In today's world, apart from a voice call, one can count at least seven other methods including Facebook walls and WhatsApp messages as communication media. To think about it, from an era of once-a-week trunk calls or postal letters, we end up checking at least seven sources of communication every few hours for new messages.

In chess, it is now fairly well established that a combination of man and machine is superior to either of them. Use of technology can definitely improve one's ability to sort through information. Michael Mauboussin highlighted this in one of his recent reports that aiding one's bottom-up stock picking with quantitative screeners will likely enhance results and so will seeking out information through Internet alerts or Twitter, rather than passively consuming whatever is being pushed to you.

Finally, the most important skill is to let go—reconciling to the fact that there will always be many things out there that one possibly cannot know about. The insecurity that one is missing on a vital piece of information leads to mindless consumption.

While the era of information

overload might be a recent phenomenon, Sherlock Holmes nailed the issue about 125 years ago. When Watson chides him for not knowing that the earth goes around the sun, Holmes says that one's mind is like an empty attic and one should be very careful about what one stores there and that whether the earth goes around the sun or the moon is of the least consequence to him and his work. Attaining a Holmes-like Zen state of information processing is a tall ask, but that should not deter anybody from making a start.

Source | Mint – The Wall Street Journal | 23 March 2015

500 Libraries to be set up to encourage reading among rural kids

AURANGABAD: With an aim to encourage rural children to get into the habit of reading, Pune-based social entrepreneur Pradeep Lokhande established 500 new Gyan Key libraries across Marathwada, of which 175 libraries have been started in Aurangabad district for children aged 11-16 years in secondary schools. The mission started by establishing two libraries every working day in remote villages of Maharashtra. The mission to set up libraries in the region was launched at Patoda village, in Aurangabad district, on Wednesday.

The Gyan Key library initiative, conceptualised by Pune-based NGO - Rural Relations in 2008, is

promoting reading among the young rural population of Maharashtra. In next few days, the project plans to open 500 such libraries in rural secondary schools across Marathwada, which could benefit more than 50,000 students. Most target schools are located in the villages of Aurangabad, Beed, Osmanabad, Parbhani and Latur districts.

"Rural schools lacking library facilities, and suffering from lack of exposure and poor access to the outside world, are topmost on our list. With a motive to inculcate reading and help rural children develop a personality, we started this project of equipping schools with libraries about seven years back. The story starts right from the formation of the name - Gyan Key.

It is an amalgamation of two words, one an English word and the other a Sanskrit one. The meaning is key to knowledge," said Lokhande. The library will be managed by one of the girl students.

Each library has a minimum 180 books on various subjects in local languages that benefits approximately 300 rural students of 8 to 10 villages. Lokhande has the distinction of setting up 2,370 libraries in secondary schools in villages of Maharashtra in 760 days benefiting more than 8,50,000 rural students. A social entrepreneur, Lokhande's mission is to set up 6,700 libraries in Maharashtra and 85,000 all over India.

The organisation first makes schools aware of the project. If they get back, Lokhande informs a private donor. The donor, always women, have to agree to give at least Rs 5,555.

This amount is sent directly to the books distributor, who sends about 150 books directly to the school. The books procured are heavily discounted, even by the publisher. The books belong to different genres like Marathi translations of Totto Chan, copyright-expired Marathi classic Shyamchi Aai, translation...

Source| <http://www.nyoooz.com/>

Calling all bookworms! Mumbai gets its first 'Little Free Library'

Saturday, 28 March 2015 -
Agency: dna | From the print edition

Pick a book, or drop one off in a giant book-shaped box in Bandra's D'Monte Park

Do your eyes twinkle when you get your hands on a new book? If yes, you are in for a treat.

On Sunday, keep an eye out for a giant book at the D'Monte Park in Bandra (West). A 3-foot tall box in the shape of a book will adorn the park, containing dozens of books for children and grown-ups alike. While 25,000 such free little libraries are installed all over the world, this is Mumbai's first. Anyone can drop or pick up a book.

Vibha Kamat, a Bandra resident and book aficionado thought of installing a mini library of sorts after her friend from Austin in the US, C. Unnikrishnan suggested that she set up a little library on her own. "Marie Paul, a member of the D'Monte Park Road ALM, enthusiastically agreed to grant me space in the garden to set it up," said Kamat.

'Little Free Library' is a global social movement to get more people to read. It is a pop-up library of sorts which can be set up by a book enthusiast in their home, office or a public space like a garden.

Kamat believes that setting up a pop-up free library will attract more people to read as it is for free, with no library or membership fees to be paid.

Kamat said that people should voluntarily return books to the box after reading them. They may also leave behind books as a contribution and take a book in exchange.

New scheme by govt to promote the reading habit

The state government has introduced a new scheme to provide financial assistance to libraries operated by village panchayats and non-governmental organizations (NGO). By disbursing grants of over 5 lakh, it hopes to give managements of such libraries a shot in the arm to continue supporting informal education and the constructive use of leisure time among citizens.

Under the Goa State Village Panchayat/NGO's Libraries Financial Assistance Scheme, 2014, libraries have been divided into four categories. Class A libraries can appoint a senior librarian for a monthly salary of 12,000, a junior librarian for 10,000 per month and an attendant for 7,000 per month.

The library will be provided 3.48 lakh to meet the staff's remuneration costs and a maximum of 2 lakh for expenditure incurred on other admissible particulars.

Class A libraries should possess a minimum of 25,000 books, 30 magazines, 15 newspapers and 300 sq m of built-up area.

Class B libraries will be provided a maximum of 2.04 lakh to meet the remuneration costs of a junior librarian and one library attendant, and another 1.50 lakh for purchase of other items. To be classified in this segment, libraries should possess a minimum of 15,000 books, 20 magazines, 10 newspapers and minimum 200 sq m of built-up area.

Class C libraries can appoint one junior librarian and one library attendant, and will get a maximum of 2.04 lakh to meet their salary costs. They will get a maximum of 1 lakh as assistance towards expenditure incurred on admissible particulars. Class C libraries should have a minimum of 5,000 books, 15 magazines, 10

newspapers and 100 sq m of built-up area.

Class D libraries will also receive 2.04 lakh to cover staff salaries and 60,000 for purchase of other admissible items. They would have to possess a minimum of 2,000 books, 10 magazines, five newspapers and 40 sq m of built-up area.

The scheme can be availed of by existing libraries run by municipalities, zilla panchayats and NGOs. Regarding the establishment of new libraries by NGOs, only those registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 or Indian Trusts Act, 1882 will be eligible to avail of grants. While municipalities, village panchayats and zilla panchayats are also welcome to open new libraries, they must not be constructed within a 5km radius of any existing libraries. New libraries will be eligible to receive a token grant of 1 lakh. [TOI]

Learn e-publishing: A six-month online programme on managing digital products and e-projects.

Whether it is for educational institutions or business, digital products are more in demand than ever before. To extend the knowledge of professionals who wish to manage digital products and e-projects, Goethe-Institut/Max Mueller Bhavan, Academy of German Media and National Book Trust India are

together offering a six-month online course.

The course will include:

A two day kick-off workshop at National Book Trust in Delhi by experienced lecturers from the Academy of German Media. The workshop will give the participants an insight into the digital market as a whole and serve as a startup for the learning phase to follow over the next six months.

Extensive online lectures on market overview of e-publishing (strategies, goals, business models, etc.), use of media (devices, formats, functionalities, etc.), analysis of target groups, development of business models and promotion.

A follow-up workshop to exchange ideas and discuss various aspects of the respective business models of participants with expert lecturers from Germany.

A personally-mentored research work catered according to participants' interest. Multiple choice online exam on the vast knowledge gained through the six months.

The focus of the course is to maximise the participants' e-publishing knowledge according to the latest market trends in the publishing and allied industry. From publishing professionals to freshers in the field of publishing, the course has something for

everyone. Lecturers for the programme include Dr. Harald Henzler, Managing Director of Smartdigits, Munich and Fabian Kern, Managing Director, Digital Publishing Competence, Munich.

By attending the course, participants can expect to gain:

An extensive overview of the future market. Knowledge of various devices, formats, functionalities and other media available. A personalised and well researched business model according to the project participants would want to take up in future.

A detailed research on target groups and how to make products a success in the existing competitive market.

By the end of the course, the participants will be facilitated with an official certificate acknowledged by National Book Trust India and the Academy of German Media.

The course will be held between April and October and the fee is Rs. 10,000. Interested publishing professionals can apply by sending information about their professional background and a brief motivational statement to sohani.sachdeva@delhi.goethe.org.

Source

| <http://www.thehindu.com/features/education/learn-epublishing/article7043366.ece>

Pro Quest and Google Collaborate to improve Researchers' Workflows

Full text indexing of ProQuest journals in Google Scholar will enable seamless access to content

ANN ARBOR, MI, March 24, 2015 – ProQuest will enable the full text of its scholarly journal content to be indexed in Google Scholar, improving research outcomes. Work is underway and the company anticipates that by the third-quarter of 2015, users starting their research in Google Scholar will be able to access scholarly content via ProQuest.

“At ProQuest, we design our solutions for ease of access for our end-users and customers. That often means teaming with other providers of research tools to make our solutions more valuable and compatible,” said Kurt Sanford, ProQuest CEO. “Our relationship with Google is the latest example of actions we’re taking to make it simple for researchers to access content in their libraries no matter where they start their research.”

Source

| <http://www.proquest.com/about/news/2015/ProQuest-and-Google-Collaborate-to-Improve-Researchers-Workflows.html>

From MOOCs to SPOCs, or small private online courses

In the *online* education sphere, we are quite familiar with MOOCs,

or the Massive Open *Online* Courses, which have become very *popular* over the last 10-odd years. MOOCs aim to replicate the traditional classroom environment with *video* lectures and similar features. Despite being appealing, the concept has been facing certain challenges ever since—the biggest being that the attrition *rate* of students is high due to lack of personalised training. Another area where MOOCs have been facing obstacles is in accreditation and certification—institutions that offer MOOCs may not necessarily have required accreditation from regulatory bodies.

Enter SPOCs, or the Small Private Online Courses. SPOCs are basically a smaller form of MOOCs accessed online. SPOCs have evolved after considering the limitations of MOOCs. The acronym seems to be new—at least in the Indian context—but the concept isn't.

SPOCs merge online resources and technology, and enhance personal engagement between faculty and students. SPOCs aim at a relatively smaller group of students, thereby facilitating the use of blended learning, also known as 'hybrid learning'. Simply put, SPOCs are online courses combined with the provision of personal attention. SPOCs, unlike MOOCs, may be confidential and occasionally chargeable.

At the institution level, SPOCs are implemented with students.

Faculty determines the features, type and nature of content that needs to be provided to the students. Faculty may choose to include features such as video lectures, interactive quizzes and assessments with prompt feedback, discussion forums, and interactive labs in the courses.

However, will SPOCs succeed where MOOCs didn't?

Because they are new and have not been much experimented with, it is debatable whether SPOCs would contribute in revolutionising the pedagogy and facilitation of education or not. However, there is no room for doubt that SPOCs are more promising as compared to MOOCs, especially when we consider aspects such as content delivery and an interactive learning environment.

By Sarika Lidoria
The author is director, ITM University Online

Source | Financial Express | 30 January 2015

Browsing the Internet makes you feel smarter

Washington: Searching the internet for information may make people feel smarter than they actually are, but this inflated sense of personal knowledge may have negative effects, scientists say, reports PTI.

In a series of experiments, participants who searched for

information on the internet believed they were more knowledgeable than a control group about topics unrelated to the online searches. Participants had an inflated sense of their own knowledge after searching the internet even when they couldn't find the information they were looking for.

After conducting internet searches, participants also believed their brains were more active than the control group did. The cognitive effects of "being in search mode" on the internet may be so powerful that people still feel smarter even when their online searches reveal nothing, said study co-author Frank Keil, a psychology professor at Yale.

The use of internet searches, not just access to the internet, appeared to inflate participants' sense of personal knowledge. When the internet group members were given a particular website link to answer questions, they didn't report higher levels of personal knowledge on the unrelated topics than the control group.

Source | Free Press Journal | 2 April 2015

Books vs e-readers: is the real future back on the shelf?

A book holds its own curious power, and to be without it makes you vulnerable. Because you never knew when you might need it, and the knowledge that it contained.

Now, as whole libraries can be downloaded onto a single tablet, there's no need to be so precious. If I cull a book that I later find I need, I can buy it cheaply online and download it instantly.

In the wake of this, there's a growing sense that paper books could go the same way as vinyl records. Not completely extinct, perhaps, but a niche item, a curiosity for quirky hobbyists and collectors. We oldies may cling to them, but our children will grow up feeling far more comfortable with an e-reader.

To express doubts about all this is to risk being seen as a luddite. But it's worth remembering that the dream of a paperless society was promoted by massive multinational tech companies – organisations that are about making money, not bettering humanity. So often in our rush to embrace new technology we trade quality, beauty and durability for mere convenience. And in a world where most of us are short of time, that's a superficially attractive deal. But then con jobs almost always are.

Now, science is starting to back up the doubters. Studies have shown that we don't absorb information as efficiently from a screen as we do from a printed page. Other research suggests that the light emitted from tablets could be affecting our sleep patterns, messing with our circadian rhythms as we indulge the simple habit of reading in bed. As for the trees that we're

supposedly saving, any benefits are more than offset by the mammoth waste associated with electronic devices, which are continually updated and discarded.

The paper book is a beautiful object, perfect in its simplicity, with a convenience that cannot be surpassed. The idea that books can be improved upon is akin to insisting that the wheel could have a better shape. The only downside I can think of is the money you'll spend building bookshelves. Certainly, the e-reader has a place, but that place is not as a substitute for physical books.

Source
| <http://www.smh.com.au/>

ACI Helps Researchers Find Trusted Blog Content

Researchers typically know where to find journal articles, reference books, and other materials on topics that interest them—but it can be difficult to separate trustworthy blogs from those that might, intentionally or otherwise, spread misinformation. That's where the ACI Scholarly Blog Index, a curated collection of scholarly blogs for the academic market, comes in. It's the only repository of scholarly blogs that can promise researchers they're finding the best content, thanks to a rigorous vetting process and crowdsourced author updates.

ACI Information Group is an aggregator of tens of thousands

of curated social media publications in the academic, corporate, government, and nonprofit sectors. It was the first company to aggregate blogs, giving researchers a way to find sources outside of traditional media. Clients licensing blogs from ACI include LexisNexis, Thomson Reuters, ProQuest, and Gale. "About 2 years ago," says Larry Schwartz, ACI's president, "we started looking around for other markets and other segments that could be opportunities for us, and we settled into looking at the scholarly blogs and applying them to the academic library space."

ACI's team (which includes several librarians) selects blogs for inclusion in the index if they meet two sets of criteria:

- Does the blog contain original, current scholarship? Do the posts contain aspects of analysis, observation, or commentary?
- Does the author have academic credentials in the field in which he or she blogs? (e.g., Is an engineer blogging about engineering, not literature?)

Posts are categorized by up to three Library of Congress (LC) classifications and have embedded citation management tools, including EasyBib, Zotero, EndNote, and Mendeley. The index also features embedded Twitter feeds and analytics about authors and blogs. ACI does not index comments, but it records the number of comments on blog

posts to indicate whether the posts have generated interest or controversy.

Source | <http://scholar.aci.info/>

CONGRATULATIONS

We are happy to announce that Ms. Varsha K. Jodhani, Librarian at J. G. College of Commerce, Ahmedabad has been awarded the Phd Degree, from Gujarat Vidyapith, Ahmedabad in September 2014. Her research topic is "Use of E-Resources by the Teachers of the Science faculty of the Grant-in aid Universities of the Gujarat State", under the supervision and guidance of Dr. Shivdan Charan.

ADINET Librarians' Day

Seminar on 22nd August, 2015 ADINET in collaboration with INFLIBNET & Nirma University will be celebrating the birth anniversary of Dr. S. R. Ranganathan as Librarians' Day by holding a Seminar on 22nd August 2015 at the Nirma University

With the recent developments in Information Technology that is now known as disruptive technology in Higher Education, Libraries and Librarians have to redefine their role and relevance in future with respect to learning spaces. Looking to the future, there is a concern about the existence of Libraries. But the future of libraries can be really bright with innovative Library practices in terms of resources,

services, skills, users and usage of Libraries. Hence, this year's Seminar topic has been decided as:

Library as a Learning Space - Role and Relevance of Libraries in the Future

The Sub Themes are as follows:

*Library Resources
Library Services & Facilities
Skills of Library Professionals
Users & Usage of Libraries*

Please note the last date for Registration: 13th August 2015

The last date for paper submission : 22nd June 2015

Forthcoming Events

The Central Library, SRM University planning to organize "2nd International Conference on Innovation Driven Librarianship: Creating Future Landscape for New Generation Libraries and LIS Professionals" (ICIDL 2015) on 11 - 13, June 2015.

Kindly contribute the articles as per the theme and sub themes mentioned in the website (<http://mysrm.srmuniv.ac.in/icidl2015/node/9>). Refer the authors guide line and send your extend abstract on or before 15th April 2015.