

# ADINET e-News Digest

No. 8

May 2015

<b>Contents</b>	<b>Page no.</b>
France's libraries discovering a new lease of life beyond just books	2
Sole Librarian at a University - Limca Book of Records 2015	3
First Book Partners with White House, Libraries and Publishers on Groundbreaking Effort to Bring Thousands of e-Books to Children in Need	3
Anna Centenary Library goes into hibernation	4
Balbharti books to be available online soon	5
The Digital Commons Network	5
Things to reconsider about e-reading; Storage, access and price	5
ADINET Librarians' Day Seminar on 22nd August, 2015	7
Forthcoming Events	8

## France's libraries discovering a new lease of life beyond just books

Workshops, events, exhibitions, training courses and encouraging public participation in their management have become part of libraries' roles in France. In some you may talk without whispering, use a phone, eat and even play computer games. Reading has become a source of sociability and the books on offer are supposed to encourage "social cohesion". This trend towards greater openness, which started a few years ago, has only taken hold in a few of France's 3,000 public libraries. But, it seems, it's spreading.

The most recent and perhaps most emblematic of the new media libraries opened last June in the working-class Mont Mesly district of Créteil, in the south-eastern suburbs of Paris. Everything here is impressive: its size (4,400 sq metres); the building's transparent design that seeks to blur the distinction between interior and exterior; the number of items (140,000), freely accessible computers (84), seats (96) and armchairs (138). There is even a digital piano in the music room (only used with headphones).

For local people, access to the library is free of charge, in keeping with the "third place"

concept much in vogue with librarians (the first two being home and workplace). "We're in an intermediate place here," says head librarian Elisabeth Rozelot. "Its vocation is to teach people how to be citizens and to develop their critical faculties, with the ability to choose their own leisure activities, meet others and take part in social life." The library organises a range of workshops, including reading, computing, basket-making and lino-cutting, readings, slide shows and concerts. But there are employment and literacy support groups too, in partnership with local associations. The resident poet stages encounters with fellow writers.

This level of user-involvement requires a more responsible attitude on their part. Most of France's next-generation libraries are fitted with automated "checkouts". In some libraries there is no limit on the number of books which can be borrowed. At Anzin, near Valenciennes in northern France, "users are self-regulated", says librarian Anne Verneuil.

Anzin is important for other reasons too. "You could say the library is a 'second place', given that over a quarter of local residents are unemployed," Verneuil adds. "Many people come in every day simply for a bit

of human contact, which they no longer get elsewhere. Some can't afford an internet connection, others just enjoy the space because their homes are too small."

Source:

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/may/02/france-libraries-social-workshops-meeting-hub>

---

### **Sole Librarian at a University - Limca Book of Records 2015**

Aruna Jyothi Konda, Library Assistant at Rajiv Gandhi University of Knowledge and Technologies, IIIT- Basar, Telangana is the sole librarian, maintaining over 1,10,000 books including various magazines, periodicals and newspapers across four blocks of the university. The distance between the blocks varies from 200 m to 500 m and she walks about 4 to 5 km each day. The office attendant only helps her to carry the books from one block to another. The university has over 8,000 students and 300 staff members. Schedules and timings of the library for each block are put up on the notice board.

Source: [Limca Book of Records 2015](#)

### **First Book Partners with White House, Libraries and Publishers on Groundbreaking Effort to Bring Thousands of e-Books to Children in Need**

WASHINGTON, April 30, 2015 /PRNewswire-USNewswire/ -- Through a new White House-led initiative, First Book, a nonprofit social enterprise, is helping connect children in need across the country with access to thousands of e-books. The initiative, announced today by President Obama at the Anacostia Library in Washington, is part of a broad effort to ignite kids' love of reading by improving access to digital content and public libraries.

Through the initiative, called Open eBooks, major publishers are providing \$250 million worth of e-books to children from low-income families for free, including 10,000 of their most popular titles. The books will be accessible through an Open eBooks app, currently being developed by the New York Public Library, the Digital Public Library of America and the Institute of Museum and Library Services. Together, the organizations will curate and deliver the e-books to programs and classrooms serving low-income students.

The app and all the e-books will be made available to programs and classrooms serving children in need through First Book. Anyone working in the lives of children in need is urged to sign up with First Book at [www.firstbook.org/register](http://www.firstbook.org/register).

"This historic partnership recognizes the need to increase access to books – in all their forms – to children growing up in low-income families," said Kyle Zimmer, president and CEO of

First Book. "Access to books is critical for children to develop their reading skills, yet books are scarce for millions of our children. First Book works directly with hundreds of thousands of educators and community programs serving children in need, and we are eager to help connect them and others with these digital resources to spread the joy of reading."

In addition to Open eBooks, the President also announced a complementary effort, the ConnectED Library Challenge, with more than 30 communities making a commitment to put a library card into every student's hand so they can access the programs, learning resources and books available at public libraries.

#### About First Book

First Book is a nonprofit social enterprise that has distributed more than 125 million books and educational resources to programs and schools serving children from low-income families throughout the United States and Canada. By making new, high-quality books and educational resources available on an ongoing basis, First Book is transforming the lives of children in need and elevating the quality of education. For more information, please visit [www.firstbook.org](http://www.firstbook.org) or follow the latest news on Facebook and Twitter.

Source:

[http://www.newswest9.com/story/28944924/first-book-partners-with-white-house-libraries-and-publishers-on-groundbreaking-](http://www.newswest9.com/story/28944924/first-book-partners-with-white-house-libraries-and-publishers-on-groundbreaking-effort-to-bring-thousands-of-e-books-to-children-in-need)

[effort-to-bring-thousands-of-e-books-to-children-in-need](http://www.newswest9.com/story/28944924/first-book-partners-with-white-house-libraries-and-publishers-on-groundbreaking-effort-to-bring-thousands-of-e-books-to-children-in-need)

#### Anna Centenary Library goes into hibernation

Anna Centenary Library goes into hibernation DC | Vivek Narayanan | April 28, 2015, 07.04 am IST  
Anna Centenary Library Chennai: One of the key laws of a library that a 'library should be a growing organism' - as said by the father of library sciences S.R. Ranganathan - seems to fall short when it comes to Anna Centenary library, if one were to go by its readers, employees and a court case that is awaiting a final verdict.

S. John, B.Com graduate and a Tamil Nadu public service commission (TNPSC) aspirant, was a regular reader at the competitive examination section of Anna Centenary library for the last seven months. However, he feels that he was not able to find a single new edition, and has to buy books online for his exam preparations.

"Every time I enter this section for my TNPSC preparations, I find most of the books are the ones that have been there for a year or so. We come here only to read the latest publications on government competitive exams, be it any subject," he said, and added that most of his fellow readers have the same complaint, for past few years.

This phenomenon is not just confined to the competitive section on the ground floor - this has been so for the past five

years, right from the inception of the library on September 15, 2010, the birthday of late CM C.N. Annadurai.

One of the biggest libraries in Asia that is situated on a sprawling 8-acre land in Kotturpuram, the library had initially opened up with five lakh books. Since then, the book repository is under pressure as there is a court case awaiting a final verdict and no new books are added to its shelves.

Due to all these problems, there has been a dip in the number of readers since 2010. In 2011, there were 1,500 visitors during the weekdays and 2,000 in the weekends, for the last two years, the number have come down to 1,000 in weekdays and 1,500 to 1,600 during the weekends.

Source:

<http://www.deccanchronicle.com/150428/nation-current-affairs/article/anna-centenary-library-goes-hibernation>

---

### **Balbharti books to be available online soon**

Balbharti textbooks, which are published by the state, are set to be made available in a digital form, said state education minister Vinod Tawde. The Balbharti books will be available for students from classes I to VIII and can be viewed on laptops or tablets, said Tawde.

“The education given to children should be of practical use to their

lives and wherever they go in the world; the syllabus should be designed this way. The introduction of e-learning should be given top preference. For this, the chairman of e-Balbharti should not be the education minister but someone with a background in science or research,” said Tawde.

“We plan to form a separate bureau, e-Balbharti, for producing digital books. This will consist of experts such as Dr Anil Kakodkar and Dr Vijay Bhatkar,” said Tawde.

Source | Times of India | 5<sup>th</sup> May 2015

---

### **The Digital Commons Network**

It brings together free, full-text scholarly articles from hundreds of universities and colleges worldwide. Curate by university librarians and their supporting institutions, the Network includes a growing collection of peer-reviewed journal articles, book chapters, dissertations, working papers, conference proceedings, and other original scholarly work.

Source:

<http://network.bepress.com>

---

### **Things to reconsider about e-reading; Storage, access and price**

As e-book readers started to replace books with its storage and access advantages, many people

have resisted changing their reading habits. There are some points you should keep in mind regarding the type of screen and file recognition when you choose an e-reader.

With the rapid technological developments of the last century, our habits have become fickle things, ever subject to change. Smart phones followed computers in becoming an inseparable part of our society, and it seems that e-book readers or kindles seem to be the next big thing.

Like many, you may once have thought kindles were a useful tool for some academic reading, but that they could never replace hardcover books. Many people resisted the tide for quite some time, saying either the lack of the smell of books or the sensation of turning pages kept them from switching to a e-book readers. But when you receive a reader and try it out, a whole new world opens up. Of course, you can still buy hardcover books for the sake of your library, but when it comes to day to day reading, a kindle should be your first choice.

Before discussing different kinds of kindles, we need to convince you about their pros, so let me list them. E-book readers have three main advantages over either books or tablets with a reader application:

**1. Storage:** Being able to carry hundreds of books in a very small device is extremely handy. Most of the time, we can't bring our books with us for the simple

reason that carrying them in our hands hinder our daily activities. Ladies might be at a bit of an advantage, though, since they can carry one in their purse. Nevertheless, for extended trips we would need a suitcase full of books, but with a kindle, problem solved!

**2. Battery:** This advantage concerns other tablets, smart phones or laptops of course. Any kindle worth its name can last at least for weeks if not months. Although if your kindle is lasting more than a month, you might want to up your reading frequency. Nowadays, we carry numerous electronic devices with short battery life, and either look constantly for sockets or have to carry a power supply the size of a personal power plant, therefore the longevity of battery is most welcome. This is probably the most important plus.

**3. Access:** With a kindle you have an entire new world, filled with books never printed before. Many new writers start their journey by publishing electronically, as it cuts costs drastically. Granted, some of these books are in dire need of editing or are poorly written, but you never know when you will stumble upon a gem. Also, these books are quite cheap, so whenever you find yourself without something to read, you can decide on a gamble.

There is another advantage to using a kindle. Electronic books are considerably cheaper than

their hardcover counterparts, but if you are building your own library, you will probably be buying your favourites in both platforms, so financially it might be a bit steep.

I still use my quite-dated Amazon Kindle Keyboard, but both for the purposes of this article and while looking for an upgrade, I surfed the net for new e-book readers. If you are new to the kindle scene, then you are in luck. There are now more than 20 models from every price range and quality. From Amazon's Kindle Paperwhite to Barnes & Noble's Nook models, from Sony's Reader series to Samsung's E6, you will probably be able to pinpoint your needs and make your purchase accordingly. While a bit late, Turkey has also made its debut on the sector, as a Turkish company released its own pocket reader "Calibro." This is especially important for our Turkish readers because with this development and its promising sales numbers, Turkish book dealers operating via the internet decided to follow Amazon's lead and focus on selling e-books too.

While making your choice of which reader to buy, you might want to consider a few things. Their basic features are quite similar, but there are three important differences that should be mentioned. First are the file types. There are several for e-book readers, the most prominent ones being epub, mobi and pdf. The more your reader can recognize and open, the better.

Second is the type of screen. "EInk" should be your preference, as in my personal experience, this is both the most book-like, and least tiring to the eyes. Led screens are big no-no. The last element to consider is extra features such as touch screen, built-in dictionary, speech to text, etc. Touch screen only serves to consume battery, and since it is a personal preference you may discard it entirely.

Perhaps the biggest plus of e-books comes with the lessening of the consumption of paper, so these kindles are one of the biggest positive effects of technology on nature itself. You may think that these readers are the next big thing in technology because of personal reasons born out of convenience, but they are also important for the sake of nature.

Source:

<http://www.dailysabah.com/>

### **ADINET Librarians' Day**

***Seminar on 22<sup>nd</sup> 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  
22<sup>nd</sup> 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: 13<sup>th</sup> August 2015***

***The last date for paper submission : 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2015***

---

## **Forthcoming Events**

**National Conference on Emerging Trends in Libraries & Librarianship** on 29th- 30th May 2015 at Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), New Delhi. For more information kindly visit: <http://www.ncetll.com/>

## **Two Days Workshop on KOHA, the Open Source Library Management Software**

Jharkhand Information & Library Association, Ranchi Management Software, on **June 20-21, 2015**.

Location: Jharkhand Information & Library Association, C-16, Ashok Prastha, Bypass Road, Dibadih, P.O. – Doranda, RANCHI 834 002.

Website

<http://www.jilaranchi.org.in>

Phone: 9431359491, 9431104313

## **IASLIC 30th All India Conference 2015**

Theme  
Library Legislation and  
Community Information Services  
Venue

Smt. Hansa Mehta Library,  
University Library System,  
The Maharaja Sayajirao University  
of Baroda,  
Vadodara-390 002  
Gujarat-India

Organising Secretary  
Dr Mayank Trivedi  
(+91-9426952224)

Date (Tentatively)  
December 28-31, 2015

For further details,  
please Contact : Prof Pijushkanti  
Panigrahi, General Secretary,  
IASLIC, P 291 CIT Scheme 6M,  
Kankurgachhi, Kolkata - 700054  
[iaslic.sem@gmail.com](mailto:iaslic.sem@gmail.com)