ADINET e-News Digest

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Sugamya Pustakalaya- an online library for persons with visual disabilities launched

Over 2 lakhs books available in several languages in accessible formats for people with visual impairment and print disabilities

"Sugamya Pustakalaya: A step towards an Accessible Digital India" (An online library for persons with visual disabilities) was launched by Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad, Minister for Law & Justice and Electronics & Information Technology at a function organized by Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment here today. Shri Thaawarchand Gehlot, Minister of Social Justice & Empowerment presided over the function. Shri Prakash Javadekar, Minister for Human Resource Development and Ministers of State for Social Justice & Empowerment Shri Krishan Pal Gurjar and Shri Ramdas Athawale were the Guests of Honour. Before the inaugural function, there was a panel discussion on the subject of "Accessible Digital India".

"Sugamaya Pustakalaya" is an online platform that makes accessible content available to print-disabled people. The library houses publications across diverse subjects and languages and multiple accessible formats. It has been created by Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan), Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment in collaboration with member organizations of Daisy Forum of India and powered by TCS Access. Books are available in Accessible formats for people with visual impairment and other print disabilities. Over 2 lakhs books in diverse languages. Integrating libraries across India and the Globe, including the largest international library, 'Bookshare'.

Source | http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=149198

Future of cloud computing

While cloud computing as a technology has existed for some time now, the way businesses are using it has been rapidly changing

Explosion of information across industries as well as consumers is no longer a phenomenon that surprises us but the scale of it keeps getting bigger. Just to sample a few numbers—120 hours of videos are uploaded to YouTube every minute every day; more than 200 million emails are exchanged every minute; and a server has to be activated every 10 seconds to support new smartphones.

This is leading to unprecedented challenges for businesses, which need to manage their IT infrastructure to cater to such needs; and at the same time is presenting immense opportunities to organizations that can deploy their infrastructure effectively to

tap into the needs of consumers and corporations.

While we have had a glimpse of how customers are responding and adapting to the growth of cloud computing, this has had an equal if not bigger impact on IT vendors too. The IT buying process, which involved vendors, VARs (value-added resellers), SI (system integration) partners and internal purchasing teams, doesn't need the same complexity when workloads have to be deployed on the cloud.

Some of the intermediaries are seeing their roles changed or diminished to a large extent. Cloud providers are getting access to customer usage data and are using that for improving their services and pricing. Vendors too need to make changes to their products, services and business models in order to stay relevant and grow their business. More open technologies are the order of the day. Customers no longer want hardware or software products that have a "lock-in" effect. "Software defined" is the new buzzword and is driving costs lower, and making deployment and management of infrastructure easy.

The last word in the development of cloud computing is far from written; the only certainty is that it is leading to an upheaval in the industry demanding changes from customers, services providers and traditional IT vendors.

Darwinism seems to be at play here too—only those who adapt the best, will survive.
Source | Mint | 26 August 2016

The Future of Storage and Beyond!!!!

Data needs to be stored efficiently and safely, and accessed with higher speeds

SD Data Storage (5D (Dimensional) Data Storage)

Hitachi Water Glass Disk

Helium Filled Drives

Genetic Storage

Microsoft Underwater Data Centre

Data Skyscraper
Source| http://onlineepaper.asianage.com/articledetailpage.aspx?id=6165681

Now, Nasa research available online

Care to learn more about 400-foot tsunamis on Mars? Nasa has announced it is making all its publicly funded research available online for free. The space agency has set up a new public web portal called Pubspace, where the public can find Nasa-funded research articles on everything from the chances of life on one of Saturn's moons to the effects of space station living on the hair follicles of astronauts.

In 2013, the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy directed Nasa and other agencies to increase access to their research. Now, it is Nasa policy that any research articles funded by the agency have to be posted on Pubspace.

There are some exceptions, such as research that relates to national security. There are currently a little over 850 articles available on the website with many more to come.
Source | Times of India | 22 August 2016

The Other Side of Google

We rely on it for search, email and navigation, but there are plenty of other informative and fun Google offerings to explore

Google is a company that prides itself on innovation and creativity, but some of its most interesting creations aren't nearly as popular as you may think. These seven platforms are brilliant tools that Google has created to make learning accessible, help people learn about their world, or to add a little fun to everyday tasks.

Google Sky

Google Sky is basically an extended version of Google Maps that allows users to explore outer space the perfect tool for anyone who has ever wanted to be an astronaut or who loves stargazing but is never quite sure of what they're seeing or how the universe is actually organised.

Google Arts and Culture

Google Arts and Culture (also known as the Google Cultural Institute) is one of the most incredible online resources for historical information currently available online.

Google Jigsaw

Google Jigsaw is Google's response to online security issues. This project is currently working simultaneously on a number of smaller initiatives designed to keep people aware of the cybersecurity threats that are currently present in the world, and to make the internet a safer place overall.

JIGSAW'S CURRENT PROJECTS INCLUDE PROJECT SHIELD:

This initiative works to pro tect websites at-risk of cyber-attack that may not have the financial resources to protect themselves from higher levels of security threats.

INVESTIGATIVE DASHBOARD:

This offers over 300 databases of online business records, and makes it much easier for researchers to follow individuals or companies of interest.

DIGITAL ATTACK MAP:

Using this platform, Jigsaw is able to track and visually display cyber-attacks on businesses, newspapers, and charities currently happening across the world, where they originated from, and where they are targetted.

PASSWORD ALERT:

This Chrome extension pro tects the safety and security of reporters, activists, and human rights workers who are commonly targeted by phishing schemes intended to steal their passwords.

MONTAGE:

Every time there is a conflict or world event, an enormous amount of video footage is uploaded to YouTube.

Montage aims to enable collaboration between individuals and organisations wading through this footage by providing tools for analysing, identifying, and organising this video.

Google News Lab

Google News Lab offers an organised library of tools and education to journalists inter ested in improving the quality of their online reporting. The News Lab includes tutorials and access to resources for journalists (but that can be used by anyone),

separated into four different phases of the publishing process:

RESEARCH:

Journalists can access tutorials on: reverse image searching, Google's Public Data Explorer, Google Trends, creating Google Consumer Surveys, following select Google Alerts, exploring the Google News Archive, verifying social media reports, and corroborating photo locations using Panoramio.

REPORT:

In this section of the News Lab journalists can learn how to use tools that add to the presentation and accuracy of their information.

DISTRIBUTE:

The News Lab offers insight to journalists who are interested in publishing their work on Google News and using YouTube successfully.

OPTIMISE:

These tutorials and tools focus on gauging engagement and targeting your online strategy to increase your audience reach and engagement.

Build with Chrome

This initiative is just plain fun Build with Chrome melds Google Maps and LEGO to create a free building experience that fosters creativity and exploration.

Google Smarty Pins

Much like Build With Chrome, Google's Smarty Pins feature is nothing but fun (with a little bit of education mixed in).

Street View Trek

For many people Google Street View has become an invaluable part of any trip plan ning process, because of how helpful it is for orienting you to real-world streets and buildings. Trek takes you one step further by providing historical information, sights, sounds, and guided tours of select locations. As you walk through diverse historic sites such as the Taj Mahal, Venice, and the Kennedy Space Centre, you are completely immersed in your virtual surroundings. Instead of being limited to roads, Trek will take you from desert paths in Petra, Jordan to the arctic tundra of Iqaluit, Canada.
Source | Mumbai Mirror | 22 August 2016

University Grants Commission (UGC) will set up a National Digital Library (NDL) in an attempt to provide single window access to e-learning facility to post-graduate courses

In a letter issued on August 16, UGC secretary Jaspal Sandhu has asked the students of the universities and colleges to register themselves on the NDL portal (https://ndl.iitkgp.ac.in).

Ministry of Human Resource Development, under its National Mission on Education through Information and Communication Technology (NMEICT), has entrusted IIT Kharagpur to host, coordinate and set-up National Digital Library (NDL) towards building a national asset.

The objective of the project is to integrate all the existing digitized and digital contents available with different institutions. More specifically, it is to provide a single window access with e-leaming facility to different groups of users ranging from primary to higher education.

Please note that following can be accessed from single window of NDL:

Educational material ranging from primary to post-graduate levels, More than 40 types oflearning resources.

13,00,000+ items authored by I lakh authors,

Items in more than 70 languages.

In order to making the most out of these resources, the UGC has asked the officials to advise students to register themselves on the NDL portal at https://ndl.iitkgp.ac.in/.
Link| http://www.ugc.ac.in/pdfnews/8421097_Leeter-NDL.pdf

The Future Is Digital

IFLA program stresses protecting and collecting digital data

Dan Cohen, executive director of the Digital Public Library of America, speaks at "Brave New World: The Future of Collections in Digital Times," a program at the IFLA 2016 World Library and Information Congress in Columbus, Ohio.

"We are in serious trouble. The world is producing so much born-digital material. How do we capture it? What is the role of the library in this?"

ALA president-elect James G. "Jim" Neal opened his segment of "Brave New World: The Future of Collections in Digital Times," a program at the IFLA 2016 World Library and Information Congress in Columbus, Ohio, with a warning. Digital content is growing exponentially. The world produces daily ebooks, online games, 3D-printed work, MOOCs, social media content, music, images, websites, and hundreds more examples of born-digital data. A strategic, global approach is necessary to capture and care for it all, according to Neal. The future of libraries and the world depends on it, he said.

"The communities we serve are going to be really angry with us in five or 10 years when they discover we've not figured out how to capture and store born-

digital content," he warned. "Can we write accurate histories of the world if and when this born-digital content disappears?"

This sense of urgency ran throughout the presentations at the "Brave New World" program.

Dan Cohen, executive director of the Digital Public Library of America (DPLA), reiterated the importance of capturing digital data and making it easy for the public to access. "Just putting it online doesn't mean people will discover it," he said.

"Open access has arrived," Whitehead said. "The question is no longer if we're going to have it, but how we're going to implement it."
The transition to universal open access models has not been smooth, she said, but progress is being made. Currently, more than 2,000 open access repositories exist around the world. They suffer from low visibility, but tides are turning.

Whitehead detailed various models to open access implementation, including existing journals transitioning from subscription-based to open access, the creation of publishing cooperatives that would mediate the open access transition, and the creation of next-generation, nonprofit repositories to collect and distribute open access content. All of the models have weaknesses, Whitehead said, but the overarching goal remains strong.

"Publications should be seen as a global research infrastructure rather than a commodity," she said. "And libraries should play a leadership role in shaping this future. We must be willing to take risks."
Source| https://americanlibrariesmagazine.org/blogs/the-scoop/the-future-is-digital/

Education Ministry's Digital Library To Have Content In Over 70 Languages

Over 40 types of learning resources, over 13,00,000 items in 70-plus languages will be available.

New Delhi: Educational material ranging from primary to post-graduate levels, more than 40 types of learning resources, over 13,00,000 items in 70-plus languages will be available on the National Digital Library (NDL), an initiative of the Human Resource Development (HRD) ministry.

In a letter to vice chancellors of central universities, the University Grants Commission (UGC) has asked them to advise students to register on the NDL portal being hosted by IIT Kharagpur to avail the facility.

The HRD Ministry, under the National Mission on Education through Information and Communication Technology (NMEICT), has entrusted IIT Kharagpur to host, coordinate and set up NDL towards building a national asset, the UGC letter by its secretary Jaspal S Sandhu

said.

The objective of the project is to integrate all the existing digitised and digital contents available with different institutions and provide a single-window access with e-learning facility to different groups of users, he said.

"NDL will harvest metadata and contents from all the Institutional Digital Repositories (lDR) and other digital library initiatives and NMEICT projects in the National Digital Library Server so that the e-contents can be searched and accessed in the full text by the users through a single window," the letter said.
Source| http://www.ndtv.com/india-news/education-ministrys-digital-library-to-have-content-in-over-70-languages-1444988

Amazon launches used books in India to tap smaller town readers

Has launched a dedicated section for used books on its platform in India

Amazon has launched a dedicated section for used books on its platform in India as it looks to make inroads into the country's semi-urban and rural markets.

Just as the company pioneered the concept of online selling by shipping books in the late 1990s, it is now deploying the same model to crack the price-sensitive Indian market with affordable,

used textbooks and novels. Amazon India says it has 100,000 titles of used books on its platform.

"With this launch, reading enthusiasts across the country can now buy used books with the same ease and convenience as buying new books," said Noor Patel, director of category management at Amazon India.

K-12 school books are estimated to account for 71 per cent of the total market, while higher education books account for another 22 per cent, Nielsen said on India's book market in March 2016.

Amazon's closest rival in India, Flipkart, says it picked books to kick off its service as books are easy to ship and something everyone wants. With India's semi-urban and rural logistics infrastructure yet to be developed, books could once again become the key that opens up such markets.

To solve the problem of customer retention, Amazon recently launched its Prime loyalty service in India, to try and target its services to repeat online shoppers. The service, which has had global success, could be a potential game changer for Amazon in the country, helping it edge past Flipkart.

Source | Business Standard | 11 August 2016

The Purpose-Based Library

Finding your path to survival, success, and growth

This is an excerpt from *The Purpose-Based Library: Finding Your Path to Survival, Success, and Growth* by John J. Huber and Steven V. Potter (ALA Editions, 2015).

"The most meaningful way to differentiate your company from your competitors, the best way to put distance between you and the crowd is to do an outstanding job with information. How you gather, manage, and use information will determine whether you win or lose." —Bill Gates

Bill Gates's quote should have you, as a member of the library profession, doing backflips. Librarians are specifically trained to gather, manage, and use information. If we take Gates's words at face value, libraries should be the most competitive organizations on the planet.

Some of you would argue that your library is a nonprofit organization and is not competing with anyone. We beg to differ. Every customer has a choice and chooses whether to go to the library website or Google's search bar, to either engage the library or order materials from Amazon. Amazon would much rather have its customers buy a book than borrow, and Google would much rather have information seekers search its website than seek out a reference or research librarian.

There is no question that libraries compete head-to-head with these for-profit businesses.

Link to Access | https://americanlibrariesmagazine.org/2016/07/20/purpose-based-library/

The Future of Libraries

Besides lending books, the local institutions are training young journalists, renting garden plots and more

Libraries have been around for nearly 5,000 years, and sometimes it seems like they haven't changed much since, at least in the public imagination. You know: hushed, slightly musty spaces smelling of old paper, presided over by the stereotypical ancient librarian.

But public libraries today are actually doing an enormous amount to meet 21st-century needs. A recent contest sponsored by the Knight Foundation awarded shares of a $1.6 million prize to 14 winners who came up with the best, most innovative ideas for helping libraries better serve their changing communities. Here's a roundup of some of our favorite ideas from the contest, along with several other cool ways libraries are changing with the times.

Link to Access | http://www.smithsonianmag.com/innovation/future-libraries-180959925/?no-ist

Internet addiction leading to burnout among schoolchildren: Research

Internet has opened the avenues for accessing valuable knowledge and placed them at our fingertips. However, recent studies have established that adolescents are at a risk of developing conditions associated with 'school burnout' because of excessive internet usage.
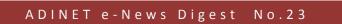
A recent study financed by the **Academy of Finland** has successfully established that digital addiction is the reason for dearth in interest towards school and academics. Findings, based on the study (**Mind the Gap)**, have shown that as adolescents develop an inclination and indulge in excessive internet usage, they tend to feel detached towards their school which eventually leads to school burnout.

If the same situation continues for a prolonged period of time, it can lead to depression and the age group of 13-15 is apparently the most vulnerable group for this**addiction.**
Promoting engagement towards the activities carried in the school and motivating the kids to learn are by far the most effective methods of improving the mental health of the students.

However, digital access does have its pros as well.

Source | http://www.pc-tablet.co.in