

**Published by : Ahmedabad Library Network (ADINET)**C/o Sadvichar Parivar, Opp. Ramdevnagar Bus Stand .Satellite Road,  
Ahmedabad 380015

Phone 079- 26860730

Email: alibnet@gmail.com Website: alibnet.org

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## FROM

### PUBLISHER'S DESK

This issue contains details of the **Librarians Day Seminar to be held on 25<sup>th</sup> August 2018 at MICA**. The seminar theme '**Startup India and Role of Libraries**' is very important. Please do register & send us your papers.

The Report of the **Workshop on Empowering School Education: Role of Innovative Library Programs is given**. This Workshop did create awareness about various issues which need to be addressed, such as; Form a Network of large School Libraries to enable Resource Sharing. It was also decided to form the Gujarat Chapter of the Indian School Library Association.

A useful Quarterly Seminar was organized at the Shri Mahavir Jain Aradhna Kendra at Koba. **The topic was "Preservation, Processing & Accessing Manuscripts"**. The Report of this Workshop which was very much appreciated by the participants is also included in this Newsletter. It was felt that there was a need to form a Bibliography of Rare Manuscripts in Gujarat.

### **LIBRARIANS' DAY 2018 & SEMINAR:**

ADINET in collaboration with MICA, will be conducting a Seminar on 25th August 2018 at MICA, Ahmedabad.

The Seminar theme is: **Startup India and Role of Libraries**. 21st century India boasts of remarkable initiatives that can catapult the economy of the country to the ranks of the developed countries and one such initiative is developing and nurturing the Indian Startup ecosystem.

More than 10,000 technological, startups now exist in India. The Government provides many schemes, funds and policy & institutional and institutional support to encourage Startups in the country. The involvement of premier institutions in the Startup activities includes establishing entrepreneurship cells and technology incubators.

This calls for a proactive role for libraries to actively participate in this movement and provide information support.

Dynamic Libraries can play an active role in transforming the Indian society into an enterprising one by providing learning spaces, maker spaces, access to Internet, access to numerous subscribed and free online resources and many more services. Hence it would be useful that various Startup schemes should be linked with libraries so that they provide crucial information support that Startups need.

### **Sub-theme-1. Resources Required to Support Startup India by Libraries**

Resources required for startups may include Market Research Reports, Directories of Mentors, Investors, Incubators, industry information, product reports, learning resources on ideating, marketing, finance, networking, legal, strategy, case studies, and so on. The libraries can also develop local subject expert banks and database of various government schemes supporting entrepreneurship and contact details. Libraries can think of developing local information resources in addition to providing access to international information resources.

### **Sub-theme-2. Essential Skills & Competencies of LIS Professionals to Support Startup India**

The skills and competencies of LIS Professionals need a total relook in serving the information needs of startups in India. Digital literacy, information analysis and repackaging, researching, communication skills (written and oral), networking, marketing, and so on are some of the essential skills and competencies needed by

LIS Professionals to make meaningful contribution to the Startup India movement.

### **Sub-theme-3. Types of Services to be Provided by Libraries for Startup India**

Libraries need to develop innovative services that are needed by startups like makerspaces, developing relevant information products and services, virtual reference services, topical displays, meet the mentors, compiling startup trends, etc. Special services like information literacy sessions for entrepreneurs, effective searching of databases, identifying relevant information resources, networking with other special libraries and information centres, etc. may need to be offered to startups.

The last date for Paper Presentation is 20<sup>th</sup> July 2018 & the last date for registration is 17<sup>th</sup> August 2018. Please do submit your papers & register your names as soon as possible.

## **EMPOWERING SCHOOL EDUCATION - WORKSHOP FOR LIBRARIANS:**

### **A REPORT**

**'Books are friends forever; on every path and in every weather.'**

Delhi Public School – Bopal, Ahmedabad, hosted a one of its kind workshop on **'Empowering School Education'** for LIS Professionals from all over Gujarat in collaboration with ADINET, the state library network. About 56 librarians from different cities of Gujarat attended the day long workshop which was held on the campus on 20<sup>th</sup> January 2018.

The seminar for School Librarians was inaugurated by invoking Goddess Saraswati with the mesmerizing prayers by ADINET Team Members. The event was anchored by Ms. Tulika Saha, a writer and teacher in DPS Bopal. She greeted and welcomed the esteemed Chief Guest Ms. Neelam Tewar, ADINET Honorary Director Ms. Rhoda Bharucha, DPS Principal Mr. Surender P. Sachdeva and Sr. Vice Principal Ms. Vandna Joshi. She also rendered heart warming greetings to the Expert Panel members Dr. Nishtha Anil Kumar, Ms. Dipali Bhachech, Dr. Rashmi Kumbar, and the session speakers.

Principal Mr. Surender P. Sachdeva, in his welcome address, acknowledged the challenge that lay before librarians in promoting reading and motivating students in this digital age. Sr. Vice Principal of the host school DPS-Bopal Ms. Vandna Joshi greeted Ms. Rhoda Bharucha, Honorary Director- ADINET. She was the first person who carried out Automation of Libraries.

The session commenced with an address by Ms. Bharucha. She pressed the need for innovative library learning practices, aligning with the changing times and the positive impact it has on the students.

The keynote address was given by Ms. Rashmi Kumbar; setting the tone of the workshop. ADINET is a well known organization involved in a multitude of activities centered around creating a network of libraries and information centers in the state. It was established in 1994 and caters to the needs of all types of libraries in schools, colleges, universities, institutions and public libraries. Connecting these resources enables information dissemination without further investment.

Ms. Nelam Tewar a spiritual healer and service based entrepreneur who has registered an NGO called 'Invisible Strings', was the chief guest of the occasion. Her engaging speech busting the myths of technology motivated the gathering to go into the participative mode. An expert panel constituting Dr. Nishtha Anil Kumar PRL Librarian, Dr. Rashmi Kumbar Professor in Central Gujarat University, Ms. Dipali Bachech founder of Storyhub and Ms. Tulika Saha discussed innovative library practices and answered queries on diverse topics like e-publishing, digitalization, significance of stories and linking of libraries.

Ms. Anshula Shrivastava of DPS – Bopal shared her views for a student friendly library, while resources for next generation kids were discussed by Ms. Anubha Arora the dynamic librarian of Red Bricks School. Ms. Chhavi Pandya of ADINET spoke about fostering love for reading through different interventions. The post lunch session had Ms Kalpana and Ms. Komal from the host school speaking on how reading habits can be inculcated in young children and creating a 21<sup>st</sup> century library respectively.

A major concern of librarians in the digital era is the perception of their diminishing role in schools and other institutions. Ms. Nupur Masih of Navrachna, Vadodara lay to rest these fears by elaborating on their evolving role in the present scenario in her talk on the 'Impact of Digital Age on School Library Services'.

Innovative library programs were discussed by Ms. Sangita Bhatt of ADINET who had a long stint with a residential CBSE school where she had implemented several of these interventions.

School education can only be empowered through reading. Ms. Shivali Parikh from Navrachna International School spoke about developing a curriculum for libraries.

The workshop culminated with in an interactive session with sharing of ideas, innovations and plans for the future. The participants toured both the senior and junior libraries on campus.

Ms. Rhoda who is an inspiring force in ADINET commented on the need to network during her interactions while Ms. Swadha encouraged the participants to share ideas on the enhancement of the librarians' role in schools. If schools are the cradles of society and civilization, libraries are the keys to social transformation. The enthusiastic and motivated librarians who left the campus will certainly be harbingers of this social change.

Reported by Ms. Anubha Arora & Ms. Chhavi Pandya

## **QUARTERLY SEMINAR: HELD AT KOBA:**

### **A REPORT**

ADINET had organized a seminar jointly with Acharya Shri Kailash Sagar Suri Gyan Mandir, (AKGM) situated in Shri Mahavir Jain Aradhana Kendra - Koba, Gandhinagar on Saturday, 10th March 2018. The focus of the seminar was on **Preservation, Processing and Accessing Rare Manuscripts.**

Shri. Hemant Kumar and his team from AKGM welcomed the participants. Invocation by Mrs. Chhavi Pandya and Ms. Swadha Majmudar created the right atmosphere for the seminar.

Mrs. Rhoda Bharucha Hon. Director of ADINET expressed her gratitude to AKGM and gave a brief report about ADINET and its activities. She mentioned the importance of conducting such Quarterly Seminars in different organizations to keep Library and Information Science Professionals abreast with the latest developments. She also felt the need to form a Bibliography of Manuscripts available in Gujarat. There is a large number of organizations which have very rich collections of ancient manuscripts on various subjects which are preserved in different formats.

Shri. Hardik Purohit and Shri. Ketan Shah gave a detailed AV presentation describing the practice of manuscript processing. He stated that AKGM has more than 2,00,000 manuscripts and digitization work of more than 40,00,000 pages has been completed, work is in progress. Other than this another 1,00,000 Manuscripts from 32 different sources are processed including more than 50,00,000 pages.

They have a rich collection of books and 6000 books are issued every year. The legacy text data of previously published books from various sources is converted into Unicode to be compatible with any technology used in the modern era. Further, to make the text data findings faster, easy and accurate, the concept of relational database is adopted. OPAC is accessible on JAINA.

Shri. Hardik Purohit explained that there are various physical forms of manuscripts. These include Palm Leaf (around 3500), copper plate, ancient paper, rocks which are gathered from different "Gyan Bhandar". By Acharya Shri Padmasagarsuriji.

Handling of these manuscripts needs skilled persons who know the history of various kinds of manuscripts. Cleaning and putting it in a useable manner is also a skilled job. These are also performed by experts.

At the second level, Experts identify the period, creation level and generation of the manuscript. The categorization is done based on the family tree of the work. The original creation, its second level creation, its criticism, explanation according to time etc. are given the level as "Father", "Son", ("Mulkruti", "Tika", "Churni", "Avachuri") etc. Author and persons Information is also categorized as Guru-Shishya Tree, Kruti Tree, Gach-Gotra - family and sub branches etc.

Stone craft and other ancient formats are interpreted by experts of different levels. All categorization and its levels explained by different experts are coded and fed into computers, so that the searching becomes very easy and fast for the researcher. To provide accurate searching ability, special software is utilized as it provides vast searching options for text data.

kind of detailed processing and automation of feeding details of manuscript collection is truly intricate and mind boggling.

After the brief tea break, Acharya Ajaysagarsuriji shared his very inspiring and thought provoking ideas. He spoke about the Why, What and How of Libraries. Why do we need Libraries? What are the problems faced in 'achieving' our set goals and what are the possible solutions, and ultimately 'How' can we find solutions and its implementation. He feels that libraries are extremely important, as they are the heart of an organization. He stated that libraries and librarians play a vital and effective role in helping people to achieve their requirements.

According to him the work done by man makes an impact on the whole world and has created wisdom stored in the form of literature. This valuable wisdom or knowledge needs to be preserved, processed and accessed. The vast sources of knowledge contained in the form of manuscripts are collected from remote villages by Rashtra Sant Acharya Shri Padmasagarsuriji M. Sa., also from Nepal, Bengal, Kutch and from all over India, even from other areas where he finds what he needs. Not only Jain manuscripts, but sources of other subjects/religions are also collected and processed. Computers have made it possible to process, print catalogues and access this huge resource by the single mouse click! Without even using a computer or touching the keyboard or mouse, Acharyaji has guided the experts to enhance the programming, depicting documents and its generic relationships with its description and interpretation, criticism etc. His mind-blowing understanding about manuscript preservation and computerization can be observed at Acharya Shri Kailasagarsuri Gyanmandir.

He really inspired Librarians by stating that they do play a key role for social work, and they can be a strong and positive force for change. They should feel happy to help people, especially when they see smiles on reader's faces. He stated that by doing this only, we can gift happiness to ourselves, and ask ourselves, don't we deserve this?

Post lunch session started with a presentation by Shri Sanjay Jha. Under his leadership the actual restoration, preservation and computerized research based cataloging of various manuscripts is carried out.

(1) He stated that until you arrange knowledge in a usable form, there is no use of having it.

(2) The main objective of the 'Aradhana' Kendra is to preserve process and disseminate the knowledge stored in manuscripts. All those who are working for AKGM are committed to meet

objectives and strongly believe that work is worship.

Very explicitly, details of cleaning, fumigation of 'pothis', 'Gotka' and palm leaves were described. Sorting, by type of material, levels of manuscript, generation, relation, need of precautions for preservation, then the possible use by researcher, are being finalized with several experts working together.

Each form of Manuscript has a different way of processing, storage and so is the description and nomenclature! The storage units and categorization also were given in detail. The chemicals for preservation were described. Since red cloth prevents insects and bacteria, red cloth is used extensively to wrap the manuscripts. Especially Bhoj Patra made out of Birch Bark, Papyrus, Palmyra plant leaves, Vellum etc. are used. He said over and above all preserving process, against climate, atmosphere and other natural disasters, computers are even used to save this knowledge as time spares no one!

Dr. Indubala who is a professional museum conservator gave details about the physical details of various museum objects which also includes various kinds of manuscripts of different era. Slide collection of all these examples cleared concepts of museum objects and manuscript and its preservation and restoration.

After a short but interesting panel discussion cum question answer session, participants proceeded towards the area where various manuscript materials are processed and then to the museum which is very well designed and maintained!

The participants were very happy to get an insight into the detailed processing of the manuscripts and also to visit the beautiful Museum.

Reported by Ms. Swadha Majmudar

"Throughout my formal education I spent many, many hours in public and school libraries. Libraries became courts of last resort, as it were. The current definitive answer to almost any question can be found within the four walls of most libraries."

## **Arthur Ashe**