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FROM
PUBLISHER'S DESK

Dear Friends,

This New Year is the beginning of a new decade, May each day of this year be beautiful, happy & healthy, peaceful & prosperous. Every day can be a beautiful day, if only we take a look around us and think about all the wonderful things we have to be thankful for. GRATITUDE changes our ATTITUDE and our ATTITUDE changes our LIVES.

On 15th November 2009, a **Seminar on the Role of School Librarians in Education** was organized by ADINET & GGSS in association with the J G International School. The word Education comes from the Greek work "educo" - to grow from within. Besides Teachers, Librarians help in this process by providing motivation and guidance. As per the IFLA/UNESCO School Library Manifesto: **"The School Library provides information and ideas that are fundamental to functioning successfully in today's information and knowledge-based society. The School Library equips students with life-long learning skills and develops the imagination, enabling them to live as responsible students"**. This two page Manifesto has been translated into Gujarati by Ms. Pragnya Pathak and Ms. Hema Raval. It contains the following :-

The Mission of the School Library
Funding, Legislation & Networks
Goals of the School Library
Staff, Operation & Management
Implementing the Manifesto

It has been seen over and over again, that when Teachers and Librarians work together, students achieve higher levels of literacy, reading, learning and problem solving skills. As Information & Communication Technology has been introduced in many School Libraries, these Librarians should be able to teach different information handling skills to both Teachers

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and Students. Hence the importance of continuing their professional training and development.

ADINET can help in providing help and guidance for School Library Automation, and can also conduct Training Programs.

-Editors

REPORT ON
School Librarians Seminar

School libraries as Learning Centres play an important role in enhancing the quality of education. Developments in the field of ICT should be exploited for optimum use of the print resources as well as the Open Access Resources freely available on the Web. School libraries have not attained the status they deserve and one needs to seriously consider the issues that the libraries and librarians are facing. In order to identify and address some of these issues

Ahmedabad Library Network (ADINET) and Gujarat Granthalaya Seva Sangh (GGSS) jointly organized a seminar on 'Role of School Librarians in Education' on 15th November 2009 in association with JG International School at Ahmedabad. The main objectives of this seminar were to

Create Awareness about various issues faced by School Librarians.
Build a Network of School Libraries for Effective Co-operation.
Aid in Development of Resources.

Together with the Librarians even the Principals were invited to participate in this seminar and get involved in the discussions. Around one hundred participants from all over Gujarat as well as invited librarians of reputed institutions like IIM, IPR, MICA, NID, DA-IICT, etc. and a few principals were present.

Ms Rhoda Bharucha, Hon Director of ADINET welcomed the guests and briefed them about the seminar and the activities of ADINET. Mr. P C Shah shared the role of GGSS and the importance of holding such a seminar. The guest of honour, Ms Brinda Ghosh, Principal of J G International School, addressed the participants and shared passionately about her love for libraries, and the role of Librarians in students' educational process. She encouraged the library professionals to play an active role in the school.

Inauguration of School Librarians Seminar

The seminar had four technical sessions out of which I & II sessions were chaired by Mr. P C Shah, President, GGSS and III & IV were chaired by Ms Swadha Majmudar, Ex. Head, NID Library. Ms Renuka Dave, Librarian, Chimanbhai Patel Institute of Management was the Rapporteur for all the sessions. In all fifteen papers were received but only eleven were presented.

The first paper titled "The Importance of Cultivating Reading Habits" was presented by Ms. Udayan Shah. She stressed on the need for developing reading habits in students as it develops their overall personality. The second presenter, Mr. Braj Kishor Mishra of Raj Kumar College gave his views about the Role of School Librarians in Education and also covered some practical examples about his work. The third paper on Developing Reading Skills was discussed by Ms. Shalija Ganju, Librarian from Udgam School. The next presenter was the librarian from Adani Vidya Mandir, Ms. Rashmi Kumbar who shared her experiences of Developing a Framework of School Library Orientation Program. Ms. Sangita Bhatt from Swaminarayan Vidyapith, Karamsad gave a very effective presentation on School Library Services which covered library orientation; activity based learning, activities supporting curriculum, etc. Ms. Rita Subramaniam and Aruna Bhatia from Nand Vidya Niketan, Jamnagar, examined the Role and Services of a Library and Librarians with practical examples about their innovations, in their presentation. Mr. Kirit Ghandakwala talked about Developing Reading Habits in Government Schools and his contributions towards the same, he also briefed about the library scenario in these schools.

Post lunch session included five more presentations. Mr. Niraj Patel from MICA gave a detailed presentation which practically demonstrated the installation of WINISIS Software and how to handle all the basic library operations like creating databases, processing, circulation, serial control, etc. It was very useful and simple to understand. Ms Hema Cholin of INFLIBNET gave an overview of SOUL Software and how it has been be customized for a school library in the city. Mr. Rajendra T Wani of Aditya Birla Public School, Bharuch Discussed the Changing Roles of the Librarian in the 21st Century and the need to adapt new technological tools available. Mr. Praveen Sagar talked about the Role of a School Librarian and the proactive steps one has to take in order to help the students. Mr. Kishore Shukla talked about How Co-operative and Collaborative Activities Can Enhance School Library Services. Ms. Sangita Bhamre from Delhi Public School, Surat shared the work done by her. She explained how close Collaborative Efforts between the Teachers and Librarians have helped increase services

Observations and Recommendations of School Librarians in the Papers Presented in the Conference

❖ Librarians must become better informed themselves, better readers and more skilled professionals.
❖ School libraries can use open source software called WINISIS developed by UNESCO for their library operations.
❖ Librarians can help their school authorities by adopting open source software. (i.e., Integrated Library Software - ILS and Digital Library Software- DLS).
❖ With library orientation, one can build positive relations with library users.
❖ The School Librarian has to plan activities for library classes at different levels.
❖ The Librarian must teach ethical use of the materials retrieved.
❖ Cooperation between Teachers and School Librarians is essential in maximizing the potential of library services.
❖ It is very important to work in close coordination with classroom teachers and curriculum experts.
❖ The image of the School Librarian has to be of a important person who can handle multiple activities regarding information and knowledge.
❖ Sufficient funds to be made available to employ more Teacher Librarians.
❖ Make provision for appropriate training and development.
❖ The school libraries located at different campuses can be networked together by a proposed model structure for school library networking.
❖ There should be a library committee for school library to handle the management of the library and to see that the needs of both the teachers & students are satisfied.
❖ Popular books should be translated in many languages which would produce an excellent crop of popular literature for children, and such literature in the library can fill a long gap.
❖ Each library has to develop and customize its own package of library orientation program.
❖ Introduce a basic information literacy programme compulsorily in every school library.

The concluding session consisted of a light and thoughtful address by noted author, Ms Esther David, who talked about the reading habits in children and urged the Librarians to be role models. She encouraged them to reaffirm the belief in the virtue of trust in the

students. The brief question answer session was interesting with the author taking a few questions and gave some formidable tips to the Librarians to take home and internalize them in their professional life.

The session winded up with a brief panel discussion, headed by Ms Jayashree Joshi, which addressed the issues like collection development in school libraries, creating an inviting library environment, collaborative efforts between the teachers, librarians and management and involvement of the librarian in various school activities. The panel has decided to address some of these issues and to organize various workshops and training programmes, as well as frame some standard guidelines to maintain minimum uniformity. This will give value to the L.I.S. Professionals who play a significant role in the school's progress and student performance.

Reported by Ms. Rashmi Kumbar

School Libraries
and Resource Centers Section

IFLA/UNESCO School Library Manifesto

The School Library in Teaching and Learning for All

The school library provides information and ideas that are fundamental to functioning successfully in today's information and knowledge-based society. The school library equips students with life-long learning skills and develops the imagination, enabling them to live as responsible citizens.

The Mission of the School Library

The school library offers learning services, books and resources that enable all members of the school community to become critical thinkers and effective users of information in all formats and media. School Libraries link to the wider library and information network in accord with the principles in the UNESCO Public Library Manifesto.

The library staff support the use of books and other information sources, ranging from the fictional to the documentary, from print to electronic, both on-site and remote. The materials complement and enrich textbooks, teaching materials and methodologies.

It has been demonstrated that, when librarians and teachers work together, students achieve higher levels of literacy, reading, learning, problem-solving and information and communication technology skills.

School library services must be provided equally to all members of the school community, regardless of age, race, gender, religion, nationality, language, professional or social status. Specific services and materials must be provided for those who are unable to use mainstream library services and materials.

Access to services and collections should be based on the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights and Freedoms, and should not be subject to any form of ideological, political or religious censorship, or to commercial pressures.

Funding legislation and networks

The school library is essential to every long-term strategy for literacy, education, information provision and economic, social and cultural development. As the

responsibility of local, regional and national authorities, it must be supported by specific legislation and policies. School Libraries must have adequate and sustained funding for trained staff, materials, technologies and facilities. They must be free of charge.

The school library is an essential partner in the local, regional and national library and information network.

Where the school library shares facilities and/or resources with another type of library, such as a public library, the unique aims of the school library must be acknowledged and maintained.

Goals of the school library

The school library is integral to the educational process.

The following are essential to the development of literacy, information literacy, teaching, learning and culture and are core school library services:

- supporting and enhancing educational goals as outlined in the school's mission and curriculum;
- developing and sustaining in children the habit and enjoyment of reading and learning, and the use of libraries throughout their lives;
- offering opportunities for experiences in creating and using information for knowledge, understanding, imagination and enjoyment;
- supporting all students in learning and practising skills for evaluating and using information, regardless of form, format or medium, including sensitivity to the modes of communication within the community;
- providing access to local, regional, national and global resources and opportunities that expose learners to diverse ideas, experiences and opinions;
- organizing activities that encourage cultural and social awareness and sensitivity;
- working with students, teachers, administrators and parents to achieve the mission of the school;
- proclaiming the concept that intellectual freedom and access to information are essential to effective and responsible citizenship and participation in a democracy;
- promoting reading and the resources and services of the school library to the whole school community and beyond.

The school library fulfils these functions by developing policies and services, selecting and acquiring resources, providing physical and intellectual access to appropriate sources of information, providing instructional facilities, and employing trained staff.

Staff

The school librarian is the professionally qualified staff member responsible for planning and managing the school library, supported by as adequate staffing as possible, working together with all members of the school community, and liaising with the public library and others.

The role of school librarians will vary according to the budget and the curriculum and teaching methodology of the schools, within the national legal and financial framework. Within specific contexts, there are general areas of knowledge that are vital if school librarians are to develop and operate effective school library services: resource, library, and information management and teaching.

In an increasingly networked environment, school librarians must be competent in planning and teaching different information-handling skills to both teachers and students. Therefore they must continue their professional training and development.

Operation and Management

To ensure effective and accountable operations:

the policy on school library services must be formulated to define goals, priorities and services in relation to the school's curriculum;

the school library must be organized and maintained according to professional standards;

services must be accessible to all members of the school community and operate within the context of the local community;

co-operation with teachers, senior school management, administrators, parents, other librarians and information professionals, and community groups must be encouraged.

Implementing the Manifesto

Governments, through their ministries responsible for education, are urged to develop strategies, policies and plans which implement the principles of this Manifesto. Plans should include the dissemination of the Manifesto to initial and continuing training programmes for librarians and teachers.

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SCHOOL LIBRARIES
TO GET POPULAR

Your school library may now be stocked up with the latest from the printed world. The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) plans to introduce a reading project for upper-primary and secondary classes very soon. This calls for upgrading school library allocating a reasonable sum of the annual budget for buying books, CDs and reference material. Children should be encouraged to visit the library whenever they want and a number of notices put up to encourage children to read books and inform them on books available in the library. Vocabulary-building games can be a part of the collection.

Teachers can give students books of one genre which can be read by the whole class. The books under this project should not be taught in class but introduced through activities. "It should be left to students to read at their own pace. Teachers may, however, choose to assess a child's progress in reading the book by asking for verbal or written progress reports, looking at the diary entries of students, engaging in a discussion about the book, giving a short quiz or a worksheet about the book/ short story," the board said.

Source:
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LIBRARIANS DAY SEMINAR

ADINET will be celebrating Librarians' Day in the month of August 2010.

The Seminar theme is **Preparing New Generation Librarians for Meeting Future Challenges.**

The sub-themes are :
Technology Trends in Libraries
Professional Development
Collection Development
Innovative Library Services, Processes & Practices

Before discussing the training and skills required by the next generation of Librarians, it would be useful to briefly review some of the current developments and trends in libraries.

One major trend besides the work of information provision, is to create a social impact. This enables Librarians to act as powerful agents of change, since they have access to information, the infrastructure and also have the clientele.

The **ICT field is growing and changing rapidly. New Tools, Techniques & Search Engines** are being developed. Hence to keep abreast of these skills, Training Programs, Distance Education, e-learning and many more are required.

Digital Publishing has also gained momentum. It is not only cheaper, faster and environment friendly, it produces documents which can be searched and instantly accessed from any part of the world. This enables Librarians to serve their clientele in a global learning and information environment. Librarians will need to obtain New skills for the Digital Age in all library work, be it Acquisition, Processing, Storage, Preservation, Access and also to Manage Digital Archives.

Owing to Open Access Courseware, libraries are gradually becoming **Virtual Classrooms.** Now that the free **Open Acces Movement has been firmly established, there is growing collaboration and cooperation** at the international level. What is needed is to Create a Culture of Cooperation at the national and local levels. To enable this an **attitudinal change is** required. There is also a need to go beyond traditional skills and services and to integrate in one platform. The professional skills required in this Age of Knowledge would include atleast:- Functional Literacy, Technological Literacy and Information Literacy.

It is said that "Information is the Oxygen of the Modern Age. It seeps through walls topped by barbed wires and it wafts across electrified borders" It is therefore clear that Librarians not only help to bridge the digital divide, but also act as agents of change .

There is a need to transform libraries to meet the needs of modern society and to become the vital foundation of a knowledge society. This will enable Librarians to play a meaningful role in a knowledge based society and to be in the mainstream for learning and for overall growth and development.

All Librarians who wish to submit papers for this Seminar are requested to do so before the end of May 2010.