Children's Green library

The green building sector reached another important first with the opening of the world's first green library for children in Singapore. The Central Public Library in Singapore, called My Tree House, was recently awarded the Building and Construction Authority's (BCA), Green





Mark Platinum Award. The BCA, a government agency in Singapore, falls under the umbrella of the Ministry of National Development and aims to champion the development of an excellent built environment for Singapore.

My Tree House was developed by Singapore-based City Developments Limited (CDL) in conjunction with the National Library Board. The library achieved the title for the developers' incorporation of LED lighting, refurbished bookshelves and use of sustainable carpeting materials. As its name suggests, the library contains a tree house, the canopy of which has been made from 3,000 recycled plastic bottles.

Source: http://designbuildsource.com.au/green-library-facilitates-environmental-education

Milestone in Digital Library Project

Collaboration between the British library and the Qatar National Library — this was a landmark project for the Qatar UK 2013 Year of Culture — through which both Qataris and Britons had the opportunity to celebrate their shared history. To date, the project has processed over 85,000 pages of unique archive material which illustrates the Gulf region's rich history. Similar projects are under way in Holland, France, and Turkey but Britain's close historical ties with the region provides a rich archive for future historians to study with 475,000 pages from the India Office Records and 25,000 pages of the

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medieval Arabic manuscripts digitized and made accessible online for the first time. The Qatar Foundation is leading the way in promoting a library culture to preserve the nation's heritage and to encourage the pursuit of education for all its citizens. Its recent announcement of the introduction of a new master's degree in library and information studies further illustrates this aim. The programme, at UCL Qatar, will equip students with a thorough and comprehensive understanding of this subject matter.

Source: http://thepeninsulaqatar.com/qatar/240297milestone-in-digital-library-project.html

Northeast India's First Online Digital Library Opened

Northeast India's first digital library with around 15,000 e-books and journals was opened. This digital library project is the brainchild of former president Dr A P J Abdul Kalam. The library will make available rare and copyright-free books online. The Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) of the union ministry of communication and information technology helped in setting up the library. The library will operate from the Birchandra State Central Library — the oldest library in the region which was set up in 1896 in Agartala, the capital of Tripura. The books and journals would be digitized so that they are accessible Online via a searchable online database. Besides English, rare books in Bengali and tribal language Kokborok will also be available in the digital library.

> Source: http://news.oneindia.in/2013/06/28/ north-east-indias-first-online-digital-libraryopened-1247634.html

e-libraries to Be Set up in Haryana Villages

The Haryana government is planning to set up e-libraries in 50 villages of Sirsa district at the cost of Re 1 crore. The e-libraries will be set up under the Backward Regions Grant Fund Scheme of the Haryana government. The work of setting up e-libraries in these villages would soon commence and it would be completed by the end of August. Sub-divisional Officer (Ellenabad), Prabhjot Singh, has been appointed as nodal officer for the work. In villages that are near the Punjab and Haryana border, 1,000 books in Hindi, Punjabi, and English would be kept in these e-libraries. The e-libraries that are near Rajasthan border would have Hindi and English books. Apart from this, audio-video CDs and DVDs would be available in every e-library and computers will be linked with internet in every e-library so that the readers can read various books and magazines and check the encyclopedia.

Source: http://www.hindustantimes.com/ India-news/Gurgaon/E-libraries-to-be-set-up-in-Haryana-villages/Article1-1096767.aspx

Mahatma Gandhi Heritage Portal Launched

Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Dr Manmohan Singh said, "The Gandhi Heritage Portal is a technology-driven initiative aimed at making information on him accessible all over the world on an electronic platform", while launching a portal, dedicated to writings, works, and manuscripts of Gandhi, at his residence in Delhi. He listed out National Manuscripts Mission, Digital Library of India, variorum on Tagore and this portal as some of the important steps taken by his government. The portal has 5 lakh pages of authentic and verified information and is expected to have over 15 lakh pages.

Source: http://www.ndtv.com/article/india/ prime-minister-manmohan-singh-launchesmahatma-gandhi-heritage-portal-413554

Bill Gates Foundation to Upgrade Two Patna Libraries

The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation decided to upgrade two public libraries in Bihar by 2015 under the banner of its Global Libraries (GL) programme. One of them is Gate Public Library in the state capital while the other is to be chosen

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between Shree Krishna Seva Sadan, Munger, and Bihar Hitaishi Pustkalay, Patna City. The main objective of the programme is to ensure the availability of critical information and state-of-the-art knowledge resources for the libraries in Bihar. Another focus area of this project is to forge partnership with relevant and potential partners from government and private sectors to add value to this project.

Source: http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/ city/patna/Bill-Gates-Foundation-to-upgrade-2-Patna-libraries/articleshow/21812678.cms

National Digital Repository for Schools Launched

Mr M Pallam Raju, Minister, Human Resource Development launched an initiative to bring together digital resources for various subjects in different languages in schools. The National Repository of Open Education Resources, prepared by NCERT, is a digital resource of collection of documents, audio-visuals, interactive objects etc., which are mapped to the concepts, thus enabling access to a library from which teachers can choose appropriate resource. The Minister also launched an ICT curricula for the schools and said once the initiatives are rolled out, the curriculum would help train teachers on a large scale to benefit from ICT.

Source: http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes. com/2013-08-13/news/41372749_1_ict-schemem-m-pallam-raju-continuous-professionaldevelopment

IFLA World Library and Information Congress

National Committee of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) and World Library and Information Congress (WLIC), jointly organized the 79th IFLA WLIC 2013 in Singapore from 17–23 August 2013.

The theme of the conference was 'Future Libraries: Infinite Possibilities' providing valuable opportunities to share insights and shape policies that address global challenges affecting our local communities.

Libraries and information centres have the power to be a positive force for change on multiple fronts. Libraries empower individuals with the resources to be lifelong learners, while engaging families and communities in collaborative reading and learning pursuits. To touch the minds and hearts of communities, librarians, and information professionals must be connected to the local communities they serve, providing services that are relevant to local needs, and connect citizens to the world's knowledge and creativity.

Libraries are at the landmark of technological developments that are revolutionizing information access and use in this era. Information has never been more conveniently available on so many devices and in many formats to provide a myriad of learning experiences. At the same time, this information deluge presents new challenges to processing, sense-making, and ethical use. Hence, libraries and information professionals have a vital role to play in harnessing the infinite possibilities that today's technologies offer for information access and service delivery.

Source: http://conference.ifla.org/past/2013/ ifla79.htm



PERIODICALS





Journal of Resources, Energy, and Development*

JREAD focuses on research and integration of knowledge at the interface between resources and development. It provides a forum for comprehensive investigation, analysis, and review of issues in the fields of energy, environment, and natural resource management that confront decision-makers, planners, consultants, politicians, and researchers. It deals with theoretical and methodological subjects and explores sustainability issues and transitions and facilitates dialogue between the scientific community and the society at large.

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TerraGreen

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