Digital Library News

After 2 years, Heritage Library Thrown Open to Public in Nainital

Shut for more than two years for beautification work, Durga Shah Municipal Public Library on Mall Road was thrown open to public on 2 December 2021. The timings of the library, which has now been handed over to the civic body, are from 8-10am in the morning and 3–5 pm in the evening. The DM has instructed the tourism officer that till the work is not completed, alternative arrangements be made so that visitors are not out to any inconvenience.

Source: Details available at <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/dehradun/after-2-years-heritage-library-thrown-open-to-public-in-nainital/articleshow/88058372.cms>

Janssen Taps Tempus' AI and Real-world Data Library for Cancer Drug Discovery

Johnson & Johnson's Janssen R&D unit and molecular data gatherer Tempus have expanded their partnership to work towards improving cancer care from multiple angles.

Just over one year into their collaboration, the two announced they'll begin applying Tempus' artificial intelligence technology and repositories of real-world evidence to Janssen's drug development efforts to identify potential drug targets and use them to develop new cancer therapies. Janssen's data scientists will take advantage of Tempus' platform, including its massive data library and genomic sequencing technology as well as the TIME Trial Network of healthcare providers and its accompanying clinical trial matching software. With those tools, the partners will use Tempus' machine learning and other AI to build algorithms that can sift through clinical, genomic and trial data to identify cancer patients with specific biomarkers and other molecular-level traits to make the process of developing and testing new drugs more efficient.

Source: Details available at <https://www.fiercebiotech.com/medtech/janssen-taps-tempus-ai-and-real-world-data-library-for-cancer-drug-discovery>

Germany Launches Online Portal for Museum Objects Acquired in the Colonial Era

The German Digital Library has launched an online searchable portal listing objects in public collections acquired in the colonial era that so far comprises 8000 contributions from 25 institutions. The Library plans to expand the inventory into a comprehensive, central platform in several languages. The items listed so far include both artefacts and specimens from natural history collections.

Source: Details available at <https://www.theartnewspaper.com/2021/12/01/germany-launches-online-portal-for-museum-objects-acquired-in-colonial-era>

Anna Library Project: 20,000 rare books, journals now a click away

Some of the rarest collections including a review of the shipping system of the East-India Company of 1798, the *Madras Monthly Journal of Medical Science* of 1872, the *Madras Agricultural Journal* of 1929 and some rare Tamil literary works such as *Nandanar Charithira Keerthani: Chidambarakummi* of 1895 are just a click away. An Anna Centenary Library project has digitized rare books, journals, written manuscripts, palm-leaf manuscripts, documents and periodicals, rare photographs and paintings sourced from individuals and institutions across the state to preserve them.

Source: Details available at <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/chennai/anna-library-project-20000-rare-books-journals-now-a-click-away/articleshow/87941729.cms>

Karnataka Digital Library: 1.91 crore viewers, 20 lakh books read

As many as 1.91 crore people have already got themselves registered for the Karnataka Digital Public Library started by the Karnataka Department of Public Libraries. This figure is expected to touch 2 crore by the end of November 2021. This will be the highest by any state in the country as a whole. The digital library was started two years back with the aim of ensuring that books should be made available to everyone in the state and to give a boost to the habit of reading. In the first phase, 272 digital libraries including 30 district central libraries, 26 urban central libraries and 216 taluk central libraries were opened. In the second phase, digital library services were started in 100 out of the 205 libraries spread over 198 wards of Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike. Now, a total of 372 digital libraries are functional.

Source: Details available at <https://www.daijiworld.com/news/newsDisplay?newsID=897588>

Pearson Launches Digital Library to Enhance Higher Education Learning

Pearson India has launched a comprehensive digital learning solution, in line with its commitment to support the Digital India initiative and NEP 2020's aim to enhance the accessibility of e-content and digital libraries across the country. The initiative will provide institutes, teachers, and learners with a vast range of e-book collection and digital content across multiple disciplines. The digital library will act as a one-stop, digital handy repository for students, thereby allowing them to learn on the go with hassle-free study material, available anytime, anywhere.

Source: Details available at <https://www.telegraphindia.com/edugraph/news/pearson-launches-digital-library-to-enhance-higher-ed-learning/cid/1839923>

Libraries Get a New Lease of life in Kerala

At a tribal hamlet in Govinda Moola in Sulthan Bathery, Wayanad, a small library has taken shape. What was earlier a shack to store firewood at the village head's house, is now a space with shelves containing over 1000 books in Malayalam and English. The Karinthandan Smaraka Vayanasala, as it has been christened, is a matter of pride for the villagers. Opened on 31 October 2021, it is the only library in the village. Open from 9 am to 5 pm, it has been getting a fair share of footfalls. The formation of the library is part of a project, 'Book Farm', by Kites Foundation, a non-profit organization of youth volunteers based in Kerala. Collaborating with the Kerala State Library Council, NGOs and NSS units and local reading clubs, the volunteers have revived/set up 13 libraries in various districts in the State.

Source: Details available at <https://www.thehindu.com/society/a-youth-volunteer-group-in-kerala-revives-libraries-as-part-of-its-book-farm-project/article37676575.ece>

Azim Premji University Launches Archive of Old Schoolbooks

The Azim Premji University on 15 November 2021 launched its schoolbooks archive, a physical and digital collection of 5724 items, schoolbooks, and related documents, dating as far back as 1819, from various regions of South Asia. The portal allows one to browse the archive on the basis of various filters such as language, educational level, country, state and date of publication, among others. It can be accessed at <https://schoolbooksarchive. azimpremjiuniversity.edu.in/>. The physical resources can be searched through an open access public catalogue.

Source: Details available at <https://www.newindianexpress.com/ cities/bengaluru/2021/nov/16/azim-premji-universitylaunches-archiveof-old-schoolbooks-2384067.html>

Medwiki Forays into India with Online Medicine Video Library

Medwiki, the world's largest online video library on medicines with more than 100,000 medicine videos, has been launched to support Indians understand their medicines better. Medwiki is a search engine-based video library through which any Indian can search the name of the medicine she has been prescribed. The videos are made by Medwiki's pharmacists in simple language to answer the top four to five questions customers typically have about the medicines. The library is in Hindi and English.

Source: Details available at <https://www.biospectrumindia.com/ news/77/19855/medwiki-forays-into-india-with-online-medicine-video-library.html>

Learning with Khaki: Jamia police station library takes digital avatar

Started in 2012, the Police Public Library at Jamia Nagar police station is arguably the country's first that arms visitors with books. Set up to remove a common citizen's fear of a police station, this unique initiative of Delhi Police is being successfully managed by an NGO, Shikhar Organization for Social Development. The library was recently revamped into Delhi Police Digital Library with financial support from power discom BSES Rajdhani Power Limited (BRPL). The cost of running the digital library, including that of educational material, maintenance and salaries, is being borne by BRPL through its CSR programmes.

Source: Details available at <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/ city/delhi/learning-with-khaki-jamia-police-station-library-takes-digital-avatar/articleshowprint/86920694.cms>

Karnataka: library at bus stand in Bagalkot offers constructive screen time

Usually, students fiddle with their smartphones either browsing or chatting while waiting at bus stands. But those at the bus stand at Bevoor village of Bagalkot paint a different picture they spend time at the digital library set up by Bevoor GP. Though the library has not been officially inaugurated, it has started attracting college students and the general public in hordes. Mr Vijay Kotin, PDO of Bevoor GP, said that the library building, measuring 15x60 sq. ft, was built using MPLAD funds. Forty people can access the digital library at a time. As Bevoor is an education centre for students from 8–10 surrounding villages, hundreds of them come here for nursery to degree classes.

Source: Details available at <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/ city/bengaluru/library-at-bus-stand-offers-constructive-screen-time/ articleshowprint/86792331.cms>

'Library Man' Tribal Official in Jharkhand Establishes 25 Libraries

A tribal official in the agriculture department in Jharkhand has earned the moniker of Kolhan's 'library man' for establishing as many as 25 libraries, including 12 digital libraries, in over a

decade to help underprivileged students pursue their dream of higher education. Mr Sanjay Kachyap, a 40-year-old market secretary of the Agriculture Produce Market Committee (APMC) in Parsudih, Jamshedpur, has used his own experience of struggles in pursuing higher education to provide the benefits of libraries to poor students in rural hinterlands, mostly in rebel-hit areas. He got support from like-minded tribal academicians from districts of Kolhan region and started the Digital Library Kolhan Group in 2008. He set up the first digital library at a community hall in his native village and in over a decade he has set up digital libraries in extremism-affected areas like Manoharpur, Kharsawan, Gudabandha, Dumaria and Mosaboni.

Source: Details available at <https://www.telegraphindia.com/jharkhand/library-man-tribal-official-in-jharkhand-establishes-25-libraries/cid/1826680>

Byjus Acquires EPIC Digital Library for Half a Billion Dollars

India's Unicorn learning startup Byju's has acquired US-based digital reading platform called Epic for $500 million. The deal is backed by General Atlantic, Sequoia Capital, the Chan-Zuckerberg Initiative, Naspers, Silver Lake, Tiger Global and other investors. Fine details of the deal are yet to be revealed, but according to its website, Epic's digital platform offers a collection of over 40,000 popular titles from over 250 publishers. These books are published for kids below the age of 12. Post the acquisition, Epic will remain an individual entity and the co-founders were quoted as saying that they want to make their business a global brand.

Source: Details available at <https://www.sify.com/finance/byjus-acquires-epic-digital-library-for-half-a-billion-dollars-news-finance-vhvpWSagfedbg.html>