

News

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Public Health Image Library (PHIL)

PHIL offers an organized, universal electronic gateway to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention pictures, this gateway provides information on public health messages in pictorial form which is helpful for public health professionals, the media, laboratory scientists, educators, students, and the worldwide public to use this material for reference, teaching, presentation, and public health messages. The content is organized into hierarchical categories of people, places, and science, and is presented as single images, image sets, and multimedia files. Under this database, the indexing scheme is supported by National Library of Medicine by allowing to use their Medical Subject Headings (MeSH).

Source: <http://www.cdc.gov/>

Twitter Announces Upcoming Changes that will Allow for Users to Share more in 140 Character Tweet

Over the past decade, the Tweet has evolved from a simple 140-character text message to a rich canvas for creative expression featuring photos, videos, hashtags, Vines, and more. 'In just the past few months we added the ability to poll your community, react quickly and cleverly with GIFs, and share and enjoy Periscope broadcasts in Tweets. One of the biggest priorities for this year

is to refine our product and make it simpler,' said Jack Dorsey, Twitter CEO and co-founder, in a statement. 'We're focussed on making Twitter a whole lot easier and faster. This is what Twitter is great at — what's happening now, live conversation and the simplicity that we started the service with.'

Source: <https://blog.twitter.com/express-even-more-in-140-characters>

Internet of Things' Holds the Future

Internet of Things' (IoT) is the future, and forecast that in the coming 10 years, new relationships with mergers and acquisitions, incubation centres and start-ups would drive the industry. Addressing a two-day, first All India SPIN (Software Process Improvement Network) chapters hosted by HYDSPIN here on Friday to mark the Network's 20th anniversary, he gave a broad picture of the future of information technology — Theme of Quality Management in the emerging trends on the subjects of Digitalization, Millennials, Mobile First, Crowd sourcing and IoT, among others. Also focussed to mobile technology, which will enhance operational processes and access extensively. Sophisticated technology could upgrade skill sets for delivering better services.

Secretary, IT Jayesh Ranjan, outlined the government's focussed initiatives and referred to the Telangana Academy for Skill and Knowledge

(TASK) that had connected with 25,000 engineering students graduating, with skill sets that the industry wanted.

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Hyderabad/internet-of-things-holds-the-future/article7978948.ece>

Why India's Smart Cities need Smart Public Libraries

Libraries provide access to digital services and also create physical spaces for creative deliberation among citizens. Public library infrastructure in India is in shambles and remains most neglected and under-funded. Even schemes such as 'Startup India' should be coupled with public libraries, as libraries can facilitate the research that entrepreneurs need.

A seminal research paper titled 'Public Libraries in the Knowledge Society: Core Services of Libraries in Informational World Cities' was published by Heinrich-Heine University in Düsseldorf, Germany in late 2013. The paper analysed the role of public libraries in developing 'Informational Cities' and ranked 31 cities around the world according to their public library facilities. No Indian city made it to the list (China had 3). The research ranked two Canadian cities—Vancouver and Montreal—on top, followed by Chicago, San Francisco and Shanghai.

The most important expected derivative of a Smart City would be its ability to turn the society into an educated society, with the public library playing the role of an effective instrument in the transformation. Lack of proper legislation and bureaucratic difficulties apart, India faces an urgent need for massive public investment in developing quality public libraries. This investment is needed in all three spheres of library infrastructure: physical space, circulation content and digital library. Libraries are reservoirs of knowledge which need

constant replenishment and upgradation, and therefore can not be left to stagnate.

Source: <http://swarajyamag.com/smart-cities/why-indias-smart-cities-need-smart-public-libraries>

Coming next Feb: 'World's largest' student tracker @ Shala Asmita Yojna (SAY), a ready database of 25 crore school-going children

Come February 2017 and the government will launch probably the world's largest student-tracking programme, Shala Asmita Yojna (SAY), that will have a ready database of 25 crore school-going children. ASMITA is the acronym for All School Monitoring, Individual Tracing Analysis.

The Prime Minister's office has given the go-ahead for SAY, which intends to use Aadhaar numbers to track the educational development of students, be it their attendance, enrollment, dropping out, mid-day meals, toilets and other related parameters, such as teacher transfers and learning assessment of children. The initiative will cover 15 lakh schools and 77 lakh teachers of government and government-aided schools.

Source: *The Times of India*, May 25, 2016

EU wants to make all Scientific Papers Free to Access by 2020

In a bold proposal, the European Union (EU) has agreed to make all of its scientific work available for anybody to use. Under this recently proposed plan, all papers published in the EU that have used public money must be free to access by 2020.

The move was announced at the Competitiveness Council in Brussels by the EU's science chief Carlos Moedas, after massive lobbying by the Dutch Government, which currently holds the presidency of the Council of

the EU. This plan also neatly fits in with wider ideas of ‘the democratization of knowledge.’ It offers the opportunity for teachers, doctors, businessmen, and even just simply the interested to stay up to date with the latest scientific insights without costly subscriptions and paywalls to journals or publications.

Source: <http://www.iflscience.com/>

Robot Librarians are being Trialled in Singapore

Artificial intelligence and how it can help or hinder the human race continues to spark debate in the technology world —now another example of it being used for good has emerged. A group of researchers from Singapore have created an autonomous robot that can be used to cut down on the admin work done by librarians such as scanning, shelving and report on missing books are being trialled in Singapore.

The bot uses more lasers and ultrasound to navigate its way between the shelves, and has already been trialled in several libraries in Singapore, where according to the ASTAR Institute for Infocomm Research—the team behind AuRoSS—the robot has achieved an accuracy rating of up to 99 per cent.

Source: <http://home.bt.com/tech-gadgets/tech-news/robot-librarians-are-being-trialled-in-singapore-11364066422119>

Vitrivr is an open source engine that lets you search for videos with a sketch

Vitrivr, is the team’s in-development video retrieval system that has a unique method to find content. The user searches for a video from a database but, instead of typing out a name, the user can draw a basic sketch of the picture or video on a linked tablet to query it. Colouring in the basic shades of the background, for

example, might throw up a few results, which can in turn be used to modify the search for better accuracy.

Right now, Vitrivr is being tested with a custom search engine and database, but it is scalable, meaning that in the future it can even be used with very large collections. Consider the possibility of the tool embedded into say Netflix. If you’re watching on your phone, you don’t even need to scroll out type out the show’s name, just draw the show’s logo and you find what you need.

Source: <http://www.newstricks.in/2016/06/01/vitrivr-is-an-open-source-engine-that-lets-you-search-for-videos-with-a-sketch/>

NITI Aayog Launches 500 Tinkering Labs for Schools and 100 Incubation Centres

NITI Aayog is inviting applications from eligible schools/organizations and individuals to apply for the three major schemes under Atal Innovation Mission: (i) establishing tinkering laboratories in schools; (ii) establishing new incubation centres; and (iii) scaling-up established incubation centres.

In order to foster creativity and scientific temper in students, Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) will establish 500 Atal Tinkering Laboratories in schools. It will provide one time establishment grant-in-aid of ₹10 lakh for establishing Atal Tinkering Laboratories (ATL) in schools (grade VI–XII) across India. Further, an amount of ₹10 lakh will also be provided for each ATL over a period of five years for operational expenses of ATLs.

Source: <http://www.pib.nic.in>

International Conference on Digital Governance: Innovation, Information and Libraries

The three-day International Library Conference was held at IIM Indore during April 14–16,

2016, organized by the Asian Library Association and IIM Indore. The conference was attended by around 200 participants across the globe. This conference explored libraries as a broad foundation for interaction with information and information management in a digital world in furtherance of the Digital India vision—a flagship programme of the Government of India with the vision to transform India into a digitally empowered society and knowledge economy.

The objective of this conference was to discuss issues of Digital Libraries with a focus that supports not only information seeking and discovery but also community interaction and collaboration.

The Conference engaged the participants in a discussion of critical issues faced by practitioners managing library resources, functions and services in the light of the Digital India Programme of the Government of India. It also broadens the participants in understanding of library management in the context of the educational and research mission of the institutions in digital environment through presentations by library professionals, invited talks by experts and a panel discussion on the theme.

Source: <http://www.iimidr.ac.in/wp-content/asiala/#service>

