

UNIVERSAL BRIEFING NEWSLETTER

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About Universal Briefing

Universal Briefing (UB) is a voluntary, non-profit, and non-governmental organization registered as a Trustee, dedicated to advancing Library and Information Services. It focuses on nurturing young professionals by offering opportunities to develop essential skills and knowledge. UB promotes research, innovation and the creation of tools and methods to foster future growth in the field. It also empowers students with effective information-handling skills. Through extensive discussions among its founding members, UB has embraced a broader mission to contribute meaningfully to academic and intellectual development in the Library and Information Science (LIS). UB remains devoted to fostering an inclusive, collaborative environment built on unity, fraternity, and mutual support.

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Editorial Desk

From Editorial Desk.....

As we turn the page on another month, we take a moment to reflect on the shared purpose that unites us in the pursuit of knowledge, the preservation of our professional values, and the celebration of a community bound by a common purpose. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all who have been part of this journey—our readers, contributors, and supporters. We remain committed to our collective mission to advance the profession by offering a publication that informs, connects, and uplifts our community. We are also pleased to share that we successfully organized a **Two-Day International Seminar on “Intelligent Libraries: Harnessing AI Driven Future,”** which brought together scholars and professionals to discuss emerging trends and innovations shaping the future of libraries.

With this issue, we continue the work we have been building over the past two years, maintaining our focus on quality and relevance while remaining dedicated to thoughtful exploration, broader perspectives, and practical value as the field evolves. From its modest beginnings to becoming a trusted source of professional connection and knowledge exchange, our newsletter's growth stands as a testament to the dedication of our team, our network of passionate professionals, and our valued readers. We deeply appreciate your continued engagement and welcome your ongoing involvement, insights, and feedback as this community grows.

As we look ahead, we reaffirm our commitment to delivering relevant, high-quality, and inspiring content that continues to empower and bring us together. Thank you for being an integral part of this continuing journey.



GO GREEN
SAVE EARTH



Latest Vacancies

- Recruitment for the Post of Librarian at Oil India Limited, Percy Evans Road, P.O. Duliajan, Dibrugarh District, Assam - 786602: Last Date - 07.03.2026 -[Click here for more](#)
- Recruitment for the Post of Assistant Librarian (14 Posts) in Supreme Court of India , New Delhi – 110001: Last Date - 08.03.2026 -[Click here for more](#)
- Recruitment for the Post of Library Attendant at Motilal Nehru College (Evening) (University of Delhi), Benito Juarez Marg, New Delhi -110021 : Last Date - 08.03.2026 -[Click here for more](#)
- Recruitment for the Post of Librarian at Sri Venkateswara College : Univ. of Delhi, Dhaula Kuan : New Delhi – 110 021 : Last Date - 09.03.2026 -[Click here for more](#)
- Recruitment for the Post of Assistant Professor in Library and Information Science Indian Statistical Institute (ISI), Kolkata, 203 B.T. Road, Kolkata – 700108 : Last Date - 09.03.2026 -[Click here for more](#)
- Recruitment for the Post of University Librarian at Shri Vishwakarma Skill University, Dudhola, Palwal, Haryana- 121102 : Last Date - 10.03.2026 -[Click here for more](#)
- Recruitment for the Post of Librarian at Public Service Commission, West Bengal (WBPS), 161A, S. P. Mukherjee Road, Kolkata – 700026 : Last Date - 19.03.2026 -[Click here for more](#)
- Recruitment for the Post of Librarian at Appellate Tribunal for Electricity (APTEL), Ministry of Power, Government of India Core-4, 7th Floor, SCOPE Complex, Lodhi Road, New Delhi – 110003 : Last Date - 24.03.2026 -[Click here for more](#)
- Recruitment for the Post of Library Assistant Grade-II (Library Service) at Government Of Jammu And Kashmir, Jammu And Kashmir Services Selection Board, Muthi, Akhnoor Road, Jammu/ZamZam Complex Rambagh, Srinagar : Last Date - 25.03.2026 -[Click here for more](#)
- Recruitment for the Post of Assistant Librarian and Deputy Librarian at Indian Institute of Technology (Indian School of Mines), Dhanbad, Jharkhand – 826 004 : Last Date - 30.03.2026 -[Click here for more](#)
- Recruitment for the Post of Library and Information Officer in NITI Aayog(Admin-IV Section), Government of India, New Delhi, Sansad Marg Area, New Delhi -110001: Last Date - 30.03.2026 -[Click here for more](#)

UB Endeavour

6th International Seminar Reporting

Two-Day International Seminar on 'Intelligent Libraries: Harnessing AI Driven Future'



The Two-Day International Seminar on Intelligent Libraries: Harnessing AI Driven Future was successfully organized on 20th and 21st February, 2026 by Universal Briefing, Kolkata in collaboration with Muralidhar Girls' College, Kolkata. The Seminar served as a significant academic platform for scholars, librarians, researchers, and information professionals to deliberate on the transformative role

of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in contemporary library ecosystems. The primary objective of the seminar was to explore how AI-driven technologies are reshaping knowledge organization, information retrieval, and user services in modern libraries.

Inaugural Session



The seminar commenced with a welcome address by Dr. Ranjan Samanta, General Secretary of the Universal Briefing & Librarian, Naba Ballygunge Mahavidyalaya, Kolkata, who outlined the objectives of the seminar and emphasized the increasing relevance of intelligent technologies in knowledge management systems. He emphasized that in the age of Artificial Intelligence, libraries are rapidly transforming from traditional knowledge repositories into intelligent knowledge ecosystems. AI

technologies such as machine learning, natural language processing, predictive analytics, and smart cataloguing are redefining library services and improving access to information. Referring to the seminar theme "Intelligent Libraries: Harnessing AI Driven Future," he noted that the focus should not only be on automation but also on building inclusive, ethical, and user-centric library services. He expressed confidence that the international seminar would provide a platform for scholars and professionals to exchange ideas and develop strategies for future-ready libraries. The seminar was formally inaugurated by Honorable Prof. A.R.D. Prasad, former professor and head DRTC-ISI, Bangalore, who delivered an inspiring address highlighting the evolution of Library and Information Science and the pressing need to adapt to emerging technological paradigms.



The Chief Guest, Prof. Pijushkanti Panigrahi, Professor, Department of Library and Information Science, University of Calcutta, discussed various dimensions of Artificial Intelligence, including the automation of library operations and services from historical developments to present advancements. The Seminar Director, Prof. Udayan Bhattacharya, President, Universal Briefing & Head, Department of Library and Information Science, Jadavpur University, reflected on the environmental and social implications of AI and aligned them with the broader



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objectives of the seminar. The Seminar President, Prof. Kinjalkini Biswas, Principal, Muralidhar Girls' College, underscored the institutional responsibilities associated with the ethical implementation of AI in educational environments. The keynote address was delivered by Prof. Parthasarathi Mukhopadhyay, Head, Department of Library and Information Science, University of Kalyani, who elaborated on the mechanisms of AI in information retrieval systems. He also addressed advanced technical components such as RAG, LLM, and related frameworks. The inaugural session concluded with a vote of thanks by Dr. Swapan Khan, General Secretary, Universal Briefing & Librarian, Narasinha Dutt College Howrah.

Technical Sessions: Day-1

The seminar featured six technical sessions, including three parallel sessions and a panel discussion. More than 48 research papers were presented by academicians, researchers, and students from across India. Technical Session I was co-chaired by Prof. Durga Sankar Rath, Professor, Department of Library and Information Science, Vidyasagar University and Dr. Ziaur Rahman, Associate Professor, Department of Library and Information Science, Rabindra Bharati University. The session began with an invited lecture by Prof. Saptarshi Ghosh, Professor and Head, Department of Library and Information Science, North Bengal University, who discussed contemporary challenges and opportunities for library professionals in implementing AI technologies. The session included scholarly presentations on interdisciplinary indicators, AI literacy, higher education preparedness, scientometric studies, publication trends, and professional competencies in AI-integrated libraries. Parallel Technical Session I was jointly chaired by Dr. Sanat Bhattacharya, Assistant Librarian, In-charge Shiksha Bhavana Library, Visva Bharti and Dr. Prabin Karkee Assistant Professor, Department of Library and Information Science University of Gour Banga. Deliberations focused on diplomatic analysis, AI-enabled library services, user perception studies, smart library models, digital archives, and automated circulation systems. Technical Session II was chaired by Prof. Subarna Kumar Das, Professor, Department of Library and Information Science, Jadavpur University.



The invited lecture was delivered by Prof. Durga Sankar Rath, Professor, Department of Library and Information Science, Vidyasagar University, who addressed emerging AI technologies and their applications in library environments. Research papers presented in this session discussed agentic AI interfaces, community-centric intelligent services, and AI-supported information systems. Parallel Technical Session II was co-chaired by Smt. Shrabana Ghosh, Chief Librarian (Offg.), Central Library, Jadavpur University and Dr. Tapan Barui, Assistant Professor, Department of Library and Information Science, North Bengal University. The session covered topics

such as scientometric statistics mining, sustainable AI development, automated indexing, cyber awareness, and interdisciplinary applications of AI in LIS.

Panel Discussion



The panel discussion was jointly moderated by Prof. Subarna Kumar Das, Professor, Department of Library and Information Science, Jadavpur University and Prof. Manoj Kumar Sinha, Professor and Dean, SVSLS, Assam University.

Panel experts included:

- Dr. Narayan Chandra Ghosh, Librarian, IIM Calcutta
- Dr. Samir Kr. Jalal, Deputy Librarian, Central Library, IIT Kharagpur

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- Prof. Sudip Ranjan Hatua, Professor, Department of Library and Information Science, Rabindra Bharati University
- Dr. Sushanta Banerjee, University Librarian, West Bengal State University, Kolkata

The discussion emphasized the responsible adoption of intelligent technologies and the ethical integration of AI within library systems.

Technical Sessions: Day-2

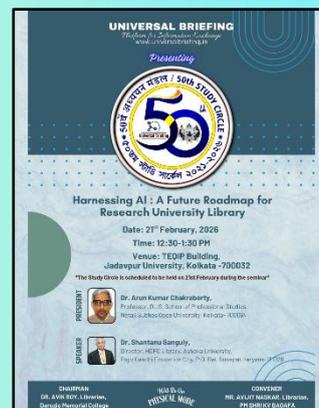
The second day began with an interactive session conducted by Dr. Bablu Sutradhar, Librarian, IIT Kharagpur, who demonstrated various features of the National Digital Library of India, including individual registration procedures and NDLI Club membership initiatives. Special Invited Lecture session was chaired by Dr. Barnali Roy Choudhury, Assistant Professor, Department of Library and Information Science, NSOU. The invited speaker, Biswajit Pan, Lead, Big Data Software and Architect with AI Specialist, Walmart from USA, delivered an online lecture focusing on data science, AI applications and industry perspectives on intelligent information systems. As a mark of respect to the martyrs of "Bhasa Dibas" the members of Universal Briefing Dr. Madhusri Ghosh Upadhyay and Smt. Supriti Das rendered two songs, joined by participants present in the hall.

The significant milestone was the 50th episode of the Study Circle of Universal Reading was organized in physical mode for the first time, facilitated by Dr. Avik Roy, Chairperson and Avijit Naskar, Convenor of the Study Circle. The session was presided over by Prof. Arun Kumar Chakraborty, Professor, Department of Library, and Information Science, NSOU, with Dr. Shantanu Ganguly, Director of HDFC Library, Ashoka University as the invited speaker. Dr. Ganguly shared insights on AI implementation practices in the Ashoka University library system. Here is the details outlook:

The 50th Study Circle of Universal Briefing (Significant Milestone)

The 50th study circle of universal briefing took place on 21st February, 2026 at 1 pm during the 4th International Seminar of Universal Briefing at TEQIP Building, Jadavpur University, Kolkata. The speaker for the session was Dr. Shantanu Ganguly, Director, HDFC Library, Ashoka University, Sonapat, Haryana and the President of the session was Dr. Arun Kumar Chakraborty, Professor, DLIS, School of Professional Studies, Netaji Subhas Open University, Kolkata.

As the study circle took place on International Mother Language Day, the event began with two beautiful songs by Dr. Madhusri Ghosh Upadhyay and Ms. Supriti Das. Thereafter, the speaker delivered a presentation on the topic "Harnessing AI: A Future Roadmap for Research University Library", focusing on institutional experience, interdisciplinary research, and strategic AI integration in academic libraries.



Dr. Ganguly argued that libraries should remain central to academic transformation. Using Ashoka University as an example, he showed how the library is closely integrated into the research ecosystem and how undergraduate students are encouraged to engage in research from an early stage. He illustrated interdisciplinary collaboration through a project at Bandhavgarh National Park, led by Nayanjot Lahiri, where experts from different fields worked together. He also highlighted citizen science platforms such as eBird and

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iNaturalist to show how AI supports environmental research and public participation. Through these examples, he emphasized that AI, while powerful, cannot replace deep, context-sensitive research, particularly with archival or non-digitized materials.

Dr. Ganguly discussed global AI developments and India's growing leadership, highlighting the "People, Planet, and Progress" framework to show AI as an enabling tool rather than an independent force. He encouraged libraries to adopt strategic planning, skill development, and reskilling, using the 5 W framework to guide AI integration. He described the evolving role of librarians from information managers to AI-guided knowledge facilitators, sharing examples like query analytics, AI-based recommendations in Koha, semantic search, and chatbots. He acknowledged challenges with automated metadata, stressing the need for human supervision, and emphasized that AI should remain a supportive tool, guided by human intelligence, ethical responsibility, and sound academic judgment.

Prior to Technical Session III, a health awareness programme on thyroid-related issues was conducted by Peerless Hospital, Kolkata. Technical Session III was chaired by Dr. Arabinda Maity, Professor, Department of Library and Information Science, University of Calcutta and co-chaired by Dr. Rajesh Das, Assistant Professor, Department of Library and Information Science, University of Burdwan.

Invited lectures were delivered by:

- Dr. Bidyarthi Dutta, Associate Professor, Department of Library and Information Science, Vidyasagar University
- Dr. Sibsankar Jana, Professor, Department of Library and Information Science, University of Kalyani

Discussions included Citation Index, H-Index, Altmetrics, Vector Space Model, Blockchain Technology, AI-driven library management, open university policy frameworks, and AI-generated subject headings. This session was co-chaired by Dr. Koushik Ghosh, Assistant Librarian, Visva Bharati and Chaired by Dr. Biswajit Das, University Librarian and Ex-Registrar (Additional) University of Gour/Banga. Presentations highlighted strengths and weaknesses of AI applications, web tools for resource management, and socially responsive AI integration.



Valedictory Session:



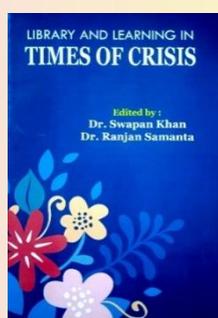
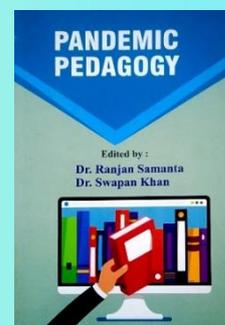
The Valedictory Session was chaired by Dr. Saptarshi Ghosh, Professor and Head, Department of Library and Information Science, University of North Bengal. The valedictory address was delivered by Dr. Samaresh Bhattacharya, Professor, Department of Chemistry, Jadavpur University. The seminar report was presented by Rapporteur-General Dr. Soumen Mondal, Librarian, Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis Mahavidyalaya, Kolkata. The formal vote of thanks was delivered by Dr. Atanu Das, Librarian, Vivekananda College for Women, Kolkata.

Certificates were distributed to paper presenters and participants, marking the successful completion of the International Seminar. In conclusion, the seminar successfully demonstrated how Artificial Intelligence is transforming libraries into intelligent, user-centric knowledge hubs. The deliberations emphasized professional skill enhancement, ethical adoption of technology, collaborative engagement, and institutional accountability. The event reaffirmed a collective commitment toward building innovative, inclusive, and future-ready library systems through shared responsibility and cooperation.

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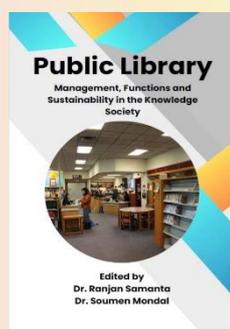
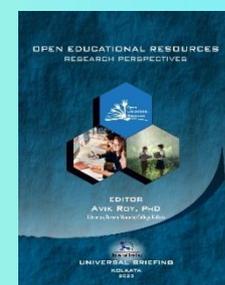
Our Publication.....

The book "Pandemic Pedagogy" was published by Prova Prakashani in collaboration with Universal Briefing in the year 2020. It was jointly edited by Dr. Ranjan Samanta and Dr. Swapan Khan. The book had informative eighteenth chapters. The outstanding contribution of authors presented an exceptional dimension on pandemic pedagogy in relation to academic library and pandemic pedagogy mainly in higher education. Thought content, practical experience and knowledge of authors would help the students, scholars, library professional and others to understand the situation of education during Pandemic and the challenge taken to overcome; teaching learning process of that situation; advancement of new technology; extension of online education and open educational resources; opportunities and threats of online education.



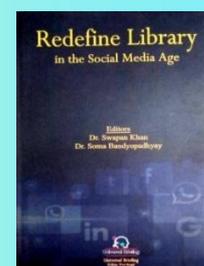
The book "Library and Learning in Times of Crisis" was published by Prova Prakashani in collaboration with Universal Briefing in the year 2021, edited by Dr. Ranjan Samanta and Dr. Swapan Khan. It contained seventeenth valuable research papers highlighted the role of libraries especially academic libraries and online teaching learning during the period of Global Pandemic of Covid-19. Some papers focused on Government initiatives for learners during Covid-19, effectiveness of social media for education; strength, weakness, opportunity, and threat of e-learning; importance of e-resources etc. The papers helped librarian to take various steps in every aspect of library services. Overall, all papers were very informative and insightful for learners, teachers, administrators, policy makers, and government.

A book was published in February 2023 by Universal Briefing with the title "Open Educational Resources: Research Perspectives", comprising selected articles from the two-day International Webinar of the same title, which was organised by Universal Briefing on 20th and 21st November, 2021 at Kolkata, India. The book contains 13 selected articles on different aspects of OER including SWOT analysis, NEP, copyright and license, sustainability of OER etc., written by LIS professionals from various fields. This conference proceedings volume is edited by Dr. Avik Roy, Librarian, Derozio Memorial College; and illustrated by Avijit Naskar.



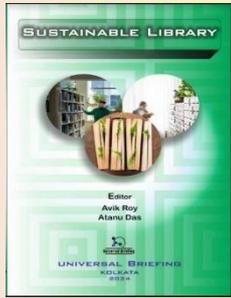
This book celebrates the profound impact of public libraries as vibrant spaces of learning, connection, and empowerment. In an era marked by rapid technological advancements and evolving societal needs, public libraries remain steadfast in their mission to provide equitable access to information and foster inclusive communities. Each chapter of this book is meticulously crafted to explore a different facet of the library experience. From the essential role of libraries in promoting literacy and lifelong learning to their innovative approaches to technology integration and community outreach, we aim to provide a comprehensive understanding of the multifaceted nature of libraries in the 21st Century.

Purpose of this book titled "Redefine library in the social media age", is to visualize a dramatic transformation of concept of libraries due to rapid development of technological innovations especially in post pandemic period. The human need for information is changing day by day. They seek information from varieties of sources and formats. For this purpose, the library staff and library professionals need to adopt themselves into this dynamic environment. Social media is becoming increasingly popular



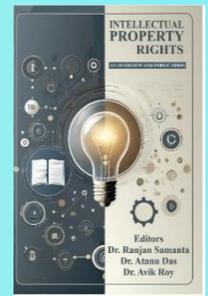
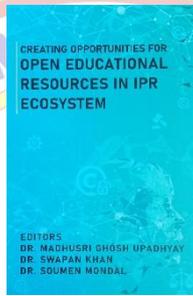
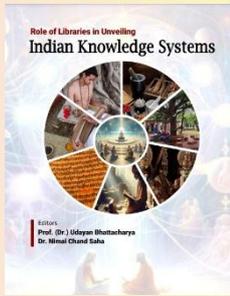
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among all the stakeholders of the library. There is no doubt that the present library must be defined in the context of social media to satisfy the users in this social media age.



Any kind of scholarly work provides a serendipity of reading so many novel academic contents including books, book chapters, research articles, magazines, popular articles etc. Sustainability is the buzz of the day where almost every activity in the societal periphery culminates to the sustainable future. How can the library lag behind being one of the most important pillars of society? The present volume, "Sustainable Library" is an endeavour to add even an iota to the knowledge base of the global discourses on sustainable libraries. We remain grateful to Prof. Udayan Bhattacharya, Department of Library and Information Science, Jadavpur University, Kolkata to continuously inspire us to work on this compilation of the literature on sustainable libraries and publish them in one volume.

Our Latest Publication.....



6th International Seminar Some Snaps.....







Research Spotlight

DLIS, Mangalayan University, Aligarh (Awarded Works 2025)

1. **Thesis Title:** Marketing of library Product and Services in Selected Information Centres of Delhi
Scholar: KM. Prabha
Supervisor: Dr. Mohammad Yusuf

DLIS, Gauhati University, Guwahati (Awarded Works 2026)

2. **Thesis Title:** Service Quality Assessment in University Libraries of Assam: A LibQUAL+ ® Study
Scholar: Kakali Sarmah
Supervisor: Dr. Sanjay Kumar Singh

DLIS, Punjabi University, Patiala (Awarded Works 2025)

3. **Thesis Title:** An Analytical Study of Library and Information Science Curricula of Select Universities in South Asia
Scholar: Neha
Supervisor: Dr. Jagtar Singh and Dr. H.P.S. Kalra
4. **Thesis Title:** A comparative study of Public Library System in Punjab Haryana and Chandigarh
Scholar: Navpreet Kaur
Supervisor: Dr. Jagtar Singh and Dr. H.P.S. Kalra

School of Studies in Library & Information Science, Pt. Ravishankar Shukla University, Raipur (Awarded Works 2025)

5. **Thesis Title:** Scientometric Analysis of Literature on Diabetes Research in India
Scholar: Mahendra Kumar Patel
Supervisor: Dr. Maya Verma

DLIS, Mangalore University, Mangalagangothri (Awarded Works 2025)

6. **Thesis Title:** Assessing the Use and Impact of E-Resources offered through E-Shodhsindhu Consortium on Academic Communities and Libraries in the Institutes of Technology in Karnataka
Scholar: Jagadeesha S.
Supervisor: Dr. Purushothama Gowda M.

DLIS, Assam University, Silchar (Awarded Works 2026)

7. **Thesis Title:** Green Library Initiatives in the Higher Educational Institutions of North East India: An Exploratory Study
Scholar: Juli Thakuria
Supervisor: Dr. Manoj Kumar Sinha

DLIS, Arunachal University of Studies, Namsai (Awarded Works 2026)

8. **Thesis Title:** Problems and prospects of scaffolding Library Learning Space: A study with reference to the selected University Libraries of Assam
Scholar: Anurag Borpatra Gohain
Supervisor: Dr. Devanand Mishra

DLIS, University of Kashmir, Srinagar (Awarded Works 2026)

9. **Thesis Title:** Disaster Preparedness and Security Management in Prominent Libraries and Archives in J and K
Scholar: Jaffer Kabir Najar
Supervisor: Dr. Zahid Ashraf Wani

"Are you a research scholar who just submitted their Ph.D thesis in LIS? Want to be featured in our next edition? [Click here](#) to add your details and get a chance to feature in our upcoming spotlight section!"

Monthly Scholarly Highlights

- Azmir, S. M., & Atikuzzaman, M. (2025). Students' use of AI tools and attitudes towards using ChatGPT in higher education: a developing country perspective. *The Electronic Library*, 43(6), 937-954.
- Bowman, R. D., & Spiering, J. (2026). Contesting Queer Books: Analyzing the Discourses in Public Comment Sections at School Board Meetings. *The Library Quarterly*, 96(1), 12-31.
- Bugre, C., Wedlake, S., Arif, A., Glaze, S., & Young, J. C. (2026). "Sneak It In": Information Literacy Instruction Related to Misinformation. *The Library Quarterly*, 96(1), 79-99.
- Luo, Z., Cai, L., Zhu, C., Gu, C., Chen, H., & Lu, W. (2025). A dual-perspective innovation framework: quantifying novelty and diffusion of scientific publications. *The Electronic Library*, 43(6), 955-974.
- Li, J., Wang, N., & Wang, Y. (2025). The effects of social media fatigue and attitudinal ambivalence on intermittent discontinuance behavior. *The Electronic Library*, 43(6), 915-936.
- Liu, Y., Zhou, Q., & Chen, M. (2025). Applying full-text citation content mining to analyze the triangular citation structure in scientific literature. *The Electronic Library*, 43(6), 841-866.
- Oltmann, S. M. (2026). Dealing with the Devil: New Work on Book Bans, Tactics, and Responding to Vitriol Against Libraries and Librarians. *The Library Quarterly*, 96(1), 1-11.
- Shi, J., Qiaerxian, A., Chen, K., Song, N., & Zhao, Y. (2025). From perception to participation: how the sick role behaviour differs across treatment stages in diabetes online health communities. *The Electronic Library*, 43(6), 867-893.
- Shim, Y., & Jhaver, S. (2026). Understanding the governance challenges of public libraries subscribing to digital content distributors. *The Library Quarterly*, 96(1), 100-121.
- Wang, J., & Huo, C. (2025). What types of users are more likely to adopt AIGC information based on the Big Five personality traits? *The Electronic Library*, 43(6), 894-914.
- Winberry, J., & O'Donnell, T. (2026). Advocating Against Book Bans in Public Libraries: A Role for Friends of the Library Volunteers? *The Library Quarterly*, 96(1), 54-78.
- Yeon, J. (2026). Governance and Intellectual Freedom: Exercising Legal Authority in Material Challenges. *The Library Quarterly*, 96(1), 32-53.

Forthcoming Events

Conferences, Seminars, Webinars & Summits

- The Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad (IITH)-Knowledge Resource Centre (KRC-Library) will organise a Symposium on “Accessible and Inclusive Digital Library (AIDL)-2026” covering main themes viz. Assistive Technologies, Community Engagement and Designing Inclusive Library Space is scheduled on March 6-7, 2026 at IIT Hyderabad, India. For more info: [click here](#)
- International Conference on “Transformative Role of Libraries in Education, Innovation and Research: Marching Towards a Developed Nation” Jointly organized by the School of Library and Information Science, Bharathidasan University, Tiruchirappalli, Tamil Nadu, and the Indian Association of Teachers of Library and Information Science (IATLIS), will be held on 7th, 8th, and 9th May 2026 at Bharathidasan University, Tiruchirappalli, Tamil Nadu. For Registration: [Click here](#)
- The Department of Library and Information Science, University of Kerala, in collaboration with the Kerala University Library, Thiruvananthapuram, is organizing an International Conference on “Libraries for Sustainable Futures: Collaboration, Technology and Knowledge Sharing.” will be held from 09–11 March 2026 at the Senate Chamber, University of Kerala, Palayam, Thiruvananthapuram, in hybrid mode. For more info: [click here](#)
- LIB-BRIDGE 2026: The Documentation Research and Training Centre (DRTC)-Indian Statistical Institute (ISI) Conference on “Bridging the Gap: Trends in Library and Information Science” will be held from 11th to 13th March 2026 at the Indian Statistical Institute, Bangalore Centre, Bangalore, India. For more info: [click here](#)
- The Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation (RRRLF), under the Ministry of Culture, Government of India, is sponsoring an International Conference on Transforming Libraries: Innovation, Management, Smart Technologies, and Creative Knowledge of Society for the Future, to be held on 14th & 15th March 2026 (Revised Dates), organized by the University Library, Periyar University, Salem–636 011, Tamil Nadu, India. For more info: [click here](#)
- National Conference on “Tradition Meets Technology AI and the Ethics of Knowledge in Sanskrit Libraries’ will be held on 21-22 March, 2026, Jointly Organized by the Central Library, Karnataka Sanskrit University, Bangalore, and Bhagavad Ramanuja National Research Institute (BRNRI), Melukote, Karnataka. For Registration: [Click here](#)
- National Seminar on Libraries: Pillars of Unity, Harmony and National Integrity. Dates: 24-25th March, 2026. Organized by Department of Library & Information Science, University of Kashmir. For more info: [click here](#)
- Two Day National Conference on Transforming Academic Library Services in the Digital Era: Challenges, Opportunities. Organized by Central Library, Ananda Chandra College in collaboration with National Digital Library of India (Ministry of Education, Govt. of India). Dates: 9-10 April, 2026. Venue: Ananda Chandra College, Jalpaiguri, West Bengal. For more info: [click here](#)
- The Indian Institute of Management, Kashipur, Uttarakhand, in association with the Asian Library Association, New Delhi, is organizing the 9th International Conference of Asian Libraries (ICAL-2026) on the theme “Evolving Information Landscape: Making Libraries Future-Ready,” to be held from 16 to 18 April 2026 at IIM Kashipur, Uttarakhand, India. For more info: [click here](#)
- The Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation (RRRLF), under the Ministry of Culture, Government of India, is sponsoring the 6th National Seminar – Goa Library and Information Science Convention (GOA-LIS) 2026 on the theme “The Evolving Role of Libraries and Librarians: Adapting to Change, Shaping the Future.” will be held on 23rd April 2026 (Wednesday), from 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., at the Multipurpose Hall, organized by the Krishnadas Shama Goa State Central Library, Directorate of Art & Culture, Government of Goa, Sanskruti Bhavan, Patto, Panaji, Goa, India. For more info: [click here](#)

Forthcoming Events

Workshops, Programmes, Training & Courses

- Librarian Guide Educational Academy, Jalandhar, is organizing a 30-Hour Faculty Development Program (FDP) for Teachers and Librarians titled “Digital Library Technologies, Research Tools & AI Applications: Librarian-Cum-Faculty Development Programme (March 2026).” to be held from 01 March to 31 March 2026 (Monday–Friday), with daily online sessions from 8:30 PM to 9:30 PM. For more info: [Click here.](#)
- User Awareness Programme on IRINS and INFLIBNET Services for Scholarly Communities at St. Xavier’s College of Education (Autonomous), Palayamkottai, Tirunelveli-627 002.Tamil Nadu on March 14, 2026. For more info: [Click here.](#)
- User Awareness Programme on ORCID, IRINS and INFLIBNET Services for Scholarly Communities at Avantika University, Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh. Date and Duration: March 20, 2026. The duration of the programme is 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (in offline mode). For more info: [Click here.](#)
- One-Week Workshop on Digitization and Conservation of Archival Collections will be held from 23–27 March 2026 at Maulana Azad National Urdu University (MANUU), Hyderabad, jointly organized with Jamia Hamdard and Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA), New Delhi, Ministry of Culture, Government of India. For more info: [Click here.](#)
- SWAYAM Library and Information Science (LIS) courses currently open for enrolment are free to enrol in and learn from. For more info: [Click here.](#)
- Training Workshops for Public Libraries across Karnataka. Campaign by Science Gallery Bengaluru. For more info: [Click here.](#)
- The 2026 Core Fundamentals Web Course Schedule @ American Library Association (ALA). CHICAGO–Core has announced the release of the 2026 Core Fundamentals Web Course schedule. This series of related online courses covers basic topics that enhance skills in various areas of library work. Courses are 4 to 6 weeks in length and are repeated throughout the year. For Registration: [Click here.](#)

Students Corner

National Fellowship for Persons with Benchmark Disabilities (NFPwD)

The National Fellowship for Persons with Benchmark Disabilities (NFPwD) is a Central Sector Scheme, to increase opportunities for students with disabilities to pursue higher education in India. The objective of the scheme is to provide financial assistance to meritorious students with Disabilities (Divyangjan) to pursue MPhil/PhD degree after completing their post-graduation in Science, Humanities or Social Science, in Indian Universities/Institutions/Colleges recognized by University Grants Commission (UGC). The scheme is monitored under the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD), Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

The scheme provides for award of fellowships to 200 fellows each year. Out of the total 200 slots available for the Students with Disabilities, 75% scholars (i.e. 150) are selected based on National Eligibility Test-Junior Research Fellowship (NET-JRF) and remaining 25% scholars (i.e. 50) is selected based on UGC-Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (UGC-CSIR) NET-JRF joint test. However, the slot is transferable between UGC-NET and CSIR-NET to the extent of the total no. of slot, in case sufficient no. of eligible scholars is not available in one category.

Eligibility Criteria:

Students Corner

- Fellowship is open to students with benchmark disability (i.e 40% or more disability) as defined in 'Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 and having a valid certificate of disability as prescribed under rules issued by the competent authority.
- The candidate must have qualified the UGC NET or CSIR NET examination and possess a valid UGC/CSIR NET certificate and scorecard.
- Fellowship holder under this scheme must not avail any other scholarship/stipend.
- The candidate should get admission and registration for regular and full time Ph.D. Courses in All universities/institutions recognized by the University Grants Commission (UGC); Central/State Universities (including constituent and affiliated institutions) included under Section 2(f) of UGC Act, 1956 and having valid accreditation from NAAC.; Deemed Universities under Section 3 of UGC Act i.e. Institution for higher education notified by Central Government to be deemed University, in consultation with the UGC and having valid accreditation from NAAC; Institution fully funded by State/Central Government and empowered to award degrees; Institutions of National Importance as notified by Ministry of Education.

Duration:

The NFPwD fellowship is awarded for a maximum period of five years, including the JRF and SRF periods. In case of integrated M. Phil & Ph.D. also the maximum tenure is 5 years. For doing M.Phil., fellowship is granted for two years or upto the date of submission of M.Phil. Dissertation, whichever is earlier. The fellowship is be granted upto the date of submission of Ph.D. thesis or five years of tenure, whichever is earlier. No extension is permissible beyond the total period of five years of fellowship.

Benefits:

The applicant selected for scholarship are entitled to monthly fellowships. A fellowship of Rs.37000 is given for the first two years and Rs.42000/- for remaining 3 years. Also, an annual contingency of Rs. 10,000 for initial two years and Rs.20,500 for remaining three years is given to students belonging to Humanities, Social Sciences and Commerce (including Arts/Fine Arts) and Rs. 12,000 for initial two years and Rs.25,000 for remaining three years is given to students belonging to Science, Engineering & Technology. An allowance of Rs. 2,000 is given for escort/reader assistance. HRA Allowance is also given to fellows in accordance with Government of India norms.

Application and Selection: Application for the scholarship is invited for each year separately. The selection for the award of fellowship to students is made on the basis of scores/merit obtained in National Eligibility Test and UGC Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (UGC- CSIR) tests conducted by National Testing Agency (NTA). The merit list is prepared by NTA on all India basis from amongst the eligible candidates belonging to the category of 'benchmark disability' who apply for both- JRF and NET but qualified for NET only. The qualified candidates under NFPwD, who have not secured admission at the time of application for fellowship under the scheme are required to take admission for regular and full time M. Phil./Ph. D. in a recognized research institution at the first available opportunity but not later than three years from the date of award of fellowship.

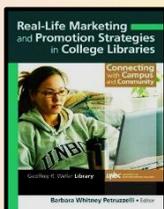
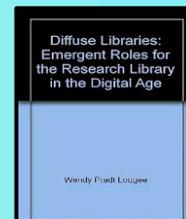
For more information on eligibility, benefits and application procedure please visit <https://scholarships.gov.in/All-Scholarships>.

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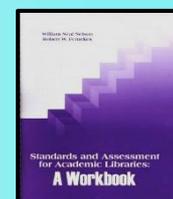
Envisioning Future Academic Library Services: Initiatives, Ideas and Challenges edited by Sue McKnight. New Delhi: Facet Publishing. ISBN (pbk) 978-1856046916 ; \$150.00

Diffuse Libraries: Emergent Roles for the Research Library in the Digital Age by Wendy Pradt Lougee. US: CLIR. ISBN (pbk) 978-1887334938 ; \$15.00



Real-Life Marketing and Promotion Strategies in College Libraries: Connecting with Campus and Community by Barbara Whitney Petruzzelli. Delhi: Routledge. ISBN(hbk) 978-0789031570 ; ₹11,494.00

Standards and Assessment for Academic Libraries by William Neal Nelson. New Delhi: ALA Editions. ISBN 978-0838982112 ; ₹4078.00



Trends on Tech

* The India AI Impact Summit 2026 *

The India AI Impact Summit 2026, held from February 16 to 21, 2026, at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, stands as a historic milestone in global technology governance. It was the first summit in this global series following the UK, South Korea, and France to be hosted in the Global South, signaling a shift from discussing "existential risks" to focusing on "practical impact and development."

1. Key Themes and Framework

The summit was anchored by two conceptual frameworks designed to democratize AI:

- The Three Sutras (Pillars): People, Planet, and Progress.
- The Seven Chakras (Working Groups): These focused on specific domains including Health, Agriculture, Safe & Trusted AI, Science, Inclusion, Democratizing AI Resources, and Economic Development.

2. Major Outcomes and Declarations

- The India AI Impact Summit Declaration: Endorsed by 92 countries and international organizations, this document builds consensus on responsible and inclusive AI adoption.
- New Delhi Frontier AI Impact Commitments: This was signed by 13 leading global and Indian frontier model developers (including OpenAI, Google, and Indian players like Sarvam AI). It specifically addresses the safety and transparency of large-scale AI models that power chatbots. Key commitments include:

Trends on Tech

- **Trustworthy Deployment:** Ensuring chatbots and AI agents undergo rigorous safety testing before public release.
- **Multilingual Evaluation:** A commitment to make chatbots effective and safe in diverse languages beyond English, focusing on India's linguistic diversity.
- **Usage Transparency:** Organizations agreed to publish statistical insights (anonymized) on how AI is being used in the real world to help shape better government policy.
- **Investment Surge:** A staggering \$240 billion in investment commitments was announced. Notable mentions include:
 - **Reliance Industries:** Pledged \$110 billion toward AI infrastructure.
 - **Google:** Announced a \$15 billion AI hub in Visakhapatnam and plans to train 20 million civil servants.
 - **Adani Group:** Committed \$100 billion to AI-driven energy and infrastructure by 2035.

3. Strategic Infrastructure & "Sovereign AI"

Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw announced a major expansion of India's compute capacity. Building on the IndiaAI Mission, the government is adding 20,000 additional GPUs to its existing pool, ensuring that startups and researchers have affordable access to high-end compute at roughly ₹65 per hour.

4. Public Participation and Records

The summit achieved a Guinness World Record for the "most pledges received for an AI responsibility campaign in 24 hours," with over 250,946 valid pledges from citizens and students committing to the ethical use of AI.

Social Media News

- The Harsha Parekh Librarian Awards (HPLA) celebrates the passion and dedication of children's librarians and library builders across India. Born from the belief that librarians light the way for children to discover the love of reading, HPLA honours those who create welcoming places where young minds can imagine, learn and belong. Named after late Professor Harsha S. Parekh, a pioneering librarian and mentor, this award honours a life dedicated to opening doors for learners at every step. The inaugural winners for 2026 were Jai Shekhar, School Librarian at Government Primary School, Balrampur, Uttar Pradesh; Saba Khan, Community Librarian and founder of the Savitribai Phule Fatima Sheikh Library, Bhopal; and the Organisation for Early Literacy Promotion (OELP) in the Organisation category.
- The Government of India has initiated One Nation One Subscription (ONOS), a Central Sector Scheme of the Ministry of Education (MoE) to provide access to 13000+ journals from 30 publishers from January 2025 onwards. In 2026, two more publishers were added to ONOS resources- Royal Society of Chemistry and World Scientific Publishing.
- The INFLIBNET Centre held its Open Day on 27 February 2026 to showcase digital library services, research infrastructure, and new technological developments for LIS professionals and institutions.

Social Media News

- “One Library per Home” initiative launched in Karnataka. The Kannada Book Authority launched the “Manegondu Library” initiative to establish home libraries in 100,000 households to promote reading culture and literacy.
- The Gujarat government, in its 2026-27 budget presented by Finance Minister Kanu Desai, has announced a significant investment of ₹100 crore to establish the "Namo Central Library" in Gandhinagar. Slated to be the largest and most modern library in India, the facility aims to provide citizens with enhanced access to digital resources. A key focus of the project is the provision of study and reading materials in digital formats, catering to the needs of students, researchers, and competitive exam aspirants. This initiative is part of a broader push to modernize the state's educational infrastructure. Additionally, the budget allocates ₹50 crore for digital libraries in municipal corporations and plans for 15 new libraries in tribal talukas under the Birsa Munda scheme. This strategic move underscores the government's commitment to leveraging technology for public knowledge and fostering a digital-first learning environment across Gujarat.

GLAM Special Report



The 49th International Kolkata Book Fair (IKBF) wrapped up on February 3, 2026, marking a historic milestone as the most successful fair since it began. Taking place at the vibrant Boimela Prangan in Salt Lake, this 13-day literary celebration captured the hearts of attendees like never before. Official reports indicate an astounding footfall of over 32 lakhs (3.2 million) visitors, breaking all previous records. This enthusiastic turnout resulted in remarkable sales, with total book sales estimated between ₹27 crores and ₹30 crores, showcasing an impressive growth of 15% compared to the previous year.

The 2026 edition of the event truly stood out with its vibrant international flair, highlighting Argentina as the theme country. The Argentine pavilion served as a rich cultural bridge, commemorating the centenary of Rabindranath Tagore's famous visit to Buenos Aires, while also introducing contemporary Latin American voices, such as the talented Claudia Piñeiro from Kolkata. The global presence was notably enhanced by China's return after 15 years and the exciting debut of Ukraine. Unfortunately, for the second consecutive year, there was no dedicated Bangladesh pavilion due to diplomatic and logistical challenges. However, interest in Bangladeshi literature continues to thrive, with various Indian distributors offering their titles to eager readers.

The recent literary fair stood out as a significant venue for both literary accolades and cultural initiatives. Inaugurated by renowned author Amitav Ghosh alongside Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, the event was marked by the presentation of two prestigious awards: The Lifetime Achievement

GLAM Special Report

Award went to Swapnamoy Chakrabarti, while the Samaresh Majumdar Prize was awarded to Goutam Ghose. A standout moment during the closing ceremony was the exciting announcement of "Boi Tirtha," a permanent book museum and mall set to be built near the fairgrounds, bolstered by a ₹10 crore government grant. This new infrastructure aims to serve as a focal point for the upcoming 50th-anniversary celebrations. As the final echoes of the traditional 49 bell strikes faded, the Publishers and Booksellers Guild turned its gaze toward an exciting future. Plans are already underway for the monumental 50th edition in 2027, which is set to be the biggest literary event on the globe. With the state government stepping up to provide more land and enhanced facilities, the Kolkata Book Fair stands as a testament to the enduring bond between readers and printed books. Even in our digital era, this connection remains a vital cultural pillar for the city.

Library in Focus

The 103-year-old Motilal Ghosh Library: Roots linked to Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose and C. R. Das



Library system accepted as measuring unit to the evolution of human civilization and culture. The century old Motilal Ghosh Library is such type of institution at south Kolkata. The library, which had played an important role in India's revolutionary movement and has been named after journalist Motilal Ghose, is situated on the top floor of the 188-year-old Jadu Babu's Bazar at 31 Ashutosh Mukherjee Road in Bhowanipur. It was a part of Dakshin Kolkata Sevak Samity established by Subhas Chandra Bose in 1923 with the help of local volunteers. The library was established in May 1923 and is associated with the legacy of the Amrita Bazar Patrika. Amrita Bazar Patrika was one of the oldest daily newspapers in India. It debuted on 20 February 1868. It was started by Sisir Ghosh and Motilal Ghosh, sons of Hari Naryan Ghosh, a rich merchant from Magura, in District Jessore, in Bengal Province of British Empire in India. It was first edited by Motilal Ghosh, who did not have a formal

university education. Abiding by the direction of Subhas Chandra Bose, his erstwhile followers Chandi Charan Bandopadhyay and Anil Biswas laid the foundation of Motilal Ghose Library in May 1923. Deshbandhu Chittaranjan Das was the first president and Bose was the first secretary of the Samity. Das' sister Urmila Devi, a freedom fighter, made the library functional by buying books from her own fund. Netaji donated many books from his own collection to the library. During the three years of imprisonment at Mandalay jail, Bose recommended a reading list of books for the library to Samity member Hari Charan Bagchi. The Samity and the library were marked as highly suspicious by the British govt too. Proscribed literature was preserved, circulated, and perused in the library secretly to boost patriotism among common people. Freedom fighter Jatindra Nath Das did much for the development of the library. After Bose's disappearance, the library was closed for many years. It was restarted in the early 1970s by Mr. Sandip Dutta who has been functioning as the library secretary since 1987. A few existing club members were present Shri Sandip Dutta said that "I came to the library at the age of 13. I am a follower of Netaji's ideals and principles and have wholeheartedly tried to keep the library running". The library had 700 members and a collection of 15,000 books is battling to survive the odds in a digital era. The membership strength has now shrunk to 60. The library has been getting govt aid since 1980. In the absence of readers, it now opens twice a week. The library had many books signed by Bose. Many invaluable books got damaged or lost due to lack of maintenance and water seepage. Additionally, there are other historical, private collections associated with the Ghosh family in the Pathuriaghata area dating back to the 18th century. As of February 2026, it is over 100 years old and continues to operate, though it faces challenges with declining numbers of readers.



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