

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 step into another month, we pause to reflect on our shared commitment to knowledge, professional values, and a community united by purpose. We extend our sincere gratitude to our readers, contributors, and supporters whose continued engagement sustains this journey.

With this issue, we continue to uphold our focus on quality, relevance, and thoughtful inquiry. What began as a modest initiative has grown into a trusted platform for knowledge exchange and professional connection, an achievement made possible by the dedication of our team and the vibrant community we serve. We deeply value your insights and encourage your continued participation as we grow together.

Beyond our academic pursuits, this month also invites us to reflect on our wider responsibilities and shared intellectual culture. Earth Day reminds us of the importance of sustainable practices and conscious stewardship of our environment, while World Book Day celebrates the enduring value of reading, ideas, and the written word in shaping informed and thoughtful societies.

As we look ahead, we remain committed to delivering meaningful, engaging, and impactful content, while continuing to promote awareness, reflection, and responsibility within and beyond our academic community. Thank you for being an integral part of this ongoing journey.



**GO GREEN
SAVE EARTH**



Latest Vacancies

1. Recruitment for the Post of Library Assistant at Defence Institute of Advanced Technology, Ministry of Defence, Govt. of India Girinagar, Pune - 411 025 : Last Date - 06/04/2026 - [Click here for more](#)
2. Recruitment for the Post of Deputy Librarian at University of Kalyani Kalyani, Nadia – 741235 : Last Date - 09/04/2026 - [Click here for more](#)
3. Recruitment for the Post of Director (Library) in the National Medical Library under Government of India Ministry of Health & Family Welfare National Medical Library Ring Road, Ansari Nagar New Delhi-110029 : Last Date - 09/04/2026 - [Click here for more](#)
4. Recruitment for the Post of Assistant Librarian at Visva-Bharati University, Santiniketan, Bolpur, Birbhum, West Bengal- 731235 : Last Date - 10/04/2026 - [Click here for more](#)
5. Recruitment for the Post of Librarian & Assistant Librarian at Army Public School, Kunraghat, Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh - 273008 : Last Date - 10/04/2026 - [Click here for more](#)
6. Recruitment for the Post of Library Trainee at Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Homi Bhabha Road, Colaba, Mumbai-400005 : Last Date - 11/04/2026 - [Click here for more](#)
7. Recruitment for the Post of Assistant Librarian at National Institute of Technology Tiruchirappalli, Tamil Nadu, Tiruchirappalli– 620015 : Last Date - 12/04/2026 - [Click here for more](#)
8. Recruitment for the Post of Librarian Grade-I at All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Guwahati Changsari, Kamrup, Assam - 781101: Last Date - 13/04/2026 - [Click here for more](#)
9. Recruitment for the Post of Librarian in the State Council of Educational Research and Training, West Bengal conducted by Public Service Commission, West Bengal 161A, S. P. Mukherjee Road, Kolkata – 700 026 : Last Date - 14/04/2026 - [Click here for more](#)
10. Recruitment for the Post of Librarian and Assistant Librarian at Bhattadev University, Bajali, Pathsala, Assam-781325 : Last Date - 15/04/2026 - [Click here for more](#)
11. Recruitment for the Post of Librarian in Directorate of Medical Education Training & Research conducted by Arunachal Pradesh Staff Selection Board, Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh, Itanagar : 791111 : Last Date - 16/04/2026 - [Click here for more](#)
12. Recruitment for the Post of Professional Assistant, Library Assistant & Library Attendant at Central Sanskrit University, 56-57, Institutional Area, Janakpuri, New Delhi-110058 : Last Date - 16/04/2026 - [Click here for more](#)
13. Recruitment for the Post of Library & Information Assistant at National Institute of Technology, Mizoram, Chaltlang, Aizawl, Mizoram - 796012 : Last Date - 20/04/2026 - [Click here for more](#)
14. Recruitment for the Post of Librarian at Diamond Harbour Women's University Sarisha, Diamond Harbour Road, South 24 Parganas, Pin: 743368 : Last Date - 20/04/2026 - [Click here for more](#)
15. Recruitment for the Post of Library Restorer at National Law University and Judicial Academy, Assam (NLUA), Hajo Road, P.O.: Amingaon, Guwahati-781031 : Last Date - 30/04/2026 - [Click here for more](#)

UB Endeavour

Study Circle Reporting.....

The 51st study circle of universal briefing took place on 21st March, 2026 at 7.30 pm. The speaker for the session was Dr. Soumen Mallik, Associate Professor & Head, Department of Library and Information Science, Vidyasagar University and the President of the session was Dr. Sudip Ranjan Hatua, Associate Professor, Department of Library and Information Science, Rabindra Bharati University. The topic of the study circle was "Library and Information Science (LIS) in 'New World Order'".

UB Endeavour

The speaker delivered an engaging presentation on a remarkably distinctive topic. He began by tracing the origins of the concept of the “World Order” back to the late eighteenth century, and outlining historical power structures and global dynamics. He examined the role of pre-colonial libraries before exploring how colonialism profoundly shaped post-colonial library systems, influencing library education, the rise of Asiatic societies, and the development of public libraries. He then discussed the collapse of colonialism during World War II and its far-reaching consequences, including the emergence of a new global order, the economic decline of European powers, and the creation of major international institutions. Dr. Mallik further analyzed the impact of the new world order led by the United States, emphasising how technological innovation and digital advancements significantly transformed the field of LIS. The discussion also covered major LIS initiatives of the 1990s, including the founding of arXiv, the Open Access movement, BioMed Central, and developments in metadata and RDF. Focusing on India, he highlighted how these global changes influenced LIS practices, including the growth of internet usage, the development of information networks, and updates to academic curricula. In conclusion, the speaker addressed the emerging world order of 2025–26, considering recent geopolitical developments and their potential consequences, with particular attention to their implications for LIS in an era marked by a shifting global economy. He concluded his presentation on an optimistic note, envisioning a prosperous future for LIS in the evolving world order.

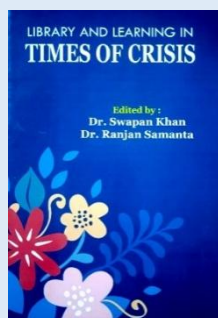
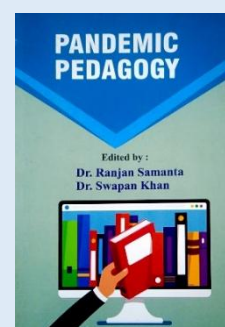
Announcement.....

UB-Study Circle (Forthcoming Notification) The 52nd study circle of the Universal Briefing will take place on 25th April, 2026 at 7.30 pm and the speaker for the session will be Dr. Rajesh Das, Assistant Professor & Head, Department of Library and Information Science, University of Burdwan.

UB Endeavour

Our Publication.....

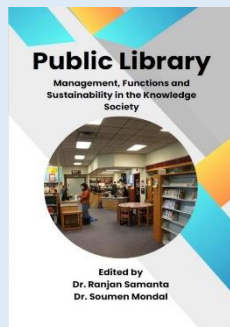
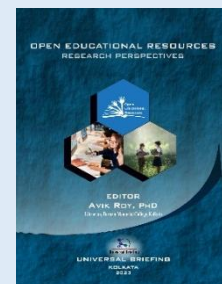
The book “Pandemic Pedagogy” was published by Prova Prakashani in collaboration with Universal Briefing in the year 2020. It was jointly edited by Dr. Ranjan Samanta and Dr. Swapan Khan. The book had informative eighteenth chapters. The outstanding contribution of authors presented an exceptional dimension 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.

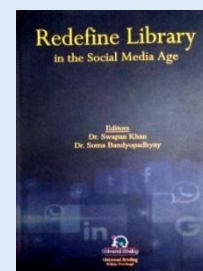
UB Endeavour

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.



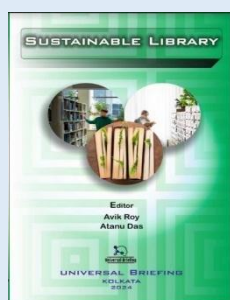
This book celebrates the profound impact of public libraries as vibrant spaces of learning, connection, and empowerment. In an era marked by rapid technological advancements and evolving societal needs, public libraries remain steadfast in their mission to provide equitable access to information and 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



UB Endeavour

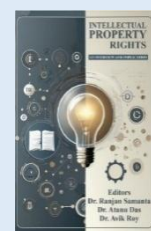
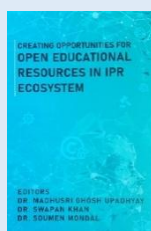
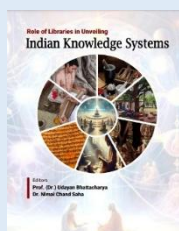
among all the stakeholders of the library. There is no doubt that the present library must be defined in the context of social media to satisfy the users in this social media age.



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.....



Research Spotlight

DLIS, Mangalayan University, Aligarh (Awarded Works 2026)

1. **Thesis Title:** A Scientometric Study of Research Output on Learning Analytics (2001-2022)
Scholar: Vishnu Kumar Kulshrestha
Supervisor: Dr. Ashok Kumar Upadhyay

DLIS, Bharathidasan University, Tiruchirappalli (Awarded Works 2026)

2. **Thesis Title:** Information Literacy and Use of E-Resources Among the Women Faculty Members of Arts and Science Colleges in Tiruchirappalli: A Study
Scholar: G. Kirthiga
Supervisor: Dr. C. Ranganathan

DLIS, North-Eastern Hill University, Shillong (Awarded Works 2025)

3. **Thesis Title:** Competency Requirements of Library Professionals in Central Universities of North East India
Scholar: Betbhalin Lyngdoh
Supervisor: Dr. Jacqueline Jane Thabah
4. **Thesis Title:** Disaster Management Plan of Print Collections in University Libraries of Assam
Scholar: Anjan Gohain
Supervisor: Dr. Bikika Laloo Tariang

Shri Venkateshwara University, Amroha (Awarded Works 2025)

5. **Thesis Title:** A Study on the Impact of ICT Software on The Academic Library & Resources with Special References to Delhi/NCR
Scholar: Gulshan Kumar Sachdeva
Supervisor: Dr. Anil Kumar Jharotia

DLIS, Mangalore University, Mangalagangothri (Awarded Works 2025)

6. **Thesis Title:** Implementation of Information Communication Technology Based Library Standards in College Libraries of Coastal Karnataka
Scholar: Meghanandha C.
Supervisor: Dr. Umesha Naik

School of Library & Information Sciences, Central University of Gujrat, Vadodara (Awarded Works 2025)

7. **Thesis Title:** Enabling Global Access to Digitized Manuscript Collections the Case of Hazrat Pir Muhammad Shah Library and Research Centre
Scholar: Amreen Taj
Supervisor: Dr. Bhakti Gala

DLIS, University of Calcutta, Kolkata (Awarded Works 2025)

8. **Thesis Title:** Designing a Model for Data Management Plan Tool and Metadata Management: From the Perspective of Indian Research Funding Agencies
Scholar: Ranjeet Kumar Singh
Supervisor: Dr. Devika P. Madalli
9. **Thesis Title:** Developing A Graph Based Citation Database of Doctoral Theses Awarded by Centrally Funded Technical Institutions in India
Scholar: Gopalji
Supervisor: Dr. Devika P. Madalli & Dr. Pijushkanti Panigrahi

Monthly Scholarly Highlights

- Ahmadinia, H. (2026). Belonging through information: Mapping immigrant integration needs in Nordic societies. *Library & Information Science Research*, 48(1), 101400.
- Bossaller, J., & Eldridge, B. (2026). Stories and Seeds: Nurturing Hope Through Libraries and Gardens. *The Library Quarterly*, 96(2), 235-249.
- Cecire, M. S., McKim, A., Castle-Cimfel, L., & Perron, G. G. (2026). Reframing “At-Risk” Youth and Their Intellectual Lives Through a Humanities-Oriented Reading and Discussion Program. *The Library Quarterly*, 96(2), 216-234.
- Gosart, U., & Fu, R. (2026). Representation of Native Educators in Library and Information Science Programs, 1991–2022. *The Library Quarterly*, 96(2), 199-215.
- Nissen, A. S. E., & Larsen, H. (2026). Performances of Neutrality: Audiences’ Perceptions of Public Library Legitimacy. *The Library Quarterly*, 96(2), 160-178.
- Peekhaus, W. (2026). The State of Library and Information Science Research on Artificial Intelligence: A Literature Review. *The Library Quarterly*, 96(2), 140-159.
- Rasmussen, C. H., & Larsen, H. (2026). Four Democratic Potentials in Public Libraries: A Model. *The Library Quarterly*, 96(2), 123-139.
- Silberberg, E. (2026). The Role of Libraries in Advancing Research at Mexican Normal Schools: A Qualitative Study. *The Library Quarterly*, 96(2), 179-198.
- Shahid, S. H., & Sinnamon, L. (2026). A meta-ethnographic synthesis of researchers’ views on scholarly misconduct in the health sciences. *Library & Information Science Research*, 48(1), 101399.
- Vizváry, P. (2026). Diary method in information behavior research: A systematic literature review. *Library & Information Science Research*, 48(1), 101401.
- Wu, Z., Huang, L., Wang, M., & He, X. (2026). Data sharing intentions of neuroscience researchers: A consequentialist theory perspective. *Library & Information Science Research*, 48(1), 101398.

Forthcoming Events

Conferences, Seminars, Webinars & Summits

- A National Seminar on “Libraries as Engines of Knowledge, Engagement, Empowerment and Employability among Gen-Z” organized by the Central Library, & the Students of the West Bengal State University. Dates: 8 & 9 April, 2026. Timing: 10am to 5pm. Venue: University Auditorium, West Bengal State University, Barasat, West Bengal, India. For Registration: [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](#)
- International Conference on Library and Information Science (ICLIS). Located in Toronto, Canada (organized by IGRNet) covering LIS, digital libraries, and information behavior. Dates: 26-27 April 2026. For more info: [click here](#)
- IFLA Webinar Series: LIS Education Internationalisation. A specialized webinar regarding internationalization of LIS education. Date: 27 April 2026. For more info: [click here](#)
- A Three-Day National-Level Librarian Development Programme (LDP) on “Empowering Librarians for the Digital, Data-Driven, and Sustainable Knowledge Ecosystem,” organized by the Library and Information Centre, Goa Institute of Management, in association with the Directorate of Higher Education, Goa, will be held from May 4–6, 2026. For Registration: [Click here.](#)

Workshops, Programmes, Training & Courses

- As part of the Centenary Celebrations, the Department of Library and Information Science, in collaboration with the Dr. V.S. Krishna Library, Andhra University, is organizing a Five-Day Intensive Workshop on KOHA from 06-04-2026 to 10-04-2026 at the Browsing Centre, Dr. V.S. Krishna Library, Andhra University, Visakhapatnam-530003, Andhra Pradesh. For Registration: [Click here.](#)
- Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics (GIPE), Pune, is organizing a National Workshop on DSpace 9.0, which will be held from 08–10 April 2026. For Registration: [Click here.](#)

Forthcoming Events

- IKS–TKDL Workshop-10 on “Traditional Knowledge, Intellectual Property & People’s Rights” (Online) organized by the Indian Knowledge Systems Division and CSIR Traditional Knowledge Digital Library Unit. Dates: 20–24, 27 & 30 April 2026. For more info: [Click here.](#)
- SWAYAM Library and Information Science (LIS) courses currently open for enrollment are free to enroll 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 is pleased to announce 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

The National Overseas Scholarship (NOS) for Students with Disabilities

The **National Overseas Scholarship (NOS)** for students with benchmark disabilities is a significant initiative aimed at providing financial assistance to eligible candidates for pursuing higher education abroad. The scheme is designed to empower students with disabilities by enabling them to access quality international education at reputed universities and institutions. This Scheme supports students in pursuing master’s degree and Ph.D. programmes in foreign institutions. However, diploma, postgraduate diploma, and certificate courses are not covered under this scheme.

Eligibility Criteria: Candidates applying for the scholarship must meet specific academic and eligibility requirements. For admission to a master’s degree programme, a candidate must have secured at least 55% marks or an equivalent grade in the relevant bachelor’s degree. Similarly, for Ph.D. programmes, a minimum of 55% marks or equivalent grade in the relevant master’s degree is required. The applicant must be below 35 years of age as of 1st April of the selection year. Candidates who have already availed benefits of any similar scholarship scheme from Central or State Government for the same level of study are not eligible. Additionally, an individual can avail the National Overseas Scholarship only once in a lifetime. Applicants must secure admission (conditional or unconditional) in foreign universities that are ranked among the top 500 institutions as per the latest QS World Rankings. Courses related to Indian culture, heritage, history, or social studies based on India are not covered under this scheme.

Duration: The financial assistance is provided for the duration of the course, subject to the prescribed limits. Scholarship is granted for a period of maximum 4 years for Ph.D. degree programmes and 1/2/3 years (One/two three years) depending upon the duration of the master’s degree programmes.

Benefits: The scholarship offers comprehensive financial support to selected candidates. The benefits include:

- **Tuition Fees:** Paid as per actuals to the institution.
- **Maintenance Allowance:**
 - For the USA and other countries: USD 15,400 per annum
 - For the UK: GBP 9,900 per annum
- **Contingency Allowance:**

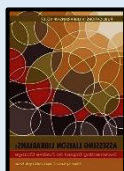
Students Corner

- USD 1,500 per annum (USA and other countries)
- GBP 1,100 per annum (UK)
- **Other allowances include** Incidental Journey Allowance, Equipment Allowance Visa Fees and Medical Insurance, Airfare (Economy class airfare from India to the destination country and back), Examination Fees, Local Travel Expenses (Covered as per norms), poll tax, bank charges, and mandatory medical tests.
- Additionally, students are allowed to undertake research or teaching assistantships within prescribed financial limits to supplement their income.

Application Procedure: The applications for scholarships under the scheme is invited online through Portal under the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities. All submitted applications are scrutinized based on eligibility criteria such as academic qualifications, age, income limits, and disability status. A merit list within the sanctioned number of yearly slots is then prepared by the Screening Committee. After the final award letter, the department may direct the candidates to submit a medical assessment report concerning their disability from the recognized hospital/ medical authorities. The finally selected candidates are required to obtain admission and join the course/ university/ institution abroad as per the award letter within three years from the date of the award letter.

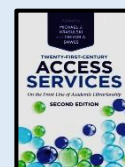
For further information on eligibility, benefits, and application procedure, please visit: <https://disabilityaffairs.gov.in/> or the official scholarship portal.

Latest Publication



Assessing Liaison Librarians: Documenting Impact for Positive Change: Publications in Librarianship by Daniel C. Mack & Gary W. White. Chicago; ACRL. ISBN (pbk) 978-0-8389-8708-7; \$44.00

Twenty-First-Century Access Services: On the Front Line of Academic Librarianship, 2nd ed. by Michael J. Krasulski & Trevor A. Dawes. Chicago; ACRL, 2023. ISBN (pbk) 978-0-8389-3931-4; \$76.00



International Students and Academic Libraries: Initiatives for Success by Pamela A. Jackson & Patrick Sullivan. Chicago; ACRL. ISBN (pbk) 978-0-8389-8593-9; \$44.00

No Shelf Required: E-Books in Libraries by Sue Polanka. New Dehi: ALA Editions. ISBN (pbk) 978-0838910542; ₹7,735.00



Trends on Tech

Julius AI:

Julius AI is an advanced artificial intelligence platform designed to help users analyse data, create visualizations, and perform complex calculations through natural language instructions. It is particularly useful for researchers, students, and professionals who need to work with data but may not have extensive programming skills. By allowing users to upload datasets and ask questions in plain language, Julius AI simplifies the data analysis process.

Key Features:

One of the most notable features of Julius AI is its ability to interpret and analyze datasets such as spreadsheets, CSV files, or structured data tables. Users can upload data and ask questions like “summarize this dataset,” “find trends,” or “create a chart,” and the system automatically processes the request. Julius AI can generate graphs, charts, and tables to represent patterns and insights within the data. This makes it easier for users to understand complex datasets quickly. The platform also supports statistical analysis and predictive modelling. It can perform calculations such as regression analysis, correlations, and forecasting. Additionally, Julius AI can generate and execute code (often in Python) to handle advanced data operations while presenting results in a simple, understandable format.

Effectiveness and Applications:

Julius AI is widely used for academic research, business analytics, and educational purposes. Researchers can use it to analyse survey results or experimental data, while businesses may employ it to study sales patterns, financial trends, or customer behaviour. For students and educators, the tool provides a convenient way to explore datasets and learn data science concepts interactively.

Pricing and Accessibility

The free version allows basic data analysis with limited usage, while premium plans provide advanced features, larger dataset support, and faster processing. Pricing may vary depending on the level of usage and features required. For more information click [HERE](#).

OpenAI closes Sora video-making app:

OpenAI has shut down its artificial intelligence (AI) video-generation app Sora less than two years after its unveiling made headlines for creating realistic clips based on simple prompts. At the same time OpenAI will also wind down its \$1bn content partnership with entertainment giant Disney. OpenAI told that it has discontinued Sora so that it can focus on other developments, such as robotics "that will help people solve real-world, physical tasks". OpenAI said it is shutting down both its Sora consumer app and the internet-based platform that professional install to generate videos. The firm said it aims to create other forms of advanced AI, including "agentic" technology capable of autonomously completing tasks with little human oversight. For more details, please click [HERE](#).

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.

Obituary



It is with profound grief and deep sorrow that we inform you of the untimely demise of Dr. Utpal Das, Librarian, LNB Library, Dibrugarh University, and Chairperson, CLISS, Dibrugarh University, who passed away on 26.03.2026 at about 7.00 A.M. Dr. Das was a distinguished professional in the field of Library and Information Science, widely respected for his immense knowledge, dedication, and humble nature. He was not only an accomplished librarian but also a mentor and guiding force to many in the LIS community. His invaluable contributions to the profession and his institution will always be remembered. His passing is an irreparable loss to the academic and LIS fraternity. We extend our heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family, colleagues, and all those who had the privilege of knowing him.

May his departed soul rest in eternal peace. Om Shanti 🙏

Social Media News

- The **Dr. Shakuntala Misra National Rehabilitation University (DSMNRU)** in Lucknow has significantly enhanced its library to promote inclusive education for students with disabilities. The university's "Talking Book Studio" has added over **3,500 audiobooks** and recorded lectures, moving beyond a previously limited collection. The library now features a wide range of materials, including core academic textbooks, university lectures, and classic literary works like *Godan* and *Gunahon Ka Devta*. While designed primarily to assist visually impaired students, these audio resources are available to the entire student body. Files can be easily transferred to pen drives for offline listening. The university utilizes specialized software to convert specific books into audio format upon request, ensuring students have access to the exact materials they need. Vice-Chancellor Prof. Sanjay Singh emphasized that this initiative is a critical step in using technology to bridge the educational gap and provide equal opportunities for all students. This upgrade ensures that physical or visual limitations do not hinder a student's ability to access high-quality academic and literary resources.
- The intense demand for government jobs in Gujarat is fundamentally reshaping the state's public infrastructure, as the "exam fever" drives a massive expansion of educational facilities. With the prestigious Sardar Patel Institute of Public Administration (SPIPA) receiving up to 25,000 applications for just 635 seats, the resulting competition has fueled a surge in private coaching centers and transformed quiet government libraries into bustling, late-night study hubs. In response to this trend, the state has nearly quadrupled its library budget—from ₹40 crore to ₹180 crore over five years—to build modern reading rooms even at the village and taluka levels. This infrastructure shift is particularly visible in tribal districts, where new facilities provide essential resources for local aspirants. Ultimately, the desperate pursuit of stable public sector careers has turned library development into a cornerstone of state policy, evolving these spaces from simple book repositories into high-demand centers for social mobility.
- The Karnataka government has significantly modernized its public library system by lifting long-standing price caps on book procurement, a move designed to make library collections more relevant and accessible. Previously, strict budgetary limits forced libraries to bypass expensive international bestsellers, high-quality reference materials, and essential competitive exam guides, often resulting in outdated or niche inventories. Under the new policy, the selection process

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shifts toward a reader-driven model, allowing the Department of Public Libraries to acquire high-demand titles and works by popular contemporary authors that were once financially out of reach. This reform specifically benefits students and researchers who rely on public institutions for costly educational resources. By prioritizing current literature and diverse genres over rigid price restrictions, the government aims to revitalize public interest in libraries, transforming them into vibrant hubs of modern knowledge. This strategic overhaul ensures that the state's massive network of libraries can finally compete with private bookstores in terms of quality and variety, fostering a more robust culture of reading and lifelong learning across the state.

- After nearly nine years of disputes, the Ernakulam Public Library (Kerala) has cleared the way for modernization by demolishing a contested auxiliary building. Heritage activists had opposed the move, but the Heritage Commission ruled the structure lacked historical significance. The library, founded in 1870 on land gifted by the Maharaja of Cochin, had later additions built in the 1970s. Officials argued those structures had become unsafe, and legal clearance was finally granted under the Kerala Municipality Act. Plans now include constructing a modern multi-storey complex with digital archives, expanded parking, and improved facilities, transforming the library into a contemporary information hub. While the children's summer camp was cancelled due to demolition work, management believes the short-term inconvenience will lead to a world-class facility for Kochi's community.

GLAM Special Report

Village Voices, Digital Choices: The Library Revolution in Uttar Pradesh

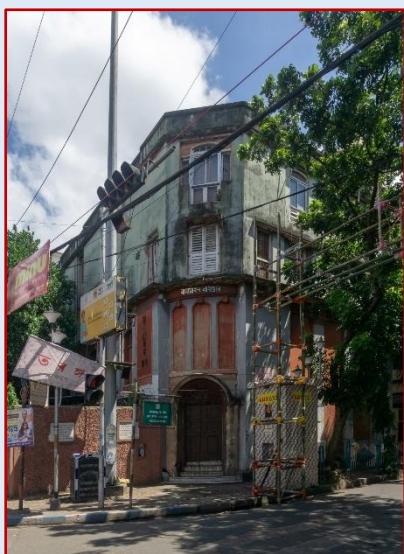
In a significant step towards closing the digital gap, the Uttar Pradesh government has achieved a remarkable milestone this month in its ambitious initiative to set up high-tech digital libraries across the state's Gram Panchayats. The Uttar Pradesh government successfully hit its milestone of transforming over 11,350 Gram Panchayat secretariats into modern digital libraries by the March 31, 2026 deadline. This achievement marks the completion of a phased rollout that began aggressively in late 2024. For years, rural students in UP journeyed to cities like Prayagraj or Lucknow in search of quality study resources for competitive exams. Now, the Gram Panchayat Digital Library Scheme is rewriting this story, bringing opportunity directly to village secretariats through:

- Smart Infrastructure:** Every unit has specialized computer terminals, LED screens for video presentations, and fast Wi-Fi.
- A Hybrid Collection:** Each library has a physical collection of more than 2,000 academic books and competitive exam aids, even if the emphasis is on digital.
- Zero-Cost Access:** Locals are given free access to all services, including more than 20,000 e-books and carefully selected test series for the UPSC, UPPSC, and SSC.

The state government has allocated nearly ₹4 lakhs to each library, ensuring consistent facilities across all districts. Phase 1 of the initiative intends to reach approximately 11,350 Gram Panchayats. Initial observations show that each library draws an average of 40–50 students daily, with a notable increase in female student attendance, primarily due to their convenient location. The libraries are managed by the Gram Pradhan and Panchayat Secretary, promoting a sense of local ownership and security. This initiative is being recognized as a significant advancement for the state's human capital development. By providing students in remote areas like Bundelkhand and Purvanchal with access to the same digital resources available in urban centers, Uttar Pradesh is fostering equitable opportunities for the upcoming generation of civil servants and professionals.

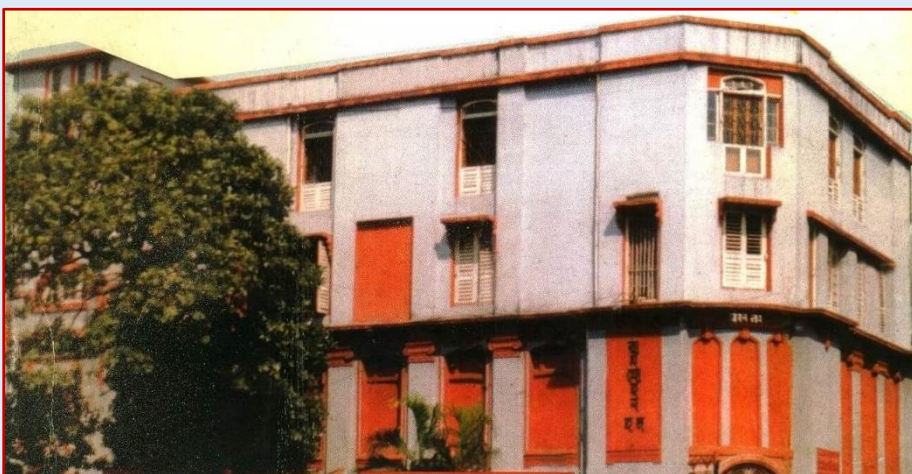
Library in Focus

Century Old Rammohun Library & Free Reading Room: Bearing the Torch of Reason and Knowledge



Rammohun Library & Free Reading Room (RL&FRR) was established in the year 1904 by some celebrities to perpetuate the memory of Raja Rammohun Roy. The first mention of the library in the memory of Raja Rammohun Roy was found in 27th September 1886 in a meeting chaired by Dr. Mahendralal Sarkar at the City College Hall, when an appeal was forwarded to establish a memorial in the name of the great reformer. It was conceived that the best way of remembering the great man was to set up a Library. Later in the year 1893, Carl Erich Hammergren, who came to India to do research work on Rammohun Roy, conveyed his intention of helping in setting up a library in the memory of Raja Rammohun Roy. For this purpose, a temporary committee was formed with members like Pandit Narayan Chandra Bidyaratna (Son of Pandit Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar), J. N. Bose, poet Dwijendralal Roy, Rajendra Lal Ganguly, D. N. Pal, Deb Kumar Roy Choudhury, Basanta Kumar Nag and Sarat Chandra Majumder. The chairman of the

committee was Pannalal Basu. Likewise on 24th January 1905 Rammohun Library started functioning from a rented house at 101, Upper Circular Road, (presently Acharya Prafulla Chandra Road). The First Chairman was Narendranath Sen, General Secretary was Professor Promatha nath Bandyopadhyay and Sarat Ch. Majumder was the first Librarian. On 9th June, 1909 the name of the library was changed to Rammohun Library & Free Reading Room and on 15th August that year the library was registered under Act 21 of 1860. The main intention of library was: "to perpetuate the memory of Raja Rammohun Roy and to stimulate the intellectual and moral culture among the people by affording facilities for the study of healthy literature in different branches." Soon the Library was shifted to the new premises at 22/1, Cornawallis Street during October 1910. In 1911 an appeal was made to the then Calcutta Corporation (Presently Kolkata Municipal Corporation) asking for a plot of land for construction of the Institute's own building which was accepted. On 11th May 1912 the foundation stone was laid by Maharajadhiraj Bahadur Bijoy Chand Mahtab of Barddhaman and under the supervision of architect Sir Rajendra Nath Mukherjee, Martin Company agreed to construct the building without any financial profit. Some eminent persons were given donation to erect newly constructed building. The inauguration of the new buildings was held on 9th December 1913 by Lord Carmichael. The library started functioning in a rented room with



783 English books and 591 Bengali and Sanskrit Books. The total books were over 1374. The library now has more than 70,000 books.' It is also enriched with 10,080 rare books and 50 manuscripts, 2 punthis, volumes of old periodicals and journals of Asiatic Society, Modern Review Prabasi, Basumati, Desh from 1st Edition. The library has also little magazine section. There

are 1048 little magazines in the library. There is a Hindi section in the library, with 328 books. The library has a souvenir, which contains articles contributed to the library over the years.

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