

# UNIVERSAL BRIEFING NEWSLETTER

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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.

*About Universal Briefing*

## Contents

- Editorial Desk
- Latest Vacancies
- UB Endeavour
- Research Spotlight
- Monthly Scholarly Highlights
- Forthcoming Events
- Students Corner
- Latest Publication
- Trends on Tech
- Social Media News
- GLAM Special Report
- Library in Focus
- Editorial Board
- Feedback & Suggestions

## 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 through the lens of World Environment Day. Guided by this year's compelling theme "*Inspired by Nature. For Climate. For Our Future.*", we are reminded that the natural world holds the blueprint for the solutions we need. As an intellectual community, our responsibility extends beyond mere discussion; it challenges us to translate our awareness into action by utilizing our shared knowledge, cultivating sustainable habits, and advocating for nature-based practices that drive climate resilience and safeguard our environment for generations to come.

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 Assistant Librarian at Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Guwahati, Guwahati- 781122 : Last Date - 06/06/2026 -[Click here for more](#)
2. Recruitment for the post of Library Assistant at Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research (IGIDR) Deemed to be University, Mumbai -400065 : Last Date - 08/06/2026 -[Click here for more](#)
3. Recruitment for the Post of Professor, Associate Professor & Assistant Professor at department of Library and Information Science at Berhampur University, Ganjam -760007 : Last Date - 10/06/2026 -[Click here for more](#)
4. Recruitment for the Post of Cataloguer at Asiatic Society, Kolkata-700016 : Last Date - 11/06/2026 -[Click here for more](#)
5. Recruitment for the Post of Library Professional Trainee at Vikram Sarabhai Library, Ahmedabad, Gujarat - 380015 : Last Date - 12/06/2026 -[Click here for more](#)
6. Recruitment for the Post of Librarian in Non-Government Aided Colleges in Odisha Under Department of Higher Education, Odisha: Last Date - 12/06/2026 -[Click here for more](#)
7. Recruitment for the Post of Professor at Gangadhar Meher University, Sambalpur - 768001 : Last Date - 14/06/2026 -[Click here for more](#)
8. Recruitment for the Post of Associate Professor at Gangadhar Meher University, Sambalpur - 768001 : Last Date - 14/06/2026 -[Click here for more](#)
9. Recruitment for the Post of Assistant Professor at Gangadhar Meher University, Sambalpur - 768001 : Last Date - 14/06/2026 -[Click here for more](#)
10. Recruitment for the Post of Deputy Librarian & Library Superintendent at Indian Institute of Science Education And Research (IISER) Mohali, Punjab - 140306 : Last Date - 15/06/2026 -[Click here for more](#)
11. Recruitment for the post of Assistant Professor at Sambalpur University, Sambalpur - 768019: Last Date - 16/06/2026 -[Click here for more](#)
12. Recruitment for the post of Associate Professor at Sambalpur University, Sambalpur - 768019: Last Date - 16/06/2026 -[Click here for more](#)
13. Recruitment for the post of Library Information Assistant at Indian Institute of Management Tiruchirappalli, Tamil Nadu - 620024 : Last Date - 19/06/2026 -[Click here for more](#)
14. Recruitment for the post of Librarian at National Institute of Ayurveda Deemed-To-Be-University, Jaipur -302002 : Last Date - 20/06/2026 -[Click here for more](#)
15. Recruitment for the Post of Professor at Utkal University, Bhubaneswar - 751004 : Last Date - 20/06/2026 -[Click here for more](#)
16. Recruitment for the Post of Associate Professor at Utkal University, Bhubaneswar - 751004 : Last Date - 20/06/2026 -[Click here for more](#)
17. Recruitment for the Post of Assistant Professor at at Utkal University, Bhubaneswar - 751004 : Last Date - 20/06/2026 -[Click here for more](#)
18. Recruitment for the post of Junior Superintendent (Library) at Atal Bihari Vajpayee-Indian Institute Of Information Technology And Management (ABV-IIITM), Gwalior - 474015 : Last Date - 29/06/2026 -[Click here for more](#)
19. Recruitment for the post of Librarian & Assistant Librarian at National Institute Of Technology Silchar, Assam - 788 010 : Last Date - 30/06/2026 -[Click here for more](#)
20. Recruitment for the post of Librarian at Directorate of Technical Education & SCERT, Odisha, Last Date - 11/07/2026 -[Click here for more](#)

## UB Endeavour

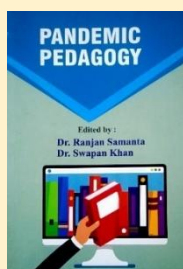
### Study Circle Reporting.....

**The 53rd study circle** of Universal briefing took place on 30th May, 2026 at 7.30 pm. The speaker of the session was Dr. Narayan Chandra Ghosh, Librarian, IIM Calcutta and the president for the session was Dr. Shantanu Ganguly, Director, Library Operations, HDFC Library, Ashoka University. The topic of the study circle was “Designing a Conversational Search System for Reference Service Using Open-Source RAG and LLM: A Case Study of IIM Calcutta Library”. The speaker began by introducing an innovative project currently being developed at IIM Calcutta Library, an AI-enabled information retrieval system for reference services. Supported by a team of technologically skilled library professionals, the project seeks to modernize how users access information and interact with library resources. Dr. Ghosh emphasized that modern libraries are no longer judged by the size of their collections but by the quality, speed, and accessibility of the services they provide. To address users’ expectations for 24/7 support, the library is developing an AI-powered chatbot integrated into its website. Using Large Language Models (LLMs) and Retrieval-Augmented Generation (RAG), the system enables users to ask questions in natural language and receive immediate responses based on subscribed databases rather than general web sources. The team tested the system using twelve key databases and found promising levels of accuracy. He also highlighted the importance of RAG in minimizing AI hallucinations by grounding responses in verified institutional knowledge. Built using Python, LangChain, embedding models, and Llama 3.3, the system combines semantic and keyword-based retrieval. Although challenges such as infrastructure costs remain, the project demonstrates how AI can transform library reference services into more responsive, contextual, and user-centered systems. The speaker concluded by stressing that AI is becoming integral to education and information services, making it essential for librarians to embrace and adapt to these technological advancements.

### Announcement.....

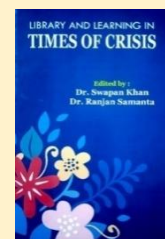
**UB-Study Circle (Forthcoming Notification)** The 54th study circle of the Universal Briefing will take place on 27th June, 2026 at 7.30 pm. and the speaker for the session will be Dr. Samir Kumar Jalal, Deputy Librarian, IIT, Kharagpur.

### Our Publication.....



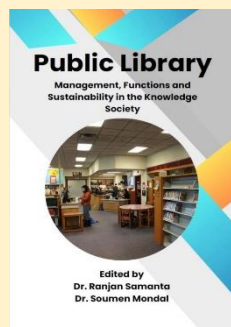
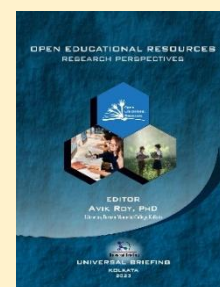
The book “Pandemic Pedagogy” was published by Prova Prakashani in collaboration with Universal Briefing in the year 2020. It was jointly edited by Dr. Ranjan Samanta and Dr. Swapan Khan. The book had informative eighteenth chapters. The outstanding contribution of authors presented an exceptional dimension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



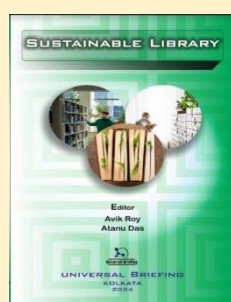
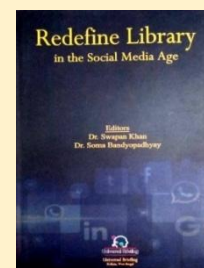
**UB Endeavour**

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.



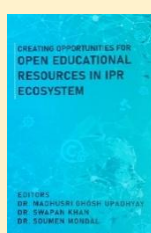
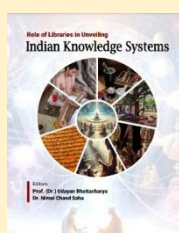
This book celebrates the profound impact of public libraries as vibrant spaces of learning, connection, and empowerment. In an era marked by rapid technological advancements and evolving societal needs, public libraries remain steadfast in their mission to provide equitable access to information and 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 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, Vidyasagar University, Medinipur (Awarded Works 2026)

1. **Thesis Title:** Information Seeking Behaviour of the Beneficiaries of Social Welfare Schemes of the Central Government and the Government of West Bengal in Paschim Medinipur District: A Study  
**Scholar:** Priya Pore  
**Supervisor:** Dr. Pijush Kanti Jana
2. **Thesis Title:** Designing a Framework of Open Data Repository for Social Science Research in India  
**Scholar:** Sanjoy Kar  
**Supervisor:** Dr. Durga Sankar Rath

### DLIS, Hindustan Institute of Technology and Science, Chennai (Awarded Works 2026)

3. **Thesis Title:** Information access through library automation using OPAC in selected deemed university libraries in and around Chennai: A study  
**Scholar:** C. Indrajith  
**Supervisor:** Dr. K. Veeraramu

### DLIS, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi (Awarded Works 2025)

4. **Thesis Title:** Ranganathan's Five Laws as Quality Indicator for Libraries  
**Scholar:** Samrat Maurya  
**Supervisor:** Dr. Aditya Tripathi

### DLIS, Madhav University, Mount Abu (Awarded Works 2025)

5. **Thesis Title:** Next Generation Libraries Human Library A Study in Indian Perspective  
**Scholar:** Shail Din  
**Supervisor:** Dr. Faheem Ali Sayed

### DLIS, Swami Vivekanand Subharti University, Meerut (Awarded Works 2025)

6. **Thesis Title:** Content Analysis of Library Websites of Institutions of Eminence in India  
**Scholar:** Faisal Mustafa  
**Supervisor:** Dr. Javed Khan

### DLIS, Gujarat Vidyapith, Ahmedabad (Awarded Works 2026)

7. **Thesis Title:** Model of an effective circulation system of the university libraries of Gujarat an Analytical study  
**Scholar:** Dharmishtha Maheshbhai Dangar  
**Supervisor:** Dr. Prayatkar Kanadiya

### DLIS, Ramchandra Chandravansi University, Ranchi (Awarded Works 2025)

8. **Thesis Title:** Study of Library and Information Science education in Bihar  
**Scholar:** Bikash Kumar  
**Supervisor:** Dr. B. U. Kannappanavar

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

- Cheng, S., Trei, K. J., & Benson, S. R. (2026). Bridging patent education and academic librarianship: A qualitative study of STEM undergraduate majors' patent knowledge and learning experiences. *The Journal of Academic Librarianship*, 52(4), 103270.
- Brown-Sica, M. (2026). Market effects of open educational resources on US textbook pricing (2003–2024). *The Journal of Academic Librarianship*, 52(4), 103271.
- Eden, B. L. (2026). Rethinking Institutional Repositories: innovations in Management, Collections, and Inclusion: Cromwell, Josh C. (Ed.). (2023). Chicago: Association of College and Research Libraries. xi, 259 pp., \$70.00 (pbk), ISBN 9798892555432. *Journal of Web Librarianship*, 20(1), 108. <https://doi.org/10.1080/19322909.2026.2614559>
- Fronk, E. (2025). Connecting Teens with Technology at the Library: Czarnecki, K. N., & Harris, M. L. (2021). Rowman & Littlefield. 118 pp., \$74.97 softcover, ISBN: 9781538135877. *Journal of Web Librarianship*, 19(3–4), 262–263. <https://doi.org/10.1080/19322909.2025.2552135>
- Fruehauf, E., Schmidt, L., & Boczar, A. (2026). User perspectives on LINK: A generative AI chatbot for academic libraries. *The Journal of Academic Librarianship*, 52(4), 103255.
- Kamat, M., Kumbar, M. F., & Bakshani, U. (2026). Attitude mediation in Indian academic librarians' acceptance of generative AI: A UTAUT-based study of technology adoption in Indian academic libraries. *The Journal of Academic Librarianship*, 52(4), 103256.
- Kassen, M. (2026). Beyond Publication: How e-government Platforms Use AI, Blockchain and Feedback Forums to Co-create Better Open Data. *Journal of Web Librarianship*, 20(1), 1-44.
- Khan, Z. I., Hossain, Z., Biswas, M. S., & Islam, M. E. (2025). Mapping AI Literacy Among Library Professionals: A Cross-Regional Study of South Asia and the Middle East. *Journal of Web Librarianship*, 19(3-4), 189-220.
- Khan, Z. I. (2025). Awareness, Adoption, Challenges and Effectiveness of AI Tools in Research Writing: Perspectives of Research Scholars from India and the United Arab Emirates. *Journal of Web Librarianship*, 19(3-4), 221-255.
- Krakowska, M., & Zych, M. (2026). Kolkata virtual reality: Academic librarians' perceptions, emotions, and implementation readiness. *The Journal of Academic Librarianship*, 52(4), 103260.
- Li, R., Guo, M., & Qiu, Z. (2026). Academic libraries as wellness centers: A randomized controlled trial comparing bibliotherapy and exercise for student learning enhancement. *The Journal of Academic Librarianship*, 52(4), 103258.
- Liu, H., Han, X., Li, S., Lin, W., & Zhang, M. (2026). Impact of Visual and Verbal Anthropomorphism on User Satisfaction in Academic Library Services. *Journal of Web Librarianship*, 1-36.
- Madsen, D. O., & Silva, E. S. (2026). Teaching citation in the age of generative AI: Rethinking research literacy, academic integrity, and epistemic responsibility. *The Journal of Academic Librarianship*, 52(4), 103267.
- Nguyen, L. T. (2026). Digital transformation in Vietnamese academic library services: Current trends and challenges. *The Journal of Academic Librarianship*, 52(4), 103269.
- Norton, C., Ott, M. N., & Bloodworth, E. (2026). Is Tweaking Enough? A Follow-up Usability Study of Primo VE at an Academic Library. *Journal of Web Librarianship*, 20(1), 81-93.
- Oladokun, B. D., Atuase, D., Tachie-Donkor, G., Mosweu, T. L., & Gaitanou, P. (2026). University libraries in the age of generative AI: Perceptions and usage among students in developing countries. *The Journal of Academic Librarianship*, 52(4), 103253.
- Pardue, T. (2025). Managing Data for Patron Privacy: Comprehensive Strategies for Libraries: Briney, K. & Yoose, B. (2023). Chicago: ALA Editions. 160 pp., \$69.99 (pbk), ISBN: 978-0-8389-3828-7. *Journal of Web Librarianship*, 19(3–4), 263–264. <https://doi.org/10.1080/19322909.2025.2579111>

## Forthcoming Events

### Conferences, Seminars, Webinars & Summits

- **Event:** The International Library Symposium on Knowledge and Communication (ILSKCOM–2026), titled ‘Transforming Knowledge Frontiers: Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Open Access (OA) for Sustainable Library Development’. Organizer: Jointly organized by SVKM’s NarseeMonjee Institute of Management Studies (Deemed-to-be University), Shirpur Campus, Dhule, Maharashtra, India; the Central Library; and KhonKaen University, Thailand. Date: June 12–13, 2026. For more info: [click here](#)
- **Event:** The International Conference on “Transforming Libraries through AI for Smarter Knowledge Future” (ICTL–2026). Organizer: Kalinga University in collaboration with International Institute of Information Technology Naya Raipur. Date: 19–20 June 2026. Venue: Kalinga University, Naya Raipur. For more info: [click here](#)
- **Event:** International Conference on Academic Disciplines and Research Methodology (ICADRM 2026: 20). Date: July 09-10, 2026. Place: Bali, Indonesia. For more info: [click here](#)
- **Event:** International Conference on Digital Libraries and Information Access (ICDLIA-26). Organizer: International Alliance for Academic Research (IAAR) and the Institute of Science, Engineering and Research (ISER). Date: 07–08 Aug 2026. Venue: Grand Hyatt Bali, Kawasan Wisata Nusa Dua BTDC, Nusa Dua, Bali 80363, Indonesia. For more info: [click here](#)
- **Event:** The 20th International Conference on Webometrics, Informetrics, and Scientometrics (WIS) and the 25th COLLNET Meeting (COLLNET 2026). Organizer: Uva Wellassa University of Sri Lanka in collaboration with COLLNET and the Society for Library Professionals, at Uva Wellassa University of Sri Lanka, Badulla, Sri Lanka. Date: 1–2 October 2026. For more info: [click here](#)
- **Event:** KohaCon26, the Koha Community's International Conference. Organizer: The Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT). Date: 5th–9th October 2026. Place: Karlsruhe, Germany. For more info: [click here](#)
- **Event:** The 29th International Symposium on Electronic Theses and Dissertations (ETD-2026): ETDs in the age of AI. Organizer: The Central Library, IIT Delhi, in association with the Networked Digital Library of Theses and Dissertations (NDLTD). Date: October 23-25, 2026. Venue: The Seminar Hall, Indian Institute of Technology Delhi, Hauz Khas, New Delhi, Delhi-110016. For more info: [click here](#)
- **Event:** The International Conference on “Knowledge Access to Knowledge Equity: Libraries’ Contribution to a Sustainable Nation (Viksit Bharat)”. Organizer: the Ananda Rangapillai Library, Pondicherry University, in collaboration with the Society for the Advancement of Library and Information Science (SALIS), Chennai. Date: 29 to 31 October 2026. For more info: [click here](#)
- **Event:** International Conference on Knowledge Organization and Library Information Systems: Exploring Multidimensional Facets (ICKOLIS 2026). Organizer: The Documentation Research and Training Centre, Indian Statistical Institute, Bengaluru. Date: September 21–23, 2026. For more info: [click here](#)
- **Event:** 13th Convention PLANNER 2026: Organizer: The INFLIBNET Centre, Gandhinagar, in collaboration with Gauhati University. Date: 25-27 November, 2026. Venue: Gauhati University, Guwahati. For more info: [click here](#)



**13th Convention**  
**PLANNER 2026**  
25-27 November, 2026

**Call for Papers**  
Submission Deadline  
30 June 2026

**Theme**  
**Empowering Knowledge Ecosystems:  
Collaborative, Inclusive and  
Sustainable Libraries**

**Sub-themes:**

Collaborative Library Services, Intelligent Discovery Tools and Digital Workflows for North-East Libraries	Digital Inclusion through Multilingual Tools, Accessibility Features and User-Centric Services	Sustainable Libraries through Digital Preservation and Long-term Knowledge Management	Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS), Best Practices, Research Metrics, Open Science, Library Technologies and Standards
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**Organised by**  
INFLIBNET Centre, Gandhinagar, Gujarat  
in collaboration with  
Gauhati University, Guwahati, Assam

**Venue**  
Gauhati University,  
Guwahati, Assam

planner2026@inflibnet.ac.in | https://planner.inflibnet.ac.in

## Forthcoming Events

### Workshops, Programmes, Training & Courses

- **Event:** three-day workshop on “Writing and Publishing Bibliometric and Systematic Review Papers: Come up with the Idea, Go with the Manuscript” (8th Batch). Organizer: Thapar Institute of Engineering & Technology (TIET), Patiala. Date: 08–10 July 2026 (9:00 AM to 5:00 PM). Venue: Nava Nalanda Central Library, TIET, Patiala. For more info: [Click here.](#)
- **Event:** 42nd Online Short-Term Programme (STP) in Library and Information Science. Organizer: UGC–Malaviya Mission Teacher Training Centre (Formerly known as UGC - HRDC) in collaboration with Sardar Patel University, Vallabh Vidyanagar, Gujarat-388 120. Date: 13-07-2026 to 19-07-2026. For more info: [Click here.](#)
- **Event:** Refresher Course in Library and Information Science on “Ethical, Innovative and Effective Use of AI in Education and Research”. Organizer: UGC–MMTC in collaboration with North-Eastern Hill University (NEHU), Shillong, Meghalaya. Date: 15th to 29th July, 2026 Mode: Online Mode. For more info: [Click here.](#)
- **Event:** A Four-Day National Workshop on Data Carpentry and AI/ML Tools for Libraries-3rd Edition. Organizer: B. C. Roy Memorial Library, Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Calcutta, Kolkata, West Bengal. Date: 20-23 August 2026. For more info: [Click here.](#)
- **Event:** One-Week Residential Short Term Training Program on “Digital Integration in Scholarly Communication, Open-access, Visibility, Ethics and Rights (DISCOVER-2026). Organizer: The MMTC of NIT Warangal. Date: 24th to 29th August 2026. For more info: [Click here.](#)
- **Event:** 10-day Research Methodology courses for Ph.D. scholars in social sciences. Organizer: NIT Rourkela, in collaboration with the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR). Date: 21 September 2026 – 30 September 2026. For more info: [Click here.](#)

## Students Corner

### Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst (DAAD) Scholarship

The German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD – Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst) offers a wide range of scholarships for international students, including Indian students who wish to pursue higher studies and research in Germany. Students from the fields of Library and Information Science (LIS), Information Science, Information Management, Digital Libraries, Archival Studies, Data Management and related disciplines can apply for DAAD-funded research grants and doctoral programmes in German universities. Fundings are also available for those doctoral candidates and early-stage researchers who wish to conduct a research project at a German university or research institution as part of their research. For Indian scholars already enrolled in a PhD programme in India, DAAD also supports jointly supervised doctoral projects between an Indian university and a German university. This allows candidates to spend substantial research periods in Germany while maintaining enrolment at their home institution.

**Eligibility Criteria:** Indian students applying for DAAD scholarships in Library and Information Science or allied areas generally must hold a master’s degree in library and information science or a related field, meet the language requirements of the chosen programme (English or German), submit a well-defined research proposal having a clear statement of purpose/motivation letter and academic references; apply to a recognized German university or study programme; and obtain a letter of confirmation of supervision by the doctoral supervisor from the institute applied to.

## Students Corner

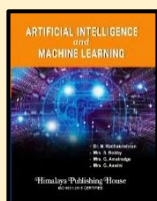
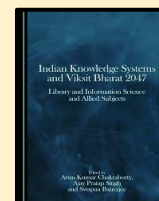
**Duration:** Funding is provided for a maximum of four years; the length of the funding period is decided by a selection committee and depending on the project and study plan. Grants are initially awarded for a maximum of three years, and an assessment is done once a year. An extension can be applied for a possible fourth year of funding.

**Benefits:** DAAD scholarships provide substantial financial and academic support, including a monthly stipend; health, accident, and personal liability insurance coverage; travel allowance for international transportation; possible funding for German language courses before the start of studies (if necessary) and additional benefits such as research allowances, family support, or rent subsidies depending on the programme.

**Application Procedure:** Interested students must identify a suitable Library and Information Science or related programme at a German university. Applications are generally submitted online through the DAAD portal along with academic transcripts, language certificates, recommendation letters, a CV, and a motivation letter. After document evaluation, shortlisted candidates may be invited for further assessment or interviews depending on the programme. For further information, please visit DAAD Scholarship Database: <https://www.funding-guide.de> or DAAD India: <https://www.daad.in/en/study-research-in-germany/studying-in-germany/daad-scholarships/>

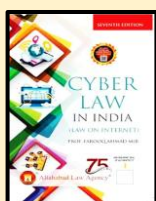
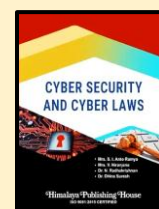
## Latest Publication

**Indian Knowledge Systems and Viksit Bharat 2047: Library and Information Science and Allied Subjects** edited by Arun Kumar Chakraborty, Dr Ajay P Singh, Swapna Banerjee et. al. United Kingdom: Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2026. ISBN (hbk) 978-1036461201



**Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning** by G. Amalredge, G. Aswini, S. Bobby & N. Radhakrishnan. Mumbai: Himalaya Publishing House, 2026. ISBN: 978-93-7105-434-8; ₹698.00.

**Cyber Security and Cyber Laws** by S. I. Anto Ramya, Niranjana V., N. Radhakrishnan & Dhina Suresh. Mumbai: Himalaya Publishing House, 2026. ISBN (pbk) 978-9371052481; ₹698.00.



**Cyber Law in India: Law on Internet, 7<sup>th</sup> ed.** by Prof. Farooq Ahmad Mir. Allahabad: ALLAHABAD LAW AGENCY, 2026. ISBN (pbk) 978-8189530426; ₹895.00.

## Trends on Tech

- Recent exploration in technology during May and June 2026 shows that artificial intelligence has moved from being only a support tool to becoming an active partner in research, design, and decision-making. This shift is visible across science, education, software development, and industrial innovation.
- One major development is the rise of autonomous AI agents that can complete complex tasks with limited human guidance. Tools such as Devin, Copilot Cowork, and Dropzone AI show how AI can now plan, execute, and monitor workflows in coding, office work, and cybersecurity.
- Research activity has also changed because AI tools now help scholars search literature, summarize evidence, and organize references more efficiently. Platforms such as Elicit, Scite, and Paperpal are widely discussed for supporting literature review, citation analysis, and academic writing improvement.
- Another important trend is AI-assisted scientific discovery in materials science and engineering. Researchers used AI to analyze a database of 67,573 magnetic compounds and identified 25 newly recognized high-temperature magnetic materials, opening possibilities for cheaper and more sustainable technologies.
- Technology exploration in 2026 is not limited to text and data processing; it also includes creative generation. New tools such as Meshy, Tripo AI, and Rodin can turn text or images into 3D models, while other systems generate video, music, and visual assets for design and media work.
- A further development is the rapid growth of AI infrastructure supporting these tools. Google introduced eighth-generation TPUs for the agentic AI era, while companies such as Alphabet, Micron, and HPE expanded investment in AI hardware, servers, and computing capacity.
- Recent exploration also highlights technological convergence, where AI combines with fields such as IoT, quantum computing, and extended reality. This convergence is becoming important because innovation now emerges through the interaction of several technologies rather than from one isolated invention.
- In education and academic research, these tools are helping learners and scholars reduce time spent on repetitive work and focus more on interpretation and critical thinking. At the same time, experts continue to stress the need for human oversight so that AI-supported outputs remain ethical, accurate, and trustworthy.
- Recent innovations are also closely connected with sustainable development goals. Emerging technologies in renewable energy, recycling, biotechnology, and agriculture are being supported by AI systems that improve analysis, prediction, and resource efficiency.
- Overall, recent exploration on technology in May-June 2026 shows a clear movement toward intelligent, connected, and research-oriented systems. The most important feature of this period is not only the invention of new tools, but also the deeper integration of AI into discovery, creativity, infrastructure, and sustainable innovation.

## Social Media News

- Noida Authority has announced plans to build two state-of-the-art smart libraries in Sector 44 and Sector 52, each designed to serve as free e-study hubs for students and aspirants preparing for higher education and competitive exams. With an estimated cost of ₹10 crore per library, the facilities will span around 3,000 square metres and rise four storeys high, accommodating seating for about 300 students. These libraries will not only house traditional books but also feature dedicated computer sections, providing access to digital resources and online study material to bridge the gap for students who lack such facilities at home. The initiative is part of a

## Social Media News

broader effort to strengthen public learning infrastructure in Noida, ensuring that students from diverse backgrounds have access to modern study environments. Designs and blueprints have already been finalized, and construction is expected to begin within two to three months once tenders are issued. By combining physical and digital learning resources, the libraries aim to create inclusive, technology-driven spaces that foster academic growth and support the aspirations of young learners in the city.

- The Gujarat Vidyapith Library in Ahmedabad recently concluded its “Gyan Sanchay Mahotsav,” a book donation drive themed “Our Book, Everyone’s Book.” The initiative saw enthusiastic participation from over 50 donors, who collectively contributed more than 4,000 books across diverse subjects, enriching the library’s collection for students, researchers, and avid readers. Current page Current page Current page. The strong public response transformed the drive into a community movement, highlighting the importance of knowledge sharing and fostering reading habits. Current page. Encouraged by its success, and as part of the “Year of Literature” celebrations, the library has decided to extend the donation program until December 2026, with events scheduled on the first Sunday of every month between 8 a.m. and 12 p.m. Current page Current page. The library expressed heartfelt gratitude to all donors and supporters for their generosity, emphasizing the collective spirit that made the initiative a success.
- Chennai’s public libraries have recently been transformed into vibrant activity hubs through a summer outreach programme by the Directorate of Public Libraries, designed to engage children without screen time and encourage reading habits. Over the past week, 18 full-time libraries across the city have hosted yoga sessions, storytelling, chess and carrom contests, board games, drawing, and evening exercise classes, with participation from more than 500 students and even some adults. The initiative is supported by schools, local residents, and readers’ circles, while the government provides up to ₹5,000 per library for refreshments. Libraries in Velachery, Thiruvanmiyur, Vyasarpadi, Anna Nagar, and Royapuram have seen strong turnout, with board games and interactive contests proving especially popular. Members of readers’ circles also deliver short talks on the importance of libraries, reinforcing their role as community spaces. The programme will continue into next week, aiming to promote libraries as inclusive centers of learning and recreation in the digital age.
- Project DREAM in rural Nagpur has turned 100 abandoned or unused buildings into modern digital libraries, creating vibrant learning spaces for local communities. The initiative invited villagers, including students and women, to design their ideal libraries by submitting ideas on yellow postcards, ensuring each facility reflected community needs. With investments of ₹8–10 lakh per site, the libraries now feature Wi-Fi, computers, CCTV, and upgraded infrastructure, enabling access to online courses, exam portals, and even job interviews. Each library is managed by a village-level committee led by the sarpanch, fostering local ownership and sustainability. The project has already impacted daily learning, with many students using the facilities for exam preparation and skill development. Its success has attracted attention from NITI Aayog, which is studying the model for replication elsewhere. Encouraged by the results, the Zilla Parishad plans to expand the program with another 100 libraries, making it a scalable, community-driven model of governance and education.
- The Pune Children’s Book Fair 2026 will take place from April 30 to May 4 at Ganesh Kala Krida Manch, Swargate. Organized by the Pune Municipal Corporation and partners, the fair will feature 100 stalls dedicated to children’s literature along with storytelling, poetry, science talks, puppet shows, and interactive sessions with cartoon characters. Highlights include AI Your Study Buddy workshops on technology in education, seminars for parents on reducing screen time, and aeromodelling shows to raise awareness about the Indian Air Force. Cultural performances

## Social Media News

- such as Sambal drumming and Gondhal songs will close the event, making it a blend of literature, science, and culture.
- A new initiative of the Aviation ministry to open Flybrary (a portmanteau of 'fly' and 'library') at Silchar airport. A total of 92 books has been donated by the teachers of Gurucharan University to Silchar Airport authority today. The representative of the Airport authority of India has received the books.



## GLAM Special Report

### Sacred Silence and Soft Power: The Holy Buddha Relics Journey to the Heights of Ladakh



High in the crisp air of Ladakh, where colorful prayer flags dance against a brilliant blue sky and monks in crimson robes chant under snow-covered peaks, a remarkable gathering has taken place. From May 1 to 14, 2026, this ancient Himalayan region has welcomed thousands of devotees from around the world for the public exposition of the Holy Relics of Tathagata Buddha. This historic event marks a pivotal moment in the spiritual landscape, turning Ladakh into a vibrant hub for international pilgrimage.

Normally kept under strict conservation at the National Museum in New Delhi, the sacred bone fragments and artifacts; discovered during the significant 1898 Piprahwa excavations in Uttar Pradesh; have made their journey to Leh and the Zaskar Valley, flown in by the Indian Air Force. Now enshrined at the Jivestral Site, this event has beautifully coincided with the 2569th Buddha Purnima celebrations, blending personal devotion with the broader cultural impact of such a momentous occasion. The theme of the exposition, 'Peace in Times of Conflict,' went beyond traditional rituals, emphasizing Buddha's timeless messages of compassion and non-violence in today's world. The town of Leh was alived with interfaith dialogues, meditation sessions, and academic conferences that explore the relationship between Buddhist philosophy and modern science. A photo exhibition titled "Beyond the Pass" at Leh Palace further enriched the event, showcasing the heritage and depth of this spiritual journey.

Moreover, this event has illustrated India's thoughtful approach to leveraging its rich civilizational heritage as a means of soft-power diplomacy. Recent missions featuring historic relics to countries like Thailand, Mongolia, and Bhutan highlight the importance of nurturing spiritual connections across borders.

### Pillars of the Nation: A Comprehensive Look at the Three Tiers of Padma Honors



During the Civil Investiture Ceremony-I held at the Ganatantra Mandap of Rashtrapati Bhavan, President Droupadi Murmu officially awarded the nation's highest civilian honors to a group of distinguished achievers. For 2026, the government announced a total of 131 Padma Awards, comprising five Padma Vibhushan, 13 Padma Bhushan, and 113 Padma Shri awards, to recognize exceptional contributions in fields such as art, social work, science, and public affairs. In accordance with established state protocol, these honors are typically presented in two separate ceremonies to ensure that each recipient receives proper acknowledgment. This initial ceremony was attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, and various high-ranking national dignitaries. During this event, the

## GLAM Special Report

President honoured 66 individuals by presenting two Padma Vibhushan, six Padma Bhushan, and 58 of the 113 Padma Shri medals. The remaining 55 Padma Shri recipients, along with the other major awardees, will be recognized and presented with their respective citations and medallions at the upcoming Civil Investiture Ceremony-II, which is planned to take place at the presidential palace in the coming weeks.

Providing a list of some of the awardees among the 58 recipients.

Award Type	Recipient	Field of Distinction	State / Country	Notable Highlight
<b>Padma Vibhushan</b>	Shri Dharmendra Singh Deol (Posthumous)	Art	Maharashtra	Legendary and iconic veteran actor of Indian cinema.
<b>Padma Vibhushan</b>	Shri K T Thomas	Public Affairs	Kerala	Renowned former Judge of the Supreme Court of India.
<b>Padma Bhushan</b>	Ms. Alka Yagnik	Art	Maharashtra	Prolific and celebrated playback singer.
<b>Padma Bhushan</b>	Shri Piyush Pandey (Posthumous)	Art	Maharashtra	Advertising maestro and creative pioneer.
<b>Padma Bhushan</b>	Shri Mammooty	Art	Kerala	Megastar and veteran actor of Malayalam and Indian cinema.
<b>Padma Bhushan</b>	Shri Uday Kotak	Trade & Industry	Maharashtra	Prominent billionaire banker and founder of Kotak Mahindra Bank.
<b>Padma Shri</b>	Ms. Harmanpreet Kaur Bhullar	Sports	Punjab	Captain of the Indian Women's National Cricket Team.
<b>Padma Shri</b>	Shri Prosenjit Chatterjee	Art	West Bengal	Super star and veteran actor of Bengali cinema.
<b>Padma Shri</b>	Ms. Savita Punia	Sports	Haryana	Star goalkeeper and former captain of the Indian Women's Hockey Team.
<b>Padma Shri</b>	Dr. Padma Gurmet	Medicine	Ladakh	Pioneer and promoter of traditional Sowa-Rigpa (Himalayan) medicine.
<b>Padma Shri</b>	Shri Ashok Khade	Trade & Industry	Maharashtra	Inspiring Dalit entrepreneur and Chairman of DAS Offshore Engineering.
<b>Padma Shri</b>	Prof. (Dr.) Lars-Christian Koch	Art	Germany	International musicologist honoured for his work in Indian classical music preservation.
<b>Padma Shri</b>	Shri Vladimir Mestvirishvili (Posthumous)	Sports	Georgia	Legendary wrestling coach who trained multiple Indian Olympic medallists.

## Library in Focus

### Centenary Library Immersed in Netaji's Memory



Not just in Kolkata, but in every corner of the districts of West Bengal, a glimpse of history awaits on every street. Kodalía Haranath Binapani Library, Subhasgram is such type of century old functioning public library. Subhasgram is a rapidly growing historical and suburban neighbourhood in the South 24 Parganas district of West Bengal, India, located just south of Kolkata. Subhasgram has a legacy of rich history starting from the early years of British rule in Bengal. Subhasgram, named in honour of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, was earlier known as Changripota. Subhasgram has long been a cultural and intellectual hub. It is the birthplace or former home of several prominent Bengali social reformers and

writers, including Pandit Shivanth Sastri and Ramnarayan Tarkaratna. At one point in history, Bose family was very famous and wealthy. The family moved from Mahinagar to Kodalía around 1760. Haranath Lodge (the old house) in Kodalía was built by Haranath Bose, the grandfather of Subhash Chandra Bose. Janaki Nath Bose the third son on Haranath Bose, also the father of Indian independence leader Subhas Chandra Bose was born in this house on the 28th of May 1860. The neighborhood is famous as 'Kodalía Bose Para'. Even though Subhash Chandra Bose was born and brought up in Cuttack, he did come along with his family to Kodalía to this house to celebrate Durga Puja. During his higher studies in Calcutta Netaji visited his ancestral home a few times. The Kodalía Haranath Binapani Library was established in November 1920 (2nd Kartik, 1327 according to the Bengali calendar) by Janakinath Bose in memory of his father Haranath Bose. The library was built in the premises of their house, i.e. the Haranath Lodge. Later, on the initiative of twelve members of the family, the library was handed over to the West Bengal Government. The total collection of this library at present is about 13,000. Books are arranged in shelves according to accession numbers. Then sub-grouped into Children, General, Special deposit (expensive books), Special collection, Gifted or Donated and Not for Loan books. It is a three-story, highly developed town library with separate computer room, projection room, reading room, storage room etc. According to Librarian Ms. Shreya Thakur, the library has four special collections on Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, Swami Vivekananda, Rabindranath Tagore and Sri Ramakrishna. Ms. Thakur also said that there is a small museum on the Netaji. The museum's collection includes some model representations of Netaji's famous activities. The museum remains open to the public on January 23rd, January 26th, and August 15th. There was a first copy book signed by Bose in the library. Their house (right next to the library) has another collection of furniture and utensils used by Netaji and his family. According to old residents Subhash Chandra Bose came once at night and left under surveillance by the British police. The library is also well known for its societal initiatives. Various events are held at this library throughout the year.



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