

# 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.....*

With the start of 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.

As a growing community of young professionals, this month invites us to reflect on our future potential and the great leaders who inspire us. The observance of World Youth Skills Day carries a profound relevance for our community, reminding us of our vital role in empowering the next generation of young professionals with the technical, adaptive, and practical capabilities needed to navigate a rapidly evolving landscape. This commitment to growth and purpose is beautifully mirrored in Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam Memorial Day. In honoring the memory of one of our most revered scientific and visionary leaders, we are reminded to embrace his enduring ideals of relentless learning, humility, and dedicated service, inspiring us to channel our intellectual collective strength toward meaningful advancement and societal transformation.

Moving forward, 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. Post: Librarian & Deputy Librarian, Institute: Indian Institute of Science Education and Research Kolkata, West Bengal - 741246, Last Date :06/07/2026. [View details](#)
2. Post: Librarian, Institute: BEL Educational Institutions Jalahalli Post, Bengaluru - 560013, Last Date :07/07/2026. [View details](#)
3. Post: Project linked person, Institute: Indian Statistical Institute, Bangalore Centre -560059, Last Date :10/07/2026. [View details](#)
4. Post: Assistant Librarian, Institute: Central Sanskrit University, New Delhi- 110058, Last Date :10/07/2026. [View details](#)
5. Post: Librarian, Institute: Directorate of Technical Education & SCERT, Odisha, Last Date :11/07/2026. [View details](#)
6. Post: Librarian cum Information officer, Institute: Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (MP-IDSA), New Delhi - 110010, Last Date :15/07/2026. [View details](#)
7. Post: Senior Library Assistant, Institute: Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (MP-IDSA), New Delhi - 110010, Last Date :15/07/2026. [View details](#)
8. Post: Library Professional Trainees, Institute: ICSSR–NASSDOC, New Delhi- 110067, Last Date :15/07/2026. [View details](#)
9. Post: Library Assistant 'A', Institute: Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) , Bengaluru - 560094, Last Date :20/07/2026. [View details](#)
10. Post: Library Assistant (Junior Judicial Assistant), Institute: High Court of Chhattisgarh, Bilaspur - 495220, Last Date :20/07/2026. [View details](#)
11. Post: Library Assistant & Library Apprentices, Institute: Defence Electronics Applications Laboratory (DEAL) DRDO, Dehradun– 248001, Last Date :23/07/2026. [View details](#)
12. Post: Deputy Librarian, Institute: Madan Mohan Malaviya University of Technology, Gorakhpur- 273010, Last Date :24/07/2026. [View details](#)
13. Post: Librarian, Institute: Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi - 110067, Last Date :27/07/2026. [View details](#)
14. Post: Library and Information Assistant, Institute: Central Council for Research in Unani Medicine, New Delhi-110058, Last Date :31/07/2026. [View details](#)

### UB Endeavour

#### Study Circle Reporting.....

**54<sup>th</sup> Study Circle** The 54th study circle of Universal briefing took place on 27th June, 2026 at 7.30 pm. The speaker of the session was Dr. Samir Kumar Jalal, Deputy Librarian, IIT, Kharagpur and the president for the session was Prof. Durga Sankar Rath, Professor, Department of Library and Information Science, Vidyasagar University. The topic of the study circle was “Future of Academic Libraries: From Technology Perspectives”.

## UB Endeavour

In his presentation, the speaker highlighted the profound technological evolution transforming academic libraries from static storehouses into dynamic, tech-driven innovation hubs that can fuel institutional progress. He noted that institutions are procuring more e-books than physical volumes, balancing immediate accessibility with long-term digital preservation. He detailed how libraries are automating workflows using AI cataloguing systems and a local, 24/7 multimodal reference chatbot architecture to deliver seamless, semantic search results. Beyond digital assets, Dr. Jalal explained how immersive AR/VR tools turn libraries into experiential spaces, demonstrating a virtual tour of Library of IIT Kharagpur, while advocating for physical Maker Spaces equipped with Fusion 360, 3D printers, and scanners to bridge abstract design with prototyping. He described how modern academic libraries operate as smart buildings, using big data analytics and wireless IoT sensors to track room occupancy, climate conditions, and entryway security in real time. In conclusion, the speaker asserted that libraries must balance digitization with comfortable physical spaces while enforcing academic integrity and publication ethics. To manage this complexity, he argued that traditional staff must specialize into roles like Open Research, Subject, UX, and Digital Humanities Librarians, adding that future success depends on continuous technological experimentation to create true "places of wonder".

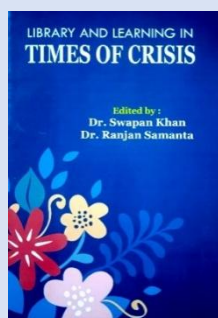
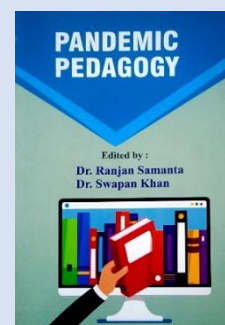
### Announcement.....

**UB-Study Circle (Forthcoming Notification)** The 55th study circle of the Universal Briefing will take place on 25th July, 2026 at 7.30 pm. and the speaker for the session will be Dr. Md Ajimuddin Sk, Assistant Professor, Department of Library and Information Science, Vidyasagar University.

## UB Endeavour

### Our Publication.....

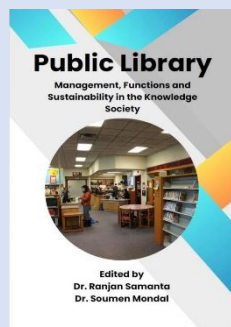
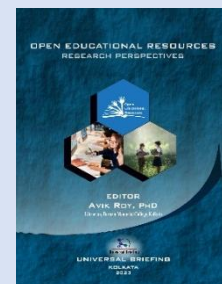
The book "Pandemic Pedagogy" was published by Prova Prakashani in collaboration with Universal Briefing in the year 2020. It was jointly edited by Dr. Ranjan Samanta and Dr. Swapan Khan. The book had informative eighteenth chapters. The outstanding contribution of authors presented an exceptional dimension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

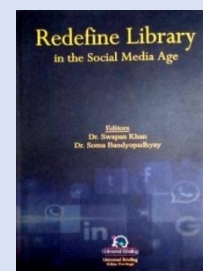
## UB Endeavour

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.



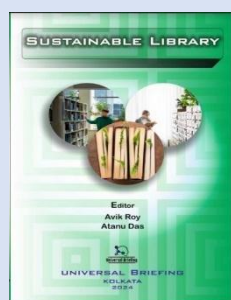
This book celebrates the profound impact of public libraries as vibrant spaces of learning, connection, and empowerment. In an era marked by rapid technological advancements and evolving societal needs, public libraries remain steadfast in their mission to provide equitable access to information and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



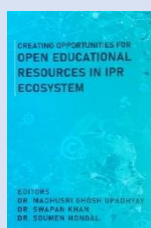
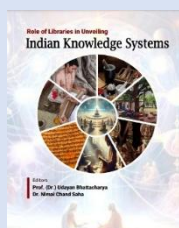
## UB Endeavour

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, Punjabi University, Patiala (Awarded Works 2026)

1. **Thesis Title:** Use of library resources and services of select Forestry Research and Education Institutions in India  
**Scholar:** Sunny Kumar  
**Supervisor:** Dr. Baljinder Kaur

### DLIS, Veer Narmad South Gujarat University, Surat (Awarded Works 2026)

2. **Thesis Title:** Management of Databases in Medical Libraries of all Aims Established by Govt of India.  
**Scholar:** Sandeepkumar Singh  
**Supervisor:** Dr. B. J. Ankuya
3. **Thesis Title:** Scientometric Study of Epilepsy Disease in Global Based on Web of Science 2001 to 2021  
**Scholar:** Ketankumar Pravinbhai Patel  
**Supervisor:** Dr. B. J. Ankuya

### DLIS, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi (Awarded Works 2026)

4. **Thesis Title:** An Assessment of Electronic Resource Management Strategies in Libraries of First-Generation Indian Institute of Management  
**Scholar:** Sandeep Kumar Verma  
**Supervisor:** Dr. Gireesh Kumar T.K

### DLIS, Apex University, Jaipur (Awarded Works 2026)

5. **Thesis Title:** Provisions and patterns of information products and services in judicial libraries in Rajasthan: An Analysis  
**Scholar:** Neelam Nautiyal  
**Supervisor:** Dr. Ravindra Kumar

### DLIS, Hemchandracharya North Gujarat University, Patan (Awarded Works 2026)

6. **Thesis Title:** Government Taluka Libraries of Gujarat State: A Study  
**Scholar:** Hetalben Jethabhai Chaudhari  
**Supervisor:** Dr. B. K. Chaudhary

### FLIS, Parul University, Vadodara (Awarded Works 2025)

7. **Thesis Title:** Green library a study of implementation and ecological sustainability in IITs IIITs IIMs and NITs libraries in India  
**Scholar:** Prashant Ratilal Raj  
**Supervisor:** Dr. Dhavalben D Bhatt

### DLIS, Dr. Harisingh Gour Vishwavidhyalay, Sagar (Awarded Works 2025)

8. **Thesis Title:** A Study on Library Services and facilities for differently abled users in selected IITs of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh  
**Scholar:** Ankita Jana  
**Supervisor:** Dr. Mahendra Kumar

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

- Almunahi, A. A. (2025). Digital Health Information Access and Acceptance-Based Educational Interventions: Enhancing Psychological Empowerment among Patients with Functional Gastrointestinal Disorders. *African Journal of Library, Archives and Information Science*, 35(2), 139-151.
- Altamimi, R. N. (2025). Writing Quality and Revision Practices in Digital Library Writing Support Services: Examining ChatGPT as an AI-Based Information Tool. *African Journal of Library, Archives and Information Science*, 35(2), 289-304.
- Chang, S. (2025). The Role of Academic Library Resources and Teacher Competency in Student Learning Engagement in the Digital Era. *African Journal of Library, Archives and Information Science*, 35(2), 113-125.
- Ding, W., Xiaoqin, W., Prestianawati, S. A., Dezhi, C., & Fareed, M. (2025). Information Quality and Empowering Leadership: A Communication Based Model of Innovation in Hierarchical Work Settings. *African Journal of Library, Archives and Information Science*, 35(2), 37-58.
- González-Espinoza, A., Jebbia, D., & Lan, H. (2026). Metadata Augmentation using NLP, Machine Learning and AI-chatbots: a comparison. *Journal of Library Metadata*, 26(1), 29-50.
- Green, A. (2026). Metadata as Narrative: How Appalachian Digital Collections in the Digital Public Library of America Portray the Region. *Journal of Library Metadata*, 1-43.
- Guo, C. (2025). Leveraging Academic Library Services for Psychological Education Management: Enhancing Student Engagement and Mental Health. *African Journal of Library, Archives and Information Science*, 35(2), 20-36.
- Guo, J., Huang, Q., & Ye, H. (2025). UTAUT Framework Analysis of Transcultural Heritage Education in Digital Libraries: Artificial Intelligence in Action. *African Journal of Library, Archives and Information Science*, 35(2).
- Jana, A., & Rout, R. (2026). Sambalpuri Sarees in the Digital Loom: Metadata Schema and Natural Language Query Interface Design. *Journal of Library Metadata*, 26(2), 105-124.
- Maestas, S. L., Smoot, C. I., & Hull, B. E. (2026). Systematic Metadata Remediation for a Large Discipline-Specific Legacy Digital Collection. *Journal of Library Metadata*, 1-23.
- Nkamnebe, E., Oladokun, O., & Jorosi, B. (2025). Mentoring, Cataloguing Self-Efficacy and Expectancy among Early-Career Librarians in Federal Universities in South-East Nigeria: A Social Cognitive Career Perspective. *African Journal of Library, Archives and Information Science*, 35(2), 98-112.
- Oladokun, B. D., Ogunjimi, B. E., Olatunbosun, I. E., Adefila, E. K., Abdul, A., Ebhonu, S. I., ... & Enakrire, R. T. (2026). Assessing metadata quality: Analysis of bibliographic entries in librarianship literature generated by ChatGPT-5. *Journal of Library Metadata*, 26(1), 51-83.
- Opoku-Baffowah, G., & Ocloo, P. E. D. (2026). Cataloguing in the Digital Era: Application of Systems and Standards in Ghanaian Academic Libraries. *Journal of Library Metadata*, 26(1), 1-28.
- Sahu, L., & Maharana, B. (2026). Mapping the Landscape of Metadata Research in the Era of Open Science: A Comprehensive Bibliometric Analysis of Last Three Decades (1996–2025). *Journal of Library Metadata*, 1-31.
- Usta, G. (2026). Automating MARC Records from Turkish Title Pages: A Performance and Efficiency Comparison of Fine-Tuned BERT vs. VLMs. *Journal of Library Metadata*, 26(1), 85-103.
- Wu, S., Liu, J., Zou, H., Yu, T., & Jiang, Z. (2025). Visual Storytelling in Digital Libraries: Design Strategies for Preserving and Accessing Intangible Cultural Heritage. *African Journal of Library, Archives and Information Science*, 35(2), 85-97.
- Zhu, L. (2025). Curating Creativity: Library Services as Platforms for Art-Based Educational Experiences. *African Journal of Library, Archives and Information Science*, 35(2), 126-138.

## Forthcoming Events

### Conferences, Seminars, Webinars & Summits

- **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:** Seminar on “AI-Driven Smart Libraries: Transforming Academic Libraries for Future Learners”. Organizer: The Department of Library and the Department of Computer Science & Engineering (Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning), Nehru Institute of Technology. Date: 11 July 2026. Venue: PK Das Hall, NIT Campus, Coimbatore. For Registration: [Click here.](#)
- **Event:** International Conference on Library and Information Science (ICLIS). Organizer: The InterGlobe Research Network. Place: Toronto, Canada. Date: July 26–27, 2026. For more info: [click here](#)
- **Event:** Annual International Conference on Library and Information Science. Organizer: Athens Institute. Date: July 27–31, 2026. Place: Athens, Greece. 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 8th edition of SoFerence 2026 on the theme “AI Use Cases in Libraries: Today, Tomorrow, and Beyond.”. Organizer: The Information Resource Centre, Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), Bengaluru. Date: 10 September 2026, from 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Mode: Virtual. 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:** Two-Day National Conference on “Bridging Knowledge, Technology, and Society through Libraries”. Organizer: The Fr. Arrupe Central Library, St. Xavier's University, Kolkata. Date: 25 and 26 September 202. Venue: Fr. Albert Huart Hall (Auditorium), St. Xavier's University, Kolkata. 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](#)

### Forthcoming Events

- **Event:** The International Conference on “Knowledge Access to Knowledge Equity: Libraries’ Contribution to a Sustainable Nation (Viksit Bharat) (KAKE-2026)”. Organizer: Ananda Rangapillai Library, Pondicherry University, Puducherry, India, 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:** 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](#)
- **Event:** International Conference on Marching Beyond the Libraries: Create, Connect, and Continue (ICMBL-2027). Organizer: Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology (KIIT), Deemed to be University, Bhubaneswar-751024, Odisha. Date: 22 to 23 January, 2027. For more info: [click here](#)

### Workshops, Programmes, Training & Courses

- **Event:** UGC-MMTTC Faculty Development Programme. Organizer: Central University of Gujarat. Date: July 6–11, 2026. For more info: [Click here.](#)
- **Event:** 183rd Five Days Training Programme on "SOUL 3.0: Installation and Operations". Organizer: INFLIBNET. Date: 06 - 10 July 2026. Mode: offline mode. For more info: [Click here.](#)
- **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. Organizer: UGC-Malaviya Mission Teacher Training Centre (formerly HRDC), Mizoram University. Date: 23rd July - 5th August, 2026. Mode: Online. For more info: [Click here.](#)
- **Event:** Training Programme on Open Data-Driven Research Evaluation. Date: July 22–24, 2026. Place: Delhi, India. 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–MMTTC 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:** Refresher Course in Library and Information Science. Organizer: MMTTC, University of Mysore, Mysore, Karnataka. Mode: Online. Date: 30-07-2026 to 13-08-2026. 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 MMTTC of NIT Warangal. Date: 24th to 29th August 2026. For more info: [Click here.](#)

## Students Corner

### MEXT (Japanese Government) Scholarship

The Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT), Japan offers prestigious scholarships to international students, including Indian students, for pursuing higher education and research at Japanese universities. The scholarship supports Master's, Doctoral, as well as Research Student programmes. Applicants may pursue their programme under MEXT-funded scholarship either in Library and Information Science at Japanese universities offering programmes in the discipline or in allied areas such as Information Science, Information Management, Knowledge Organization, Digital Libraries, Archival and Records Management, Digital Humanities etc. that are related to information studies. They may apply under the academic categories of Humanities, Social Sciences, Information Science, Informatics, or other interdisciplinary fields, depending on the research area and the academic structure of the host university.

**Eligibility Criteria:** Applicants must have the nationality of a country that has diplomatic relations with Japan and must be under 35 years of age. Indian candidates applying for MEXT scholarships are required to hold a bachelor's degree (for Master's programmes) or a master's degree (for Doctoral programmes) in Library and Information Science or a related discipline. They must be willing to learn Japanese or possess adequate English or Japanese language proficiency depending on the programme applied for. Candidates must submit a well-defined research proposal or study plan, and secure acceptance from a Japanese university or obtain the support of a prospective academic supervisor where required. They must also fulfil the eligibility conditions specified by the Embassy of Japan in India or the recommending Japanese university.

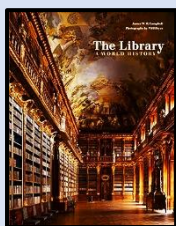
**Duration:** The duration of the scholarship depends on the programme of study. Research Students are generally funded for up to two years, while Master's programmes are normally funded for two years and Doctoral programmes for three years, including a preparatory Japanese language course where applicable. Extensions may be granted upon successful progression to higher degree programmes, subject to approval by MEXT.

**Benefits:** MEXT scholarships provide financial support that includes a monthly living allowance (varies depending on the course), full exemption from tuition and admission fees, round-trip economy airfare between India and Japan, and a six-month preparatory course in the Japanese language where necessary.

**Application Procedure:** There are two different ways for applying for the scholarship: through Embassy Recommendation or through any University Recommendation. Under the Embassy Recommendation, applications are submitted through the Embassy of Japan in India, followed by document screening, written examinations (where applicable), and interviews. Under the University Recommendation, applicants first obtain admission or nomination from a Japanese university, which subsequently recommends them to MEXT. Along with the application form, the basic required documents include academic transcripts, degree certificates, a detailed research proposal or study plan, letters of recommendation, a curriculum vitae, proof of language proficiency (if required), and other documents specified by the scholarship guidelines.

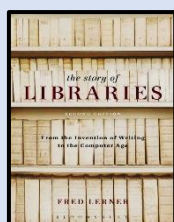
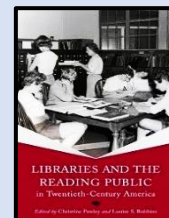
For further information, visit <https://www.studyinjapan.go.jp/en/planning/scholarships/mext-scholarships/> and the Embassy of Japan in India: <https://www.in.emb-japan.go.jp/>

### Latest Publication

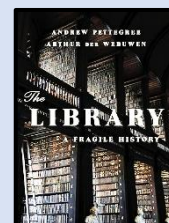


**Library** by James W. P. Campbell & Will Pryce (ill.). New Delhi: Univ of Chicago Pr. ISBN (hbk) 978-0226092812; ₹9,242.00

**Libraries and the Reading Public in Twentieth-Century America: print culture history in modern America** edited by Christine Pawley & Louise Robbins. New Delhi: University of Wisconsin Press. ISBN (pbk) 978-0299293246; ₹7,088.00



**The Story of Libraries: From the Invention of Writing to the Computer Age** by Frederick Andrew Lerner, London: Continuum International Publishing Group Ltd. ISBN (pbk) 978-0826413253; ₹85,772.31



**The Library** by Andrew Pettegree & Arthur der Weduwen. New Delhi: Basic Books, 2021. ISBN (hbk) 978-1541600775; ₹3,143.00

### Trends on Tech

**Scinapse:** Scinapse is an AI-powered search engine dedicated to academic research, designed to streamline the discovery of scholarly articles, expert authors, and research trends across disciplines. It aggregates data from multiple major academic databases and open-access repositories, offering users advanced tools to analyze papers, understand their impact, and organize references efficiently. Scinapse stands out by providing features such as citation metrics, h-index analysis, instant access to open-access PDFs, note-taking, collection organization, and integrations with reference managers like Zotero.

#### Key Features:

- **AI-powered search:** Uses intelligent algorithms to deliver relevant academic articles, author information, and citation data, enhancing literature reviews and research efficiency.
- **Expert identification:** Facilitates the discovery of subject specialists across different domains using dynamic profiling and impact evaluation.
- **Paper and trend analysis:** Offers tools for trend detection, journal analysis, and researcher achievement comparison with multidimensional metrics.

#### Benefits for Researchers:

- **Faster discovery:** Reduces the time spent searching for and analyzing relevant literature during reviews and project planning.
- **Comprehensive integration:** Collates references, author details, and journal information, with the ability to organize and export collections easily.

## Trends on Tech

- Collaboration tools: Helps researchers connect with peers, organize resources, and generate bibliographies in multiple citation styles.

### Data Coverage

Scinapse covers over 174 million academic papers from more than 50,000 journals, ensuring thorough access across scientific fields. The platform is available as a free service with premium plans for advanced analytics and institutional features.

For more information Click [HERE](#)

### Scholarcy:

Scholarcy is an online AI powered tool that summarizes long research articles, reports, and documents into easy-to-digest summaries using AI technology. It allows researchers, students, journalists, and other professionals to quickly understand the key information in academic literature and make informed decisions about which papers are most relevant to their work. Scholarcy uses natural language processing and machine learning algorithms to analyze uploaded PDFs and Word documents. It identifies the key sections, extracts important facts, figures, and references, and summarizes them on an easy-to-read "summary card". Users can highlight text and make notes directly on the card.

- Artificial intelligence features
- Effortless Summarisation: Provides seamless summarisation of extensive texts.
- Key Point Extraction: Identifies and extracts essential points for quick comprehension.
- Interactive Learning: Creates interactive summary flashcards to enhance understanding.
- Smart Highlighting: Highlights important sections of text to guide interpretation.
- Cross-Paper Insights: Automatically finds related papers and highlights comparisons.
- Research Quality Indicators: Gauges the quality of research with various indicators.
- Annotated Bibliographies: Simplifies reference management with annotated bibliographies.
- Multi-Format Export: Allows exporting summaries and bibliographies to various formats.
- Benefits and Use Cases
- Scholarcy provides many benefits for researchers, students, journalists, and other professionals:

### For Researchers

- Quickly determine relevance of papers
- Speed up literature reviews
- Accelerate knowledge discovery
- Follow citations easily
- For Students
- Digest academic literature faster
- Understand key concepts quickly
- Complete assignments more efficiently
- Study more effectively

### For Journalists

- Rapidly comprehend scientific papers
- Easily explain complex research
- Quickly write accurate science stories

### For Librarians

- Help researchers find relevant papers
- Assist students in understanding literature
- Support learning and comprehension
- For more information Click [HERE](#)

## Social Media News

The ₹51-crore Guwahati district library redevelopment has been stalled for over two years due to relocation issues. The existing library continues to operate with broken toilets, poor drinking water facilities, and no repairs since demolition is planned. Around 100–120 readers, including students and job seekers, still visit daily, but many have shifted to private reading rooms for basic amenities. Female readers face particular difficulties with non-functional washrooms. Officials admit the poor state but refuse further repairs, citing the pending revamp. Despite being highlighted in the 2025–26 budget, the modernization project remains stuck, leaving users frustrated.



Cachar District of Assam is set to receive a new District Library in Silchar, marking a significant step towards strengthening educational and knowledge infrastructure in the region. The upcoming library is being developed to serve as a modern centre for learning, research, and community engagement. Strengthening public infrastructure continues to be one of the foremost priorities. As part of this commitment, an inspection of the ongoing construction work of the District Library was conducted in the presence of officials from the Public Works Department (Buildings), Govt of Assam. Once completed, the library will provide students, researchers, educators, and the general public with improved access to books, digital resources, reading spaces, and other library services. Equipped with modern facilities, it aims to promote reading habits, lifelong learning, and the dissemination of knowledge across the district.



Alwar's **e-Vidya project**, launched in January 2025, aims to set up a digital library in one government school of each of the district's **291-gram panchayats** by December 2026. So far, **260 panchayats** have libraries, with the remaining 31 expected to be completed this year. These libraries provide computers, printers, internet, solar backup, and access to e-learning resources, competitive exam material, and content beyond the curriculum. The initiative helps bridge the **rural-urban digital divide**, improves attendance, builds computer literacy, and plans to expand with online coaching classes, positioning Alwar as a model for rural digital education.

Researchers and faculty members affiliated with eligible Indian institutions can now avail of APC support through the One Nation One Subscription (ONOS) initiative to publish their research in eligible high-impact Open Access journals. Under ONOS, financial support is provided for APC payments in eligible journals, helping researchers increase the visibility, accessibility, and impact of their scholarly work while promoting Open Science and Open Access publishing. Process: Check your eligibility → Verify whether your journal is covered under the ONOS APC-supported list → Submit your APC support application through the ONOS portal after manuscript acceptance. For more details, [click here](#)

The Delivery of Books and Newspapers (Public Libraries) Act, 1954 has been amended through the Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Act, 2026, as published in The Gazette of India. The amendment revises the penalty (Section 5) provisions to strengthen compliance with the legal deposit requirements and encourage the timely deposit of Indian books and newspapers, thereby enriching the nation's documentary heritage. According to revised section 5 (Penalty):



1. Publishers who violate the Act or its rules are first given 30 days to correct the contravention after receiving a notice.
2. If Violation Persists (after 30 days):
  - a) Suspension: Registration with the National ISBN Agency is suspended for one year or until books are submitted to designated libraries (whichever comes first).
  - b) Debarment: Publisher is barred from receiving new ISBNs for the same period.
3. Permanent Penalty: Registration with the National ISBN Agency is cancelled permanently, and the publisher is permanently barred from receiving ISBNs.

## GLAM Special Report

### ALA 150: Honoring the Past, Inspiring the Future



The library community recently celebrated a significant milestone at the 2026 ALA Annual Conference & Exhibition held in Chicago, Illinois, marking the 150th anniversary of the American Library Association. This historic event was not just a look back at a century and a half of advocacy for information access but also a platform for discussing innovative strategies to empower and modernize communities. Under the leadership of ALA President Sam Helmick, the five-day conference

focused on crucial themes such as structural equity, inclusive community spaces, and technology-driven accessibility.

**Addressing Systemic Challenges in Collections:** In today's shifting political landscape, the importance of institutional equity was front and center in Chicago. One of the standout sessions, "ERASE-ism: Confronting White Supremacy in Libraries Through Black and Multicultural Collections," attracted high attendance as it tackled the pressing need for transparent archival practices. Experts in the field shared actionable insights on how to create, maintain, and safeguard collections that represent diverse racial perspectives, especially in light of national challenges to reading freedom.

**Enhancing Accessibility Through Adaptive Gaming:** Modern libraries are evolving to include more than just traditional media, a theme that came alive in the session "Adaptive Gaming: Level Up Your Library." Here, panelists provided valuable plans for implementing inclusive gaming systems designed for patrons with physical and cognitive disabilities. By showcasing specialized controllers and accessible interfaces, they illustrated how libraries can use gaming to foster a sense of belonging for all community members.

**Meeting the Needs of Changing Demographics:** As neighborhoods evolve, the conference emphasized the importance of hyper-local outreach. During the session "Beyond Diwali: Serving the Growing South Asian Communities," library leaders presented data-informed strategies for localized cataloging and language programs. The discussion highlighted the necessity for library resources to dynamically reflect the rich cultural diversity of the communities they serve.

**Looking Ahead:** The 150th anniversary conference underscored a critical insight: today's libraries are far more than quiet spaces filled with books. From pioneering inclusive technology initiatives to advocating for intellectual freedom, today's library professionals are transforming these institutions into vibrant, connection-driven community hubs ready to serve the next generation for the next 150 years.

### Libraries Rebooted: India's Nationwide Public Library Tech Transformation

India's public library system is in the midst of a significant and ambitious transformation, driven by new policies and technology. On June 22, 2026, the Ministry of Culture launched the 55th Capacity Building Programme for Public Library Personnel in Nashik, Maharashtra. This program, part of the National Mission on Libraries (NML), represents a pivotal shift: moving traditional, paper-based reading rooms into dynamic, digital-first community spaces. Under the direction of NML Additional Mission Director R. S. Bora, this initiative aims to bridge the digital divide within public administration. The curriculum for 2026 focuses not just on acquiring books but also on equipping regional and district library staff with essential skills in:

1. Open-Source Database Management: Implementing contemporary cataloguing systems to consolidate dispersed collections.
2. Digital Archiving Preservation: Digitizing and safeguarding rare local manuscripts to prevent deterioration.
3. Information Literacy: Training librarians to become digital navigators for community members lacking technical skills.

## Library in Focus

### The Suburban Reading Club: One of the oldest surviving Libraries in Kolkata



Suburban Reading Club is one of the oldest libraries in Kolkata, West Bengal, India. In the year 1888, the Suburban Reading Club was founded in a small room of the Narkeldanga High School in Beliaghata Narkeldanga Area. The legendary personalities of this area Sir Gurudas Banerjee, Raja Rajendralal Mitra, Rakhal Chandra Ghosh and Harish Chandra Chakraborty, a dedicated teacher of the Narkeldanga High School decided to open a library for this eastern part of the then suburban Calcutta. In 1888, a proposal for a library was put forth during a meeting held at the school, which eventually led to the formation of the "Suburban Reading Club." Initially, the library was managed by the teacher Harishchandra Chakraborty, who later relocated it to his own residence due to space constraints within the school. Subsequently, in 1900, he purchased land to construct a dedicated building for the library. Unfortunately, in 1908, due to a lack of proper maintenance, the library had to be temporarily closed. However, in 1917, with the support of local youths, the library found a new home at Nalinikanta Basu's residence on 53 Talpukur Road. During this period, there

was no standalone building designated for the library. Eventually, through contributions from various individuals and organizations, including the East Suburban Municipality and Shaw Wallace Company, the library was relocated to its own premises on 33 Talpukur Road from its initial location. In 1924, construction began on a two-story building for the library. Interestingly, at that time, there were no educational institutions specifically catering to girls in the area. In 1925 the members of the "Suburban Reading Club" came together to establish the "Surah kanya Vidyalay" for the education of local girls. The Suburban Reading Club maintains a collection of over 30,000 books, encompassing a diverse array of subjects including literature, science, history, and Bengali classics. This library holds more than 25,000 books in Bengali, approximately 5,000 in English, and over 300 in Hindi, highlighting the library's emphasis on regional linguistic diversity that mirrors the multicultural demographics of suburban Kolkata. The holdings place particular emphasis on Bengali classics and work tied to the Bengal Renaissance, a period of intellectual and cultural awakening in 19th-century Bengal, given the club's founding in 1888 by prominent figures such as Raja Rajendralal Mitra and Sir Gurudas Banerjee who were central to that movement. The Suburban Reading Club offers accessible membership options designed to encourage community participation of Kolkata and surrounding areas. Presently, the library boasts 550 members. The institution gained further significance when it hosted Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose during his campaign for the Calcutta mayoral election in 1930, underscoring its role in local civic and cultural life. In modern times, the Suburban Reading Club fosters local education and culture through events such as author talks, encouraging intellectual exploration among its over 500 active members. A significant literacy initiative was undertaken in 2024 to collect 'Joyful Storybooks' through a partnership with First Books and the Donate-a-Book platform by the library. These partnerships with NGOs like Pratham Books provide essential funding and outreach, enabling the club to expand its children's collection and promote equitable access to literature. The club's programs encourage reading habits among suburban youth by offering recreational and educational resources.

## Editorial Board

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