

THE LIBRARY

Vol I Issue 0

Oct-Dec 2018

www.tlmag.in

300/-



SMART FUTURE BEYOND BOOKS

Role of libraries and librarians
are bound to change as the
libraries are evolving.

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW

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CHAKRABORTY

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Anna Centenary Library

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Printed and published by
Apresh Chandra Mishra.
Printed at Pugmarks Print-
worx, RZ 813, Street No. 5,
Main Sagarpur, New Delhi
110046.
Published at
13, Plot 18, Sector 4, Dwarka,
New Delhi 110078

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WINDS OF CHANGE

Many, of certain vintage, would recollect Winds of Change that Klaus Meine sang in 1990. The milieu was fall of Berlin wall, the end of communism and the subsequent integration of East Germany with its West brethren.

More than two decades after, the underlying spirit of the song, of the German heavy metal band Scorpions' vocalist, finds relevance in India's library sector. The mental blocks are dissolving; from it rising, hopes of change that would catalyse and nurture India's society.

The impact of information technology revolution and globalization is visible. The 'search engine' feature given by internet and the arrival of Google and Amazon caused some tremors. But it is evident now that the digital realm will run parallel to physical library. And complement each other.

Knowledge is power and ideas rule the world. This old dictum was reaffirmed by Dr Manmohan Singh, the then Prime Minister of India, when he created the National Knowledge Commission (NKC) in 2005, an advisory group to facilitate the development of a more equitable knowledge society. "The time has come to create a second wave of institution building, and of excellence in the fields of education, research and capacity building," remarked Singh.

The role of libraries in India in the days to come will be significant and diverse—uniting India's varied culture. There will be more action and excitement than in the past. That explains our precise role—documenting the experiences of librarians and sharing with their fraternity—thereby, creating models of best practices that could be replicated.

In this journey of transformation, despite the acknowledged importance of librarians, their voice remains unheard. The Library will serve as the credible voice for librarians—across the country. Together, we will bridge the information gap that exists between the librarians and serve as well an interface with the policy makers.

The magazine's well-researched articles, we believe, would strengthen the library community—and their collective voice would help in crafting appropriate policies. This will help librarians to evolve from information managers to community leaders and the libraries to become dynamic knowledge hubs benefiting communities ■

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"Public libraries are evolving and transforming into public spaces for information, knowledge and community services"

Dr. Arun Kumar Chakraborty





FLOOD HIT KERALA REBUILDS ITS LIBRARIES

According to an initial estimation by the Kerala Library Council, around 228 libraries affiliated with the council have been either seriously damaged or washed away in the recent Kerala floods.

Team TL

The water has receded. But the scars of the recent flood in Kerala are visible in many libraries. “Books, some of them over 100 years old, caught in flood waters lay strewn outside the 85-year-old Chendamangalam Library in Kochi,” says a photograph’s caption in *The Hindu*.

The nature’s fury damaged thousands of books—and decades

of hard work in few minutes. While some of the books may be irreplaceable, efforts are on to rescue the others. The Kerala State Library Council has 8,417 libraries under it—around 211 of them have been affected badly.

“Going by preliminary estimates, the loss of books, furniture, and other equipment would be about Rs 12 crore,” says Council’s secretary P

Appukuttan. The worst affected was Alappuzha district. Over 60 libraries there were affected — 31 libraries in Kuttanad and 15 in Chengannur. Ernakulam witnessed books in 55 libraries under water for days. 35 libraries in Pathanamthitta, 18 in Kottayam, and 17 in Thrissur too were ravaged.

The Nair Samajam Library and Reading Room, established



“

General books from the public will be collected. Then, there are many students pursuing higher education who have lost their textbooks. We want to collect books for them and hand these over to the Directorate of Education so that they can be passed on depending on the requirement of each institution

*P.K. Shobhana,
State Librarian,
Kerala*

”

in 1934, at Paliamnada, near Chennamangalam, tells the story of dozens of local libraries that were flooded. Around 12,000 books from a collection of over 27,000 have been lost, points P T Joy, who has been the librarian for more than two decades.

“There was no time to save the books,” he said pensively, recalling that he tried to salvage some of the more precious ones and periodicals by carrying them upstairs. “I was all alone and my home near the library was also flooded,” he added.

The electronic equipment can be bought again but there were books that were at least 150 years old, he recalled. The library, which has won several awards, has a membership of over 2,000. An office-bearer of the Ernakulam District Library Council said that volunteers had been cleaning up several of these libraries and reading rooms. An assessment of the number of libraries that were completely inundated is being made, he said.

The challenge for the libraries is to prioritise what needs to be done with the limited resources at their disposal. Alappuzha Library Council secretary Maloor Sreedharan stated that many of the books lost were irreplaceable. “At Sankaravilasam Library at Mundankavu in Chengannur, one of the oldest in the State, some old books have been lost forever,” he elaborated.

Thought will have to be given to salvaging rare books, which are priceless. “After lying in water for days, books may be difficult to salvage. The council also needs to think about conserving books using latest technology, so that books that are salvageable are restored,”

explains Sreedharan.

The Library Council has been promised books for its libraries by the Kerala Sahithya Akademi, Kerala Book Marketing Society (Bookmark), DC Books and Poorna Publications. Besides, the Council has appealed to the public to donate books to libraries affected by the floods.

State Librarian P.K. Sobhana states that a number of libraries had suffered huge losses. “General books from the public will be collected. Then, there are many students pursuing higher education who have lost their textbooks. We want to collect books for them and hand these over to the Directorate of Education so that they can be passed on depending on the requirement of each institution.

The State Central Library would also collect books from libraries across the country with the support of the Indian Public Library Movement and hand these over to the flood-affected libraries that had asked for books. Books published before 2010 would not be accepted, though,” she says.

There’s another aspect. The records of the 1924 flood that devastated Kerala are very few. To ensure that the mid-August floods are documented properly, Sobhana plans a year-long initiative to document newspaper and online magazine reports from the start of the flood. Social media such as Facebook too would be covered. The final product would be brought out in the form of a book, with proper indexing so that it could be accessed by the public.

Since majority of the libraries are not affiliated with the Council, the devastation could be higher as the state has the tradition of most organisations, clubs and social groups building their own libraries.

Many activists have called for the participation of civil society and professional agencies in rebuilding the libraries in these areas. After all, the libraries in Kerala also serve as discussion forums ■

Since majority of the libraries are not affiliated with the Council, the devastation could be higher as the state has the tradition of most organisations, clubs and social groups building their own libraries

Manipur to Revive Libraries in Schools



Manipur government intends to revive the library for selected Government Higher Secondary Schools in the State, stated Education Minister Thokchom Radheshyam. Highlighting the importance of library, he said it is not only important in terms of education but also in inculcating the habit of reading among the young minds.

The minister was speaking as the chief guest at the one day public awareness programme held in the memory of Late Dr. Huirongbam Atulchandra Singh for his contribution in establishing public library in Manipur at Library Conference Hall, Manipur University.

Radheshyam said that the library stores knowledge in the form of book and resources. Whenever one looks up for a record or information, library can be a source of it. Books, he added are the expression of the experiences of one's life in which the image of a society is reflected. He also said creative writing among the people needs to be motivated to flourish and built a momentum of popularizing the literature.

He said, the decline in the habit of reading among the children could be because they are being pushed towards getting higher grades and passing the exam rather than encouraging them to read and learn. To prepare the young minds for the challenges that would be thrown in life, he

emphasized that library plays an important role. He said, books are one of the binding forces that could ensure peace and tranquility in the state.

He added that by reading books and understanding the values of the practices about the culture, custom and traditions, one can reinstate harmony in diversity. The education minister also urged for concerted effort from every section of the society to work for uplifting the government school. He said it is important that public should regard the school as their own and protect the school property. The purest form of holiness is the school where children from different background come to get education to secure the future, he added ■

Delay in framing services rules



The Madras High Court has condemned the Tamil Nadu government for 17-year delay in framing ad hoc rules after it took a policy decision to rationalise the service of local library authorities and to bring them into one single unit.

A division bench of Justices K

K Sasidharan and R Subramanian said, “The decision was taken by the government as early as December 11, 1989. But the ad hoc rules were framed only in 2006, nearly after a lapse of 17 years.”

This exhibits the callous indifference shown by officials

of the State. In 1995, the State Administrative Tribunal had observed that the framing of the rules should not be unduly delayed. It had specifically observed that administrative decisions which involve change in service rules should be followed up by necessary changes by way of amendment without any unduly delay, the bench pointed out.

The Madras high court observed that it is high time for the State to wake up from ‘Kumbakarnan sleep’ and follow court directives without any further delay while pulling up the officials of Tamil Nadu government for their ‘callous’ attitude in making administrative decisions, leading to long-drawn litigations and waste of judicial time ■

A crowdsourced library at Nagaland prison

A library was set up for the inmates of the Dimapur District Jail in Nagaland in early June. The small room located just behind the jail superintendent’s office is open through the week. It has 110 books and is managed by one of the inmates.

“For a prison that doesn’t have many other recreational facilities, this is a welcome change for the inmates and the staff alike,” says Esther K Aye Jamir, who is one of the three partners at the KAL Legal Consultants in Dimapur. The local law firm partnered with Delhi-based NGO Sarvahitey and formally inaugurated the library on June 10 in the presence of Limasunup Jamir, Commissioner



of Police, Dimapur.

Since August 2017, the KAL Consultants had been in touch with Delhi-based Prem Prakash, whose “Project Paper Bridge” attempts to bridge Northeast to the rest of the country by setting up libraries in the

region. “The name of course, is metaphorical. But the idea is to bring marginalised India within mainland India and these libraries are a good way to bridge this gap,” he says, insisting that these are “more than just libraries” but cultural “community” centres ■

Pune's Pheonix Library gets a Limca Record



Pune houses a few unique libraries. Started in 1949, the Phoenix library is the most prominent among the few. Situated in a cozy space at Sadashiv Peth, the library is owned by J N Ponda.

The library is a Limca record holder with the title of 'Only Library with Clippings in Books.' The library has held the title for 20 years now. The books have three categories of clippings—the clippings of the book and

author, human interest stories of social issues, achievements and lastly, advertisements of the library.

The advertisements are rules and guides on how to care for books. The librarian shows us a biography of Indira Gandhi full of newspaper clippings. J.N. Ponda has 10,000 books in his personal collection, including many rare books which are more than 100 years old.

The library is still frequented by the old and the youth who are fascinated by the clippings and often pay visits to the owner's house to see his collection of rare books. The readers always carefully maintain the books and frequently donate books to the library as well ■

Free Midday Meals for visitors

Nizamabad MP K Kavitha launched a free midday meal at Nizamabad district central library, where between 300 and 500 aspirants preparing for competitive examinations come from different places of the city and surrounding villages in the morning and uses the facilities till 8 pm.

Kavitha said that every day the competitive examination aspirants preparing for various examinations like VRO, police constable and other examinations spend nearly Rs 70 to Rs 100 on meals from outside.

She said that the idea would be extended to libraries at Bodhan and Armour too in the district.

She further said that district staff would be appointed and study hours would be extended at the library ■



Everyday, nearly 300 to 500 candidates preparing for competitive exams visit the Nizamabad district library

Students in Jaipur protest Library demolition

Dozens of students in Jaipur protested against Rajasthan government's decision to demolish a library housed in a 60 year old building. A 'fun city' and 'digital museum' are to be constructed in its place.

Inaugurated by former president Zakir Hussain in 1959, the centre had two separate libraries for girls and boys, mostly occupied by students coming from nearby village areas preparing for various competitive exams. It was also a repository of local dailies. No fee was charged from visitors seeking

access to newspapers, books and other research material available.

"In our two-room houses with dozens of family members, there is no separate place for us to study. That's why we come here, to the library, every day at 9:30 am and leave at 6:30 pm. We were thinking of requesting the department to open it even on Saturdays and Sundays, because it's really difficult for us to work at home. But now it seems our studies will suffer permanently," says Bhawana, a Rajasthan Administrative Service aspirant ■



Couple sets up library with gifted books

A couple from a village in Maharashtra's Ahmednagar district has set a library with books they received as wedding gift for the needy.

Amar Kamalkar, an 'Art of Living' faculty, who has been a social worker for almost 15 years now and runs his own foundation 'Yuva Chetna', always wanted to set up a public library with educational books. So, Kamalkar decided to use his wedding as an opportunity get this dream kick-started. And, it worked!

When he asked for gifts at his wedding, he had one rule: the guests were requested to only bring books for competitive exams. The couple is now trying to set up a library in Ahmednagar for the students in their village who are preparing for their competitive examination.

The couple, too, took out a substantial amount of their own saving meant for wedding expense and invested in the library.

Kamalkar said his drive comes from him not having access to these books in the past. "There are always people who would want these books, but have no way of attaining it," he said ■

Library for TB patients In Maharashtra



India's biggest tuberculosis hospital complex in Sewri in Maharashtra has started a campaign called "Beside the Bed", that provides patients with books to read by their bedsides.

Granth Tumchyadari Kusumagraj Pratishthan, a Nashik-based book trust that provides books at doorsteps, has donated 125 old books to the hospital. The collection includes titles on philosophy, history,

and novels across languages. The hospital's new book reading service will be the first-of-its-kind in any civic-run hospital in Maharashtra.

Bed-ridden for days, many a time TB patients slip into depression. "This reading system will ensure that they are given books along with medicines. We hope that this will also boost a reading habit," said Dr Lalit Anande, chief medical officer ■

BBMP yet to remit Library cess



The Bruhat Bengaluru MahanagaraPalike (BBMP) collects a cess for library. According to the Karnataka Public Library Act, urban local bodies have to levy a cess of 6% on property tax, which they are then required to hand over to the department of public libraries (DPL).

However, in the past five years, the Palike has not

remitted most of the funds it has collected under the head, owing the department Rs 350 crore in all. "The cess is utilised for development of libraries, including building construction, clearing of vendors' dues, telephone bills and stationery costs. In all, urban local bodies owe us Rs 430 crore, of which, the BBMP's share alone is Rs 350 crore," said Satishkumar S

Hosamani, director, DPL.

The department is already starved of funds, having received only Rs 120 crore in the state budget, of which Rs 84 crore goes towards the staff's salaries and honorarium. While Hosamani said the holding back of funds hasn't hampered services as of now, a few years ago, the same issue had led to vendors cancelling services and refusing to provide newspapers and magazines, citing long-pending dues.

"BBMP transfers funds to us now and then. It remitted Rs 5 crore last month, but this is a meagre amount. If it were to transfer the full amount, we would be able to modernise and provide more facilities. While the vendors are still coming, our bills are pending," he added ■

Library for underprivileged students opened in Bhatinda

The Bathinda district administration has opened a library cum reading room at the Red Cross Bhawan for the underprivileged students of government school to help in their mental development.

The library has been equipped with 2000 books for the children apart from bean bags. Deputy Commissioner of Bathinda, Diprava Lakra and Additional Deputy Commissioner Sakshi Sawhney, who took the initiative interacted with the students and inquired about their choice of books.

Lakra said that 305 such libraries will be set up at all villages and towns of the district in phased manner. The library at Red Cross Bhawan has been started with around 2000 books worth Rs 2 lakhs ■



Odisha Public e-Library to be modernized



Odisha Public e-Library, set up by Berhampur Municipal Corporation (BeMC) in collaboration with an organisation of non-resident Odias living in US, is all set to be modernized.

At present, the e-library is equipped with a dozen computers with high-speed internet connection, two servers and a projector. The e-library has

a sitting capacity for 50 persons and is located at the first floor of the municipal town hall.

“We have signed a memorandum of understanding with the Odisha Society of the Americas (OSA) recently to modernise the e-library adding more facilities for holding workshops and seminars,” said BeMC Commissioner Chakravarti Singh Rathore. ■

Thefts on the Rise in TS State Central Library

A dozen members of TS Central State Library situated at Sector-17, Chandigarh approached Director of Higher Education Rubinderjit Singh Brar with complaints such as thefts of bags, bicycles, improper security arrangements and not fully secure washrooms. They also filed a complaint with SSP (UT) Nilambri Vijay Jagdale.

The members informed the officers that a booth was

built for security guards near the entry gate of library but it always remained locked. There is no check on the anti-social elements, who enter the library without library identity cards.

The members highlighted the issue of shortage of chairs in the Reference Section. They demanded introduction of break system in the library in which if the members went outside, their chairs would not be occupied by others ■

‘Garden Library’ In Mumbai



In order to rekindle the love for reading and paperback among its citizens, Mumbai has got a new update in its libraries. This time, it's an ‘open’ library spread across a 4,500 sq ft garden.

This open Garden library is located on Dr E Borges Road next to ITC Grand in Parel and it can accommodate about 4-50 readers at a time.

The library houses a thousand books ranging from children's literature to autobiographies, literature and science fiction genres stacked up in 10 glass shelves.

Security guards are deployed to look after the shelves and help readers to choose from the collection. The readers will need to ask for the book from the guard.

The BMC garden which is now turned into a library had been vacant.

With an intention of employing the space for public welfare, it was turned into a garden-library with the efforts of MLA Ajay Chaudhary ■

Sahitya Akademi Bookstores and Library at Metro Stations



With the Sahitya Akademi planning to come up with bookstores at metro stations, Delhi waalas can now read books during their daily commute that will take them through the proverbial looking glass. The Akademi, which opened its first-ever bookstore outside their premises at the Kashmere

Gate Metro Station in 2015, will collaborate with Delhi Metro Rail Corporation to open a bookstore at three more metro stations — Rajiv Chowk, Noida and Gurgaon.

The store will give readers access to a very wide array of books. The Akademi has also revealed plans to open a reading library next to its bookstore at the Kashmere Gate Metro Station. “We have asked the DMRC to provide the Akademi with space next to the bookstore at the Kashmere Gate Metro Station. Open space will encourage people to read and will inculcate reading culture. The Akademi will maintain the library once the required space is approved,” said K Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi ■

National Library revamp nearly done, to open next year

For at least 10 years now, the city has been denied entry into one of its favourite locations, Belvedere House—which had served as the reading and lending rooms of the National Library, writes Jhimli Mukherjee Pandey in The Times of India.

“It was shut off for restoration in 2010 and it was decided that all reading and lending activities would happen at the Bhasha Bhavan, a modern building that was set up so that the 250-year-old heritage building could be revamped. Happily, the restoration is nearing completion.

The central portion that once housed the grand lounge for people to sit and read newspapers and access the catalogues, the massive reading and reference book hall, the staircases leading to first floor where books used to be stacked, have all been restored,” says Pandey.

Overtime, the Belvedere House had developed



deep cracks on the roof and all over its walls. A portion of the ceiling above what used to be the old lounge, has been eked out so that the sunlight can pour in through the glass to create an atrium-like feel,” says Pandey ■

DPL Building to stay: SC



The Supreme Court of India recently ordered status quo to be maintained on the demolition of a building which houses Delhi Public Library (DPL). A Bench led by Justice Madan B. Lokur said no portion of the property situated at Karol Bagh in New Delhi be demolished.

The court issued notice on the appeal filed by the Delhi Library Board against the Delhi High Court's September 10 order by which six months time

was given to DPL to relocate its branch to another location accessible to general public. The High Court's order had come on a petition against the North Delhi Municipal Corporation's notices to the library to vacate the premises, which the civic body said was structurally unfit and dangerous.

Funded by the Ministry of Culture, the Delhi Public Library has around 45 branches and mobile libraries across Delhi ■

Dr B R Ambedkar Public Library inaugurated



Ladakh Buddhist Association (LBA) and Won Buddhist Charitable Society organised opening of Dr B.R Ambedkar Public Library. The library was inaugurated by President, Hanuran Movement Inc, Korea, Hong Yeon Kyung recently.

The books, shelves and infrastructures in the public library have been sponsored by Hanuran Movement Inc, Korea through Won Buddhism India. The library is housed in the Dr B.R Ambedkar Shopping Complex of LBA located in the heart of Leh city.

Speaking on the occasion, Hong Yeon Kyung said that the purpose of supporting such a public library was to help preserve Ladakh's uniquely rich culture, tradition and its environment for future generations of the region ■

Retired Prof. opens unique Library



A retired professor of Kakatiya University, Gajjala Rameshwaram, has set up a unique naturopathy library filled with rare books from his own collection gathered over years of research. He opened the library's doors to whoever is interested in those books.

Over the past 30 years, Rameshwaram has collected a treasure of rare books and journals on naturopathy and yoga systems. Some of his manuscripts and rare books were digitised by the National Institute of Indian Medical Heritage. Several people researching in this field can have access to these books free of cost.

"There are about 1,500 titles from across the country. I also subscribe to several journals on naturopathy. Some of the journals in my possession are not in publication anymore. For those who come from far off places, the library also has a room with all amenities so they can stay overnight and access the library. My sole aim is to spread knowledge. If someone is interested, I am more than happy to help them out," Rameshwaram said ■

Ancient public library discovered in Germany



The remains of the oldest public library in Germany, a building erected almost two millennia ago that may have housed up to 20,000 scrolls, have been discovered in the middle of Cologne.

The walls were first uncovered in 2017, during an excavation

on the grounds of a Protestant church in the centre of the city. Archaeologists knew they were of Roman origins, with Cologne being one of Germany's oldest cities, founded by the Romans in 50 AD under the name Colonia. But the discovery of niches in the walls, measuring approximately

80cm by 50cm, was, initially, mystifying.

"It took us some time to match up the parallels – we could see the niches were too small to bear statues inside. But what they are are kind of cupboards for the scrolls," said Dr Dirk Schmitz from the Roman-Germanic Museum of Cologne. "They are very particular to libraries – you can see the same ones in the library at Ephesus."

It is not clear how many scrolls the library would have held, but it would have been "quite huge – maybe 20,000", said Schmitz. The building would have been slightly smaller than the famed library at Ephesus, which was built in 117 AD. He described the discovery as "really incredible – a spectacular find" ■

Private Bill on Libraries introduced in Lok Sabha

Member of Parliament, Tej Pratap Singh Yadav has introduced the Constitution (Amendment) Bill in Monsoon session of the Parliament.

The Bill seeks to amend the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India with a view to transfer the subject 'Libraries', from "state list" to "concurrent List" so that the Parliament and the Central Government can also play its vital role in the overall development of a National Library Policy, systems and services in the country.

In 2006, National Knowledge Commission, too, had recommended the need for this amendment to the constitution in its Report titled 'Libraries: Gateways to Knowledge - A roadmap for revitalisation' ■



Centralised Directorate for public libraries in Odisha



A centralised Directorate will be set up for the public libraries in Odisha, a high-level meeting of the Heritage Cabinet chaired by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has decided, informed chief secretary AP Padhi.

Though the Public Libraries

Act was passed in 2001 and the director of Culture department was named its director, keeping in mind the number of libraries under various departments, a decision has been taken to create a centralised directorate for all the public libraries in State ■

Over 7,000 books collected by 'book vehicle' in Kochi



A 'book vehicle' was launched by a youth organization DYFI for book collection for a library being set up at Vattavada village. The vehicle as so far collected more than 7000 books.

According to A D Sujil, DYFI state committee member, the building for the library is being provided by Vattavada grama panchayat.

"The panchayat will also look after and monitor the functioning of the library," he

said. It is expected they will manage to collect up to 15,000 in the coming days, he added.

The vehicle collected books from the Kuttupuzha Krishnapillai Study Center, Paliyam Samara Kendram, Paravoor and Vypeen Sahodaran Ayyappan Smriti Mandapam. In the afternoon, it picked up books from Mattancherry, Kochi, the house of music director M K Arjunan at Palluruthy, Trippunithura and Mulanthuruthy ■

'Room to Read' Programme in Varanasi



Room to Read programme in Varanasi has opened a window for children across 580 primary schools. The print-rich library helps to learn language through story books. Each school library has about 1,000 storybooks.

Recently Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited the library to celebrate his 68th birthday. Speaking with students, he encouraged them to always stay curious and ask questions without fear as it's the key to their learning and success.

"Room to Read", in partnership with the government, has set up libraries in 580 primary schools in Varanasi, said communications head Sanjay Singh ■





THEY ARE HERE TO STAY

Decreasing footfalls in the libraries is a worrisome trend due to many reasons. India needs vibrant public libraries to offer community services if she is to thrive. Role of libraries and librarians are bound to change as the libraries are evolving.

SMART FUTURE BOOKS & BEYOND

Future of a library lies in transforming itself from book reading centres into a vibrant public space for communities to exchange information, knowledge and ideas.

Team TL

The reports of my death are greatly exaggerated, quipped Mark Twain years ago. The message holds true for library.

The library's purpose remains the same as it was in Greek, Roman or ancient India's Nalanda. It stands for knowledge, scholarship and the imagination—and by extension harbinger of new thoughts and radical ideas that infuse dynamism to a civilization and help in the evolution of human mind.

After all, change is inevitable in nature. The dinosaur in their very extinction has taught us an invaluable lesson. Adopt, evolve and change. Or, perish.

Knowledge is an important ingredient to cope with change. That explains the role that library play in civilization. With the advent of internet, the civilization no longer is confined to a geographical area. It runs across the length and breadth of the globe. Consequently, the influence of the library is global—beyond





national boundaries. It impacts human civilization at its core reminding human values, ethics and responsibilities.

Over the years the format and ownership of library has evolved. The ‘search engine’ feature bestowed by internet and the arrival of Google and Amazon created a bit of overblown excitement of library’s diminishing role, but soon it became evident that the digital realm will run parallel to physical library—and complement each other.

A Necessity for India

India’s information and communication technology (ICT) revolution in the past two decades created a middle class of over 300 million people. The purchasing and consumption power of these people would rival that of any developed country.

However, the fruits of this revolution couldn’t touch the rural and urban

poor. Besides, the growth of urban mega-cities in India is rapid, with large numbers of the rural poor shifting to cities daily and slum dwellings multiplying exponentially. The gaps between the rich and poor in these urban areas continue to rise.

The benefits of India’s rapid economic growth haven’t percolated

One way to begin addressing these gaps and inequities is to reinvest in improved public infrastructure, such as education, information, and library services

down. The reason beneath India’s continuing poverty is the government’s poor record in providing basic services such as education to the masses. The inability to focus on these fundamental needs is the country’s biggest post-independence failure.

“One way to begin addressing these gaps and inequities is to reinvest in improved public infrastructure, such as education, information, and library services,” analyses Ajit Pyati, an assistant professor in the Faculty of Information and Media Studies at the University of Western Ontario.

More than a decade ago, Dr



The time has come to create a second wave of institution building, and of excellence in the fields of education, research and capacity building

*Dr. Manmohan Singh
Former PM, India*

The experience in majority of public libraries in India is far from comfortable. The reading rooms invariably stink, which discourages people to utilize the facilities. Also, with time, the book collection in a library grows, which takes up visitors' space, as an increasing number of shelves are needed for growing collection.



“

The place in and around our main library was dirty. As we focused on the cleanliness and ambience, the number of visitors have started going up. We have to provide adequate environment

Dr. Lokesh Sharma,
Director General,
Delhi Public Library

”

Manmohan Singh, the then Prime Minister of India, could gaze the picture well. With this goal in mind, he created the National Knowledge Commission (NKC) in 2005, an advisory group to facilitate the development of a more equitable knowledge society. “The time has come to create a second wave of institution building, and of excellence in the fields of education, research and capacity building,” remarked Singh.

NKC had a working group involved with library issues, with twelve members having developed ten recommendations for the improvement of India's libraries. This working group developed a report entitled, Libraries: Gateways to Knowledge.

As part of this renewal endeavour, the report describes the benefits and roles of libraries in the following way: “Libraries have a recognized social function in making knowledge publicly available to all. They serve as local centres of information and learning, and are local gateways to national and global knowledge.”

Food for Thought

The library, therefore, remains an institution nourishing human minds cutting across numerous socio-economic barriers. It is a public institution of learning predicated on the principle that everyone should be able to access information, and thereby, education and culture—free of cost. In practice, the unique mission of the public library leads to a distinct set of services, ranging from book-lending to computer- and English-

language classes.

The growing diversity of library activities is not a means of compensating for the rise of the internet or a decline in the number of library users. Libraries have been reinventing their services for over a century to advance the same old mission: inform, educate and thereby, empower minds.

Yet, the picture on the ground of this self-learning platform in India is that of negligence and apathy. The consequence is decline of visitors, dilapidated buildings, minimal or no staff.

Love for Space

Inside a library, no matter how—big or small, the lined shelves loaded with books, periodicals and journals, and large reading table engulfed with a stroke of silence create a unique ambience that naturally draws people. The smell that emanates from the books subsequently engages the minds. Agrees Mrs PK Shobana, State Librarian, Kerala, “Most of the members of our library come to find a place for reading.”

However, the sad truth is that the experience in majority of public libraries in India is far from comfortable. The reading rooms invariably stink, which discourages people to utilize the facilities. Also, with time, the book collection in a library grows, which takes up visitors' space, as an increasing number of shelves are required to accommodate the growing collection. Due to shortage of trained staff, many libraries fail to implement the periodic weeding policy, wherein old and books that are used rarely are disposed of.

In many developed nations, public libraries have certain kind of respectability. Youngsters visit these places to awaken their minds, which help them to realise their goals. In India, due to lack of policy and resource support, both at the central and state levels, public libraries are unable to match the expectations of the young populace.

“The place in and around our main library was dirty. As we focused on the

cleanliness and ambience, the number of visitors have started going up. We have to provide adequate environment,” says Dr. Lokesh Sharma, Director General, Delhi Public Library.

Infrastructure Upgrade

Despite holding huge reputations, the libraries are in dire need of infrastructure upgrade. From housing books, poor condition of walls to lighting in reading area, every library in India demands a contemporary look and feel. For example, Delhi Public Library (DPL) which has a membership of around 1,750,000, can accommodate only 1500 people at any point of time. Dr Sharma says DPL plans to create multistory building in the main library.

Manpower Shortage

The books no doubt occupy a high pedestal in a library. But without people, who run it efficiently, a library would be reduced to a monument. Yet the emphasis on this valuable human resource has been woefully short—and neglected.

In Punjab, around 75% libraries are running without the required manpower—of the 96 sanctioned posts of librarians in 62 libraries, 74 are lying vacant. Says Dr. Pardeep Rai, Secretary, Indian Libraries Association, “Libraries are understaffed with no full-time librarian to take care of library functions. A huge number of libraries have vacancies that need to be filled immediately with qualified staff capable of addressing the knowledge needs of

present and potential users. In Delhi, for example, most universities have no librarian.”

Funding Disparity

There’s a huge disparity in public spending in the domain of public libraries. UP, which has a population of more than 200 million, supports only 70 public libraries, while Karnataka, with a third of UP’s population, boasts of around 7,000. UP spends roughly Rs 24 crore annually on libraries, while Karnataka spends almost eight times at Rs 186 crore.

A report by The Times of India last year pointed out that Bihar with a population of over nine crore spends only Rs10 lakh on the purchase of books per year. As per official sources, the per capita annual expenditure on library books in the state is hardly one paisa, while the national average is seven paise.

More than 5,000 village libraries in the state have been shut down for lack of funds in the past seven decades. There were over 6,000 village libraries in Bihar during the 1930s, but the number has dwindled to 400. The condition of most of these libraries is appalling as they lack basic reading materials, necessary infrastructure and qualified librarians. Most of them do not even have money to buy newspapers.

The Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation (RRRLF), the nodal agency of the government, offers grants to 16,000-17,000 public libraries every year. Many a times, states don’t send in proposals to the RRRLF, as they don’t have the requisite knowledge or staff.

Hence, due to poor fund appropriation by state governments, the RRRLF isn’t able to show utilisation of all the funds received from the central government and this leads to a reduction in their proposed budget in the following year. It is evident that building expertise is equally important.

“Library is a state subject. So whatever proposal for grants comes in, we review



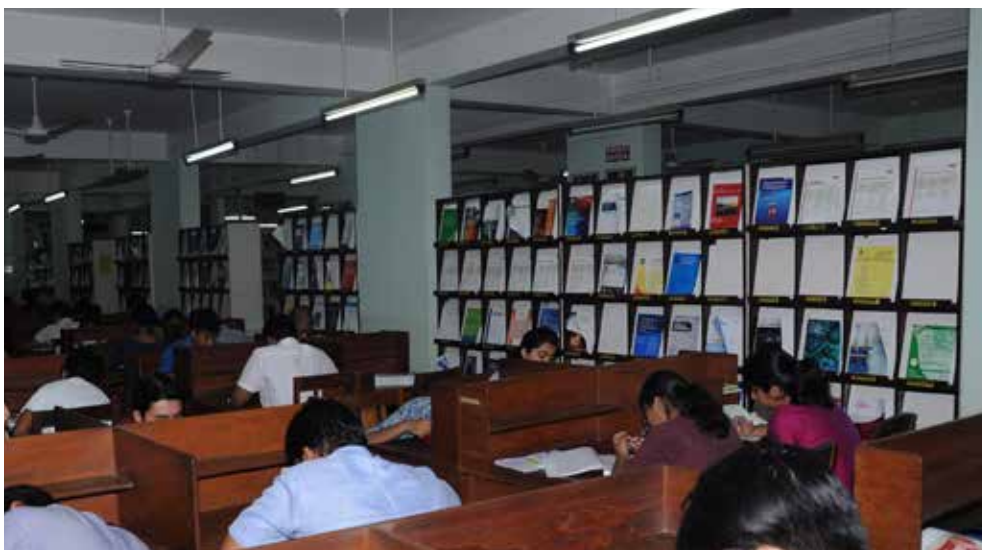
“

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General Secretary, ILA

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it and allocate grants accordingly. The state has to take the onus of running it efficiently and increase the footfalls,” says Arun Kumar Chakraborty, director general, RRRLF.

Silver Lining

Though majority of public libraries in India are in poor shape, states such as Goa, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu have reasonably well-equipped public libraries. As a result, these libraries serve as models for replication across the country.

Unlike most states, where the topmost executive post of a public library is held as an additional charge by the director of the department of education or culture, in Karnataka a qualified library and information science professional holds the position of director. Consequently, such a person has decision-making, approving and financial powers, which

s/he can exercise in consultation with the state government.

In Kerala, the public library system is not government-controlled, but more of a people’s movement, whereby there’s no director-in-charge, but taluk-level secretaries chosen by the community.

In Arunachal Pradesh, there’s a separate cabinet minister of education and libraries. Jammu & Kashmir, which follows the national policy on public libraries, is another example.

Walk with Technology

“No doubt, internet based technology has revolutionised the library systems around the world, but the importance of a librarian is not diminished by the gadgets. In order to run the smart libraries successfully and effectively, we need smart librarians and allied staff as well,” analysed Prof. Mehraj ud Din Mir, Vice-Chancellor, Central University of Kashmir.

It is people that matters. Libraries under innovative and passionate persons are finding innovative ways to increase their footfalls. In several places, libraries have started organising activities such as book-reading, storytelling, life skill sessions and career counselling. The Central State Library, Allahabad, initiated a 10-day course in multiple batches to provide computer training—meeting the local needs.

“



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*Prof. Mehraj ud Din Mir,
Vice-Chancellor, Central University of Kashmir.*

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The library of the future, whether the physical space or its digital resources, can be the place where you put things together, make something new, meet new people, and share what you and others bring to the table.

Miguel Figueroa
Center for the Future of Libraries

Libraries in the 21st century are going to be less about books and more about the services that library staff provides to their communities. Prof R D Sharma, Vice-Chancellor, Jammu University, stresses on the sustainability of the libraries and calls upon the library professionals to focus on various utilities especially the services utility and communication utility so that the best type of services and good books are made available to the readers. He also stressed upon the young faculty and research scholars to get benefitted by such type of academic activities.

Says Miguel Figueroa from the Center for the Future of Libraries, “The library of the future, whether the physical space or its digital resources, can be the place where you put things together, make something new, meet new people, and share what you and others bring to the table. It’s peer-to-peer, hands-on, community-based and creation-focused”.

Erode District Library in Tamil Nadu has kiosks for farmers to impart agricultural information, while Jaichrist Library in Adimalathura and Coastal Public Library in Kerala have set up kiosks for fishermen to impart fishery-related information. Delhi Public Library also keeps reinventing and innovating consistently.

Outreach

Lack of awareness about public libraries is partly to be blamed for poor number of visitors. “Delhi Public Library has started Ghar Ghar Pustak—five mobile libraries are covering 100 points in Delhi out of which one is for visually impaired people,” informed Dr. Sharma.

The Future

Vehicle for Community Information

The library leaders in India have deliberated the necessity for libraries to transform from collection-oriented institutions to service-based institutions. Besides, the awareness that public libraries can serve as



India, a country with a rich and diverse cultural heritage, has a huge untapped resource in the public library system to reinvigorate local cultural practices. Enhanced cultural roles that public libraries may take will inevitably need to be in sync with indigenous norms and practices



Library professionals need to focus on various utilities especially the services utility and communication utility so that the best type of services and good books are made available to the readers

*Prof. RD Sharma
VC, Jammu University*



community information centres (CIC) exists for almost a decade.

The National Policy on Library and Information System (NAPLIS) report of 1986 recommended that village libraries should serve as local information centres, bringing such areas as public health, adult education, and local self-government under the same umbrella.

However, these recommendations, though appropriate, were never implemented at the national level, because of political and bureaucratic reasons. There's another aspect that can't be overlooked. The perception of public libraries in India generally are still viewed as repositories of books and other print materials, and are not seen as major providers of community information.

"The topic of community information services has been gaining in importance within the field of library and information studies (LIS) and has been suggested as an important area for library service models in developing countries (Martin, 1984; Kempson, 1986; Alemna, 1995).

Community information has been defined as survival information, a type of information necessary for participation as a full and equal member of society (Martin, 1984). Additionally, community information services aim to assist individuals and groups with participation in the democratic process and daily problem solving with issues such as housing, employment, education, welfare rights and civil rights (Library Association, 1980)," says Pyati.

That's not all. "Community information services have been linked

with information and referral services for marginalized populations (Metoyer-Duran, 1994). Public libraries, mainly in the US, began networking with government, community, and social services agencies in the 1970s to create information and referral services to inform citizens about resources and programmes for individual and community empowerment (Durrance and Pettigrew, 2000).

This type of community information service model has also been enhanced by the presence of the Internet in many US and Western public libraries, as various electronic community information networks have been created (Durrance and Pettigrew, 2000). Community information service models can thus be based on access to ICTs (Pettigrew, et al., 1999; Ghosh, 2005) but can also involve simply providing relevant information for communities (Alemna, 1995).

Successful community information projects often involve providing solutions derived from local populations themselves and not imposed from the outside (Alemna, 1995). Beyond the provision of community information, however, the CIC model can position the library as an important cultural and community centre.

Part of this cultural centre model can include providing space for local artisans to display their works, hosting itinerant storytellers, and the general promotion of local folk traditions. Thus, by being sensitive to community needs and values (Alemna, 1995) public libraries can be spaces for cultural promotion and preservation.

India, a country with a rich and diverse cultural heritage, has a huge untapped potential in the public library system to reinvigorate local cultural practices. Enhanced cultural roles that public libraries may take will inevitably need to be in sync with indigenous norms and practices," explains Pyati.

The future, therefore, is going to be more exciting. And a library's role would be diverse—uniting India's varied culture ■



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“Public libraries are evolving and transforming into public spaces for information, knowledge and community services”

Dr. Arun Kumar Chakraborty, one of the most prominent faces of Public Library movement of India, is Director General, Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation (RRRLF), Kolkata under Ministry of Culture, Government of India. He also holds Additional Mission Director, National Mission on Libraries (NML), and Director General, National Library, India, Ministry of Culture, Government of India.

A seasoned librarian with over two decades of experience, Chakraborty has authored many research articles, edited books/seminar proceedings, contributed in books and delivered key notes in different national and international seminars.

In an interview with Apresh Mishra, he shares his thoughts about the state of Indian public libraries and their future prospects.

In a recent article published in Forbes magazine, it was suggested that the public libraries should be replaced by amazon book stores. Your comment?

I have not read the article. But no book store can replace public library system. Public library is a place for knowledge and information which is open to all free of cost. I am sure there is no book store which does it.

What would you say about lack of reading habit?

There are many issues which cause lack of reading habit among people particularly this whatsapp generation. And lack of reading brings forth many societal issues such as intolerance. Bombardment of fake news and its spread is one of the results of people not well read and informed.

People are reading only highlights. In the fast paced lifestyle, everyone wants quick response

If we are to improve reading habit, we have to start at schools. We need a chapter on Libraries and information science. Open book completion, no

school bag day every week are a few ideas that need to be explored. We need a national level initiative on improving reading as a well-informed society will itself stop the spread of fake news.

What is RRRLF doing to improve public libraries?

There is no doubt the public libraries are suffering the neglect. RRRLF was created to support public library services and systems and promote public library movement in the country. We have so far supported 34000 public libraries of India.

We support infrastructure development of public libraries of the country. But the issue here is that library is a state subject. So whatever proposal for grants comes in from states, we review them and allocate grants accordingly. The state has to take the onus of running it efficiently and increase the footfalls. But the states are not coming forward in this scheme. State has to have to attitude and seriousness toward libraries.

Only 20 states have library legislation. All the states have to have state library planning committee which is generally chaired by either the Minister or the secretary of a particular department

and is represented by DG of RRRLF. But if they don't constitute the committee shows the lethargy.

Libraries are highly understaffed? What is RRRLF doing to solve this problem?

This is one of the main reasons why libraries are serving their purpose. How can you expect a library to function if there is no librarian? In most of the libraries, people from other expertise are given additional charge. It needs to change. Since it's a state subject, they need to recruit the staff.

RRRLF has introduced an internship scheme to solve the staff issue. We are hiring people with relevant education as interns for a period of 1 year. These interns will be hired based on examination and will be placed in various libraries across the country. It will serve two purposes. While the libraries with no staff can have people serving them, these interns will get hands on experience.

Other than staffing, skill gap is another issue that we are addressing. We are running Capacity building programs for the librarians to impart various skills on library management. We have so far organized 34 workshops across the country and have trained more than 1000 library professionals.

RRRLF has been developing Model Libraries for some time now. Where has it reached?

RRRLF has been tasked with creating model public libraries in India. We are developing 1 central and 1 district library in each state, meaning we are developing 76 model libraries. 46 libraries are already under development or developed. There are some libraries which are fully developed. We are doing it with states' participation. But there are some states which have not come

with the library names that they need to transform in model libraries. We are requesting them to send proposals so that the work can start.

We already have a National Digital Library. Why another 'National Virtual Library'?

National Digital Library is a collection of academic books. It does not capture public library data. You have to understand the significance of digitizing 47000 public libraries.

National Virtual Library is online catalogues of all the library data collected at one place and will be available in 15 languages. In many cases the library catalogue is not available. What we are trying to do is to support these libraries to create online catalogue. It is also going to provide information on museums and archives.

IIT Mumbai has been tasked with creating the library. The beta version is already launched.

What would you say about future of Public Libraries in India?

Public Library should be a community information centre providing community information services. In a far village, if the people don't know about government policies and schemes, the public libraries should be able to provide the information. Not only this, but the public libraries should serve as an information hub for community development by providing information on jobs, community services, government services, etc.

Public libraries are evolving and transforming into public spaces for information, knowledge, culture and community services. The role of librarians is also going to change. From information managers they are going to be community managers ■

Food&agri watch

A stylized illustration of a wheat stalk with golden-brown grains, positioned diagonally across the center of the page. It is surrounded by various geometric shapes: a large yellow circle at the top, a large orange circle at the bottom, and several smaller circles and lines in yellow, orange, and teal. The background is a light gray.

Annual
magazine on
Agriculture,
Food Security &
Nutrition

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A collection of decorative circles in the bottom right corner, including a large teal circle, a medium yellow circle, and a small yellow circle.



DESTINY'S CHOICE

Siyali Ramamrita Ranganathan's life is unusual, but extraordinary. More than his academic brilliance, his passion for work has made him immortal—and role model for generations of librarians. The Government of India made him the National Research Professor in Library Science in 1965. At that time, only four other National Research Professors were there—Dr. C.V. Raman (Physics), S.N. Bose (Physics), P.V. Kane (Law) and S.K. Chatterjee (Literature and Linguistics).

Born on 12 August 1892 in Siyali (at present, Sirkazhi), Ranganathan's contributions are immense—the most outstanding were his five laws of library science and the development of the first major faceted classification system, the colon classification. He is known as the father of library science, documentation, and information science in India. Globally, he is acknowledged for his fundamental thinking in the domain that eventually laid the foundation for the modern role of libraries as public centers for intellectual life.

The journey began in the winter of 1924 when he was asked by Madras University to become its first

librarian. He was reluctant to accept the offer. The dilemma was natural. He was a trained mathematician with brilliant academic credentials.

Ranganathan earned B.A. and M.A. degrees in mathematics from Madras Christian College in his home province, and then acquired a teaching license. His lifelong aspiration was to teach mathematics and was successively a member of the mathematics faculties at universities in Mangalore, Coimbatore and Madras.

Switching to library made little sense. He was acknowledged as an excellent teacher, respected by students and peers. Since his love for mathematics was also his vocation, Ranganathan thoroughly enjoyed his tenure and spent much of his leisure building public awareness of the importance of mathematics and the sciences through a series of well-attended lectures. He had also published papers on the history of mathematics.

But the bending curves of destiny floated him to another shore of knowledge that shaped the destiny of libraries in India. He discovered his latent talent, though with a bit of pain. The path of transition was not smooth. He missed the lively classroom environment. "I cannot bear the solitary imprisonment day after day," he had complained after few days of joining as librarian. He was given the choice to study librarianship in England for a year. Since his intellectual brilliance was evident, the principal, Mr. Duncan, had to pacify him by saying: "If you

S R Ranganathan was so content being a mathematics teacher that he cringed when he was asked to steer Madras University's library. Yet, his birthday is observed every year as the National Librarian's Day in India.

By TL team



feel bored even after you return from England, I shall certainly take you.”

Voyage of Discovery

While in England, Ranganathan was engaged intellectually with the chief librarian of the Croyden Public Library, W.C. Berwick Sayers, who was also a lecturer in the University School of Librarianship, London. The interest soon exploded. To enlarge his horizon, he visited scores of libraries, observing for the first time how the library could serve a center for community learning. That’s not all. He discovered a social purpose for the library, seeing in it an invaluable resource to promote education to all members of society, irrespective of caste, creed or gender; from the poorest strata to the most sophisticated and cultured learners. He returned from England in 1925 and immersed in his mission to transform the role of public libraries in

his motherland. Thus, a social rationale for the library profession was born silently as well.

Ranganathan’s understanding was simple—to make the libraries more accessible, to attract more readers, and to promote self-education for every member of the community—a goal clearly articulated in his Five Laws of Library Science (1931)—widely accepted as a definitive statement of the ideal of library service.

Books are for use.

Every reader his or her book.

Every book its reader.

Save the time of the reader.

He discovered a social purpose for the library, seeing in it an invaluable resource to promote education to all members of society, irrespective of caste, creed or gender; from the poorest strata to the most sophisticated and cultured learners.

The library is a growing organism.

A series of reforms were initiated by him, including the introduction of an open-shelf system for books and utilizing mass media to draw people into the libraries. It was during these years that he developed the Colon Classification



To enlarge the social impact, he pushed the library movement to all the comers of the Madras Presidency, which at that time covered almost two-thirds of South India. The consequence is visible even today. The public library network is quite widespread in South India.

System and the Classified Catalog Code.

Gift to Mankind



Prof. Ranganathan's Contribution to mankind is immense. Making libraries great again will be a true tribute to him.

Prof. Shabhat Husain,
President, Indian
Library Association



Ranganathan's chief technical contributions to library science were in classification and indexing theory. His Colon Classification (1933) introduced a system that is extensively used in research libraries around the world and that has affected the evolution of such older systems as the Dewey Decimal Classification.

Later he developed the technique of "chain indexing" for deriving subject-index entries. Other works of his included Classified Catalogue Code (1934), Prolegomena to Library Classification (1937), Theory of the Library Catalogue (1938), Elements of Library Classification (1945), Classification and International Documentation (1948), Classification and Communication (1951), and Headings and Canons (1955). At the policy level, he drafted plans for a national and several state library systems. He founded and edited several journals, and was active in numerous professional associations.

Courage, grit and determination

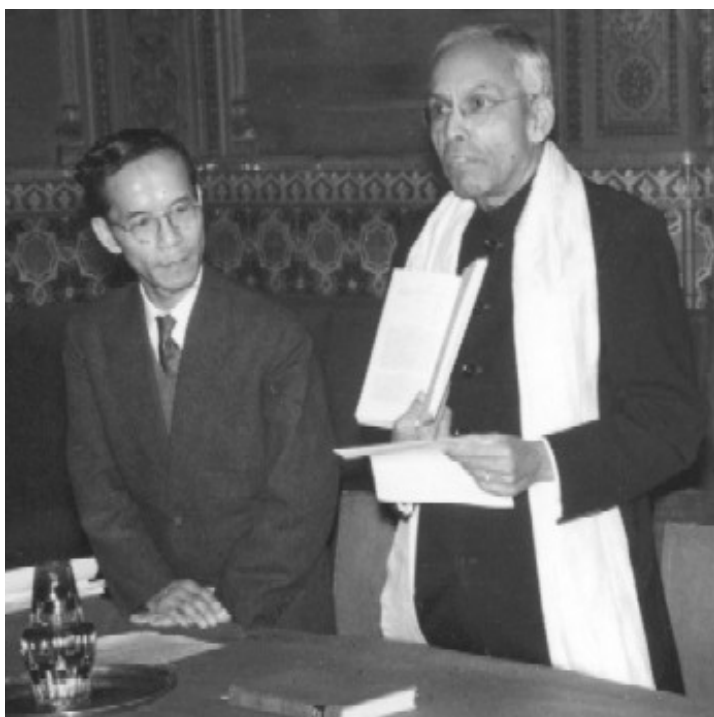
were in abundance. He lost his father when he was just six years old. He had stammering. Yet he proved to be a great teacher in class room and articulated his pioneering thoughts to a larger audience. Naturally, he could see the larger picture beyond the four walls of the library. Ranganathan gathered the enlightened persons of the area and formed the Madras Library Association. It evolved into a fruitful living symbol of the library movement.

To enlarge the social impact, he pushed the library movement to all the comers of the Madras Presidency, which at that time covered almost two-thirds of South India. The consequence is visible even today. The public library network is quite widespread in South India.

A school of library science was also initiated by Ranganathan in 1929, first under the patronage of the Madras Library Association and later taken over by Madras University. Ranganathan was the director of the school for almost 15 years.

"Later in 1957, during centenary celebrations of the University, he donated his life's savings of one lakh rupees to the University to endow a chair known as Sarada Ranganathan Professorship in Library Science. The students of this school have taken leading parts at all levels of activity—local, national, and international," narrated Dr Shabhat Husain, former Professor and Chairman, Department



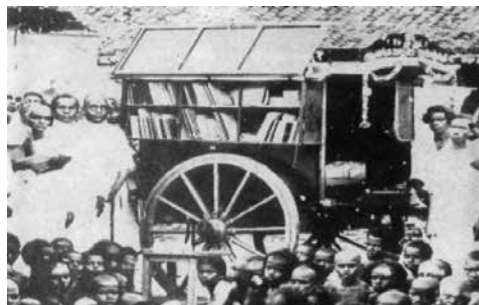


of Library & Information Science, Aligarh Muslim University and President of Indian Library Association, while addressing a gathering of librarians at Delhi's India International Centre.

Beyond Madras

After 21 years of active library service, Ranganathan sought voluntary retirement in 1945 so that he could pursue active research. But fate had something else for him. He received an invitation to develop the library system of the Banaras Hindu University, by the then Vice-Chancellor S. Radhakrishnan.

At Banaras, Ranganathan found the library in a chaotic condition. He reorganized the entire collection single-



handedly, classified and catalogued about 100,000 books with a missionary zeal during 1945-47. He also conducted the Diploma Course in Library Science during the same period.

With the end of his Banaras chapter, another innings began in Delhi when Sir Maurice Gwyer invited him to Delhi University in 1947. He did not take the responsibility of organising the library, but confined himself to teaching and research in library science. Under his guidance, Bachelor of Library Science and Master of Library Science was started between 1947 and 1950. Prof S Das Gupta, one of Ranganathan's brilliant students, became the librarian of Delhi University.

It was probably for the first time in the whole of the Commonwealth that Study Circle and Research Circle meetings were organized. The Research Circle met every Sunday at his residence. Many new ideas and innovations began to emerge.

Team research was initiated. Ranganathan was elected the President of the Indian Library Association (ILA) and S Das Gupta was elected as its Secretary. A confluence of three journals,

At Banaras, Ranganathan found the library in a chaotic condition. He reorganized the entire collection single-handedly, classified and catalogued about 100,000 books with a missionary zeal during 1945-47. He also conducted the Diploma Course in Library Science during the same period.



viz., Annals, Bulletin, and Granthalaya were founded. An acronym ABGILA was given to this composite, three-in-one periodical. The Annals contained research papers of the Delhi Research Circle and soon gained international acclaim.

While Ranganathan was in Delhi, his international interactions germinated. He had a close liaison with Donker-Duyvis, the then dynamic Secretary-General of Federation for Documentation (FID). Ranganathan was the Chairman of the Classification Research Group (CR) of the FID between 1950-62, when he wrote 12 research reports for FID and from 1962, he was the Honorary Chairman of FID/CR till his death in 1972.

While he was in Delhi, Ranganathan drafted a comprehensive 30 year plan for the development of library system for India. He was intimately involved in the founding of the Documentation Committee of the Indian Standards Institution of which he was the Chairman till 1967.

In 1950, the Indian National Scientific Documentation Centre (INSDOC, Delhi) was founded. During this period, he also promoted the Madras Public Library Act. He also initiated the Classification Research Group at London. He visited USA in



1950 under Rockefeller Foundation and wrote the book *Classification and Communication*.

In order to gain firsthand knowledge of Industrial documentation and to meet his international commitments, Ranganathan shifted to Zurich. He wrote the second edition of *Prolegomena to Library Classification* there (Published by the Library Association, London). He also regularly contributed to the *Annals of Library Science* published by the INSDOC.

The next chapter began in Bangalore in 1957. Many young librarians of Bangalore flocked around the elder statesman of library science. Informal discussions and research investigations were carried out to publish books and other research papers.

The crowning point of Ranganathan's activity was in the founding of the Documentation Research and Training Centre, Bangalore under the auspices of the Indian Statistical Institute in 1962. The main functions of this Centre revolve around research and teaching activities in library and information science.

At the age of 80, Ranganathan silently passed into history—leaving behind a rich legacy ■



Library of Alexandria

TALE OF A HERITAGE

Once the largest library in the ancient world, and containing works by the greatest thinkers and writers of antiquity, including Homer, Plato, Socrates and many more, the Library of Alexandria, northern Egypt, is popularly believed to have been destroyed in a huge fire around 2000 years ago and its volumous works lost

By TL team



All visitors to the city were required to surrender all books and scrolls in their possession; these writings were then swiftly copied by official scribes. The originals were put into the Library, and the copies were delivered to the previous owners.

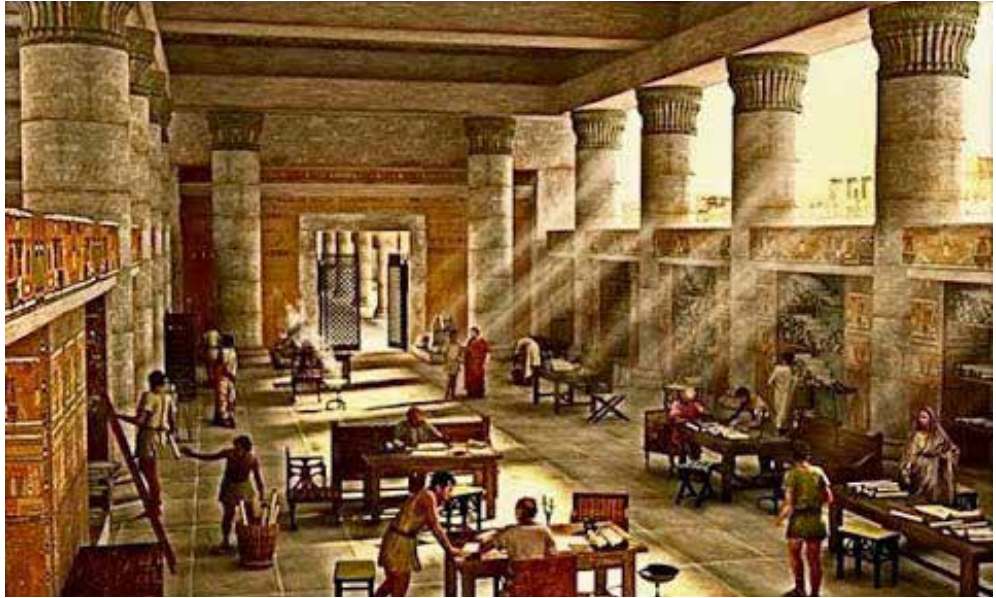
The Royal Library of Alexandria was Once the largest library in the world. It was a major library and cultural center located on the shore of the Mediterranean Sea in the Egyptian city of Alexandria. It is usually assumed to have been founded at the beginning of the 3rd century BC

during the reign of Ptolemy II of Egypt after his father had set up the temple of the Muses, the Musaeum (whence we get "Museum"). The initial organization is attributed to Demetrius Phalereus, and is estimated to have stored at its peak 400,000 to 700,000 parchment scrolls. The library's destruction remains a mystery. A new library was inaugurated in 2003, near the site of the old library.

One story holds that the Library was seeded with Aristotle's own private collection, through one of his students, Demetrius Phalereus. Another concerns how its collection grew so large. By decree of Ptolemy III of Egypt, all visitors to the city were required to surrender all books and scrolls in their possession; these writings were then swiftly copied by official scribes. The originals were put into the Library, and the copies were delivered to the previous owners. While encroaching on the rights of the traveler or merchant, it also helped to create a reservoir of books in the relatively new city

The Library's contents were likely distributed over several buildings, with the main library either located directly attached to or close to the oldest building, the Museum, and a daughter library in the younger Serapeum, also a temple dedicated to the god Serapis. Carlton Welch provides the following description of the main library based on the existing historical records:

A covered marble colonnade connected the Museum with an adjacent stately building, also in white marble and stone, architecturally harmonious, indeed forming an integral part of the vast pile, dedicated to learning by the wisdom of the first Ptolemy in following the advice and genius of Demetrios of Phaleron. This was the famous Library of Alexandria, the "Mother" library of the Museum, the Alexandriana, truly the



foremost wonder of the ancient world.

Here in ten great Halls, whose ample walls were lined with spacious armaria, numbered and titled, were housed the myriad manuscripts containing the wisdom, knowledge, and information, accumulated by the genius of the Hellenic peoples. Each of the ten Halls was assigned to a separate department of learning embracing the assumed ten divisions of Hellenic knowledge as may have been found in the Catalogue of Callimachus of Greek Literature in the Alexandrian Library, the farfamed Pinakes. The Halls were used by the scholars for general research, although there were smaller separate rooms for individuals or groups engaged in special studies.

In 2004 a Polish-Egyptian team claimed to have discovered part of the library while excavating in the Bruchion region. The archaeologists claimed to have found thirteen "lecture halls", each with a central podium. It is estimated that the rooms could have seated 5000 students.

Structure

The exact layout of the library is not known, but ancient sources describe the Library of Alexandria as comprising a collection of scrolls, Greek columns, a

The library had a collection of scrolls, Greek columns, a peripatos walk, a room for shared dining, a reading room, meeting rooms, gardens, and lecture halls

peripatos walk, a room for shared dining, a reading room, meeting rooms, gardens, and lecture halls, creating a model for the modern university campus. The library itself is known to have had an acquisitions department (possibly built near the stacks, or for utility closer to the harbor) and a cataloguing department. A hall contained shelves for the collections of papyrus scrolls known as bibliothekai. According to popular description, an inscription above the shelves read: The place of the cure of the soul.

The library was but one part of the Musaeum of Alexandria, which functioned as a sort of research institute. In addition to the library, the Musaeum included rooms for the study of astronomy, anatomy, and even a zoo containing exotic animals. The classical thinkers who studied, wrote, and experimented at the Musaeum include the great names of philosophy, mathematics, astronomy, physics,

In 2004 a Polish–Egyptian team claimed to have discovered part of the library while excavating in the Bruchion region. The archaeologists claimed to have found thirteen "lecture halls", each with a central podium. It is estimated that the rooms could have seated 5000 students.

geometry, engineering, geography, physiology, and medicine. These included notable thinkers such as Euclid, Archimedes, Eratosthenes, Herophilus, Erasistratus, Hipparchus, Aedesia, Pappus, Theon, Hypatia, and Aristarchus of Samos.

Growth Of The Library

The association of the library with the Mouseion, whose scholars required a reliable resource, helped the library to develop into a proper research centre. Its location close to the harbour and within the royal palace's grounds placed it under the direct supervision of the kings. Those circumstances aided the rapid growth of the library's collection. Within half a century of its foundation circa 295 BCE, the collections of the Royal Library had exceeded the space allotted to contain the accumulated books. It was found

necessary to establish an offshoot that could house the surplus volumes. To that end, Ptolemy III (246–221 BCE) incorporated the branch library into the newly built Serapeum, which was situated at a distance from the royal quarter in the Egyptian district south of the city.

Estimates of the total number of books in the library vary. The earliest surviving figure, from the 3rd century BCE, is reported as "more than 200,000 books," whereas the medieval text of John Tzetzes mentions "42,000 books in the outer library; in the inner (Royal) Library 400,000 mixed books, plus 90,000 unmixed books." A still higher estimate of 700,000 was reported between the 2nd and 4th centuries CE.

Registration And Classification Of Books

Galen preserved the information that was recorded for each book; it included the work's title, author, and editor as well as its place of origin, length (in lines), and whether the manuscript was mixed (containing more than one work) or unmixed (a single text). It is worth noting that a scribe's pay was rated according to the quality of writing and number of lines. In an attempt to standardize costs and wages throughout





the empire, Diocletian ranked a scribe's pay as follows:

to a scribe for the best writing 100 lines, 25 denarii; for second-quality writing 100 lines, 20 denarii; to a notary for writing a petition or legal document 100 lines, 10 denarii.

Further, a bibliographical survey of the contents of the library "in every field of learning," a tremendous undertaking, was entrusted to Greek poet and scholar Callimachus, who was known for his encyclopedic erudition. The result was the Pinakes ("Tables"), which has survived in only a few fragments. Those remains attest to the following divisions: rhetoric, law, epic, tragedy, comedy, lyric

poetry, history, medicine, mathematics, natural science, and miscellaneous. Callimachus's work instantly became a model for future works of a similar nature. Its influence can be traced to the Middle Ages, to its brilliant 10th-century Arabic counterpart, bookseller Ibn al-Nadim's Kitab al-fihrist ("Index"), which has survived intact.

It was mainly because of the Library of Alexandria that the scholars of the Mouseion were able to maintain scholarship at the highest level in almost all areas of learning. In appreciation of their achievements, Vitruvius, in the 1st century CE, expressed the gratitude felt by subsequent generations for the work of the "predecessors" in preserving the memory of mankind....Hence we must render to them indeed the greatest thanks, because they did not let all go in jealous silence, but provided for the record in writing of their ideas in every kind.

Destruction

Despite the widespread modern myth

In 2004 a Polish–Egyptian team claimed to have discovered part of the library while excavating in the Bruchion region. The archaeologists claimed to have found thirteen "lecture halls", each with a central podium. It is estimated that the rooms could have seated 5000 students.



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In appreciation of their achievements, Vitruvius, in the 1st century CE, expressed the gratitude felt by subsequent generations for the work of the “predecessors” in preserving the memory of mankind

that the library was “burned” once and cataclysmically destroyed, Alexandrian scholarship actually suffered several setbacks and a general decline spanning centuries. From the mid-nineteenth century to the present, historians have criticized the tendency to produce vivid stories of the library's grandeur and the tragedy of its destruction, drawn from primary sources that are sparse, vague, and often contradictory.

An early event in the library's decline occurred in the reign of Ptolemy VIII Physcon, who purged some of its scholars in 145 BC. Julius Caesar may have burned the library, or part of its collection, during his civil war in 48 BC. It is unclear how much was destroyed, but the library continued to operate afterward. The library's membership appears to have ceased by the 260s AD.

Between 270–275 AD, the city saw a rebellion and an imperial counterattack that may have damaged the library.

By the late third century, the center of learning in Alexandria had already been moved to the Serapeum. Theon of Alexandria and later his daughter Hypatia were heads of a school in Alexandria called the “Mouseion”, which took its name from the Hellenistic institution that had once incorporated the library, but which had little other connection. The Serapeum was vandalized and demolished in 391 AD under a decree issued by Coptic Christian pope Theophilus of Alexandria, but it does not seem to have housed books at the time and was mainly used as a gathering place for Neoplatonist philosophers following the teachings of Iamblichus. Theophilus tolerated the school of Hypatia, but her school fell apart after her death in March of 415. Some legends describe a final destruction by the Arab conqueror ‘Amr ibn al-‘As in the seventh century, but there is little evidence that a library of any importance existed in Alexandria then ■



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ANNA CENTENARY LIBRARY

BACK TO GLORY

Anna Centenary Library (ACL) in Chennai is breathing with life—almost after six years in the wilderness. The tome of knowledge has literally been resurrected by the Madras High Court. It became functional some eight years ago and has a collection of 550,000 books. Over 2701 persons use the library daily. On top of it, ACL is the first library building in Asia to receive the LEED NC Gold rating from IGBC.

By TL team



Situated on an eight-acre land in Kotturpuram, ACL—one of the biggest libraries in Asia is designed aesthetically in such a way that the interior receives abundance of natural light. It has facilities like an auditorium, Braille section, an amphitheatre and a food court besides the huge collection of books and journals.

The nine-story building built at a cost of Rs 172 crore has a capacity to accommodate 1.2 million books. ACL has planned to adopt an integrated library management system that includes automated issue and return of books, user smartcards, access controls, Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) technology and self-check counters.

Designed by C N Raghavendran, the

library can accommodate 1,250 persons. It has an auditorium of 50,000 sq. ft. with a seating capacity of 1,280, and an amphitheatre on the terrace that can accommodate over 800 persons. Besides, it has two conference halls with capacities of 151 and 30 persons, respectively.

A dedicated children's section, spread over 15,000 sq. ft. has a colourful theme-based reading section with multimedia kits and storybooks. The library also boasts a high-tech section for the visually impaired, with talking books and Braille displays. Another aspect has been taken care of—the parking space can accommodate about 420 cars and 1,030 two-wheelers.

Designed by C N Raghavendran, the library can accommodate 1,250 persons. It has an auditorium of 50,000 sq. ft. with a seating capacity of 1,280, and an amphitheatre on the terrace that can accommodate over 800 persons.



Adequate attention has been paid in the infrastructure. A separate power substation with a capacity of 32 kV has been built on the premises. CCTV cameras have been installed in 493 locations in the building. A food court in the building is capable of serving 180 persons at any given point in time. The library employs 200 staff, including 96 permanent and 40 contract employees.

Green Library of India

In July 2010, the library building received the LEED NC Gold rating from IGBC, the first library building in Asia to achieve this distinction. ANC has achieved 43 LEED points, highest amongst any government buildings, in Tamil Nadu so far.

Adoption of a sensitive architectural design and efficient building services solutions ensure that the energy consumption of the building is low. Special care was taken to select sustainable materials—about 60 per cent are locally sourced and recyclable.

Adoption of a sensitive architectural design and efficient building services solutions ensure that the energy consumption of the building is low. Special care was taken to select sustainable materials—about 60 per cent are locally sourced and recyclable.

Consequently, the reading area receives good daylight. The western end is flanked by the service areas to prevent solar radiation. The seven-storey atrium receives abundance of natural light.

Natural lighting is a prime element in the design, as are large windows facing the north and east to provide the best light without introducing heat. The south utilizes shading and

vegetation to create heat buffer zones.

Other windows are well shaded, and carefully planned skylights help light creep into deep in the interior. Waste water is reused on the grounds and naturally educational material is placed throughout the space to create awareness of how the building works.

For Visually Impaired

ACL has a high-tech section for visually impaired people. It has printed books, e-books and talking books in various subjects' books, novels, stories and Braille displays. The Braille section offers Google groups mailing newspapers, job alerts and current content. The facility for conversion of text materials into audio format with help of D Speech also exist. NVDA is used for screen reader software solution. Braille Mithra digital reader is available for reading in Braille format. The printer can print from various languages.

Braille Section is located on the ground floor. Special care is taken to facilitate Braille readers in this section. This section has 1500 printed





Braille books, 145 e-books and 1080 Audio Books.

Own Book Reading Section: Located on the ground floor, it is a boon to the users who are searching for spacious, cool and calm reading environment in the city. The readers' have the liberty to carry their personal notebooks, textbooks, learning materials and laptops.

It has comfortable furniture for readers. This section opens at 8.00am. Students are allowed inside according to their token number. Tokens are given by the security personnel much earlier than 8.00am.

After token no 90 is allotted, the students have to wait till 9.00am when another own book reading section on first floor opens.

Children's Section

Located on the first floor 'B wing', it is

Although the majority of books are in English, it has books in different Indian and foreign languages as well



spread over 15,000 sq. ft and has over 60,000 books which cover all subjects. It has a good collection ranging from Alphabets, Numerals to Children Encyclopedias.

Although the majority of books are in English, it has books in different Indian and foreign languages as well such as Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, Kannada and Hindi, German, French, Spanish and Italian. Over 2000 Multimedia CDs, DVDs in different categories and subjects are available. Any children between four and 14 years can access



this section.

Periodicals Section

Periodicals section is located in the 'A' Wing of first floor. Newspapers, magazines and Journals are kept here. Currently 37 leading dailies in different languages are being subscribed/ The library subscribes over 500 Indian and foreign magazines in all categories. There is an exclusive section for women readers which comprises magazines focused on women.

Tamil Books:

Second Floor of this library is dedicated to "Classical Language (Semmozhi)" Tamil. Almost all the books published in Tamil are available in print from all leading publishers. Over 1, 00, 000 books in the form of novels, poems, short stories, drama, essays, humor and

letters are there.

English Book:

ACL has over 4.5 lakhs books in all subjects published by leading publishers across the world. English Books occupy majority of the space from third floor to seventh floor.

National depository

Anna Centenary Library is also included as a national depository library. It is mandated to receive copies of books and newspapers published in India under the Delivery of Books and Newspapers (Public Libraries) Act, 1954 (amended 1956). Currently only the National Library, Kolkata, Asiatic Society Library, Mumbai, Delhi Public Library, New Delhi, and the Connemara Library in Chennai are depositories.

Citizens can be involved more closely by opening up membership, starting book clubs, readings by authors, and volunteer programmes, accepting donations of books and subscriptions, making the catalogue of publications available online, and implementing book loan and exchange arrangements with other public libraries ■

ACL has over 4.5 lakhs books in all subjects published by leading publishers across the world. English Books occupy majority of the space from third floor to seventh floor.

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Royal Cabinet Library





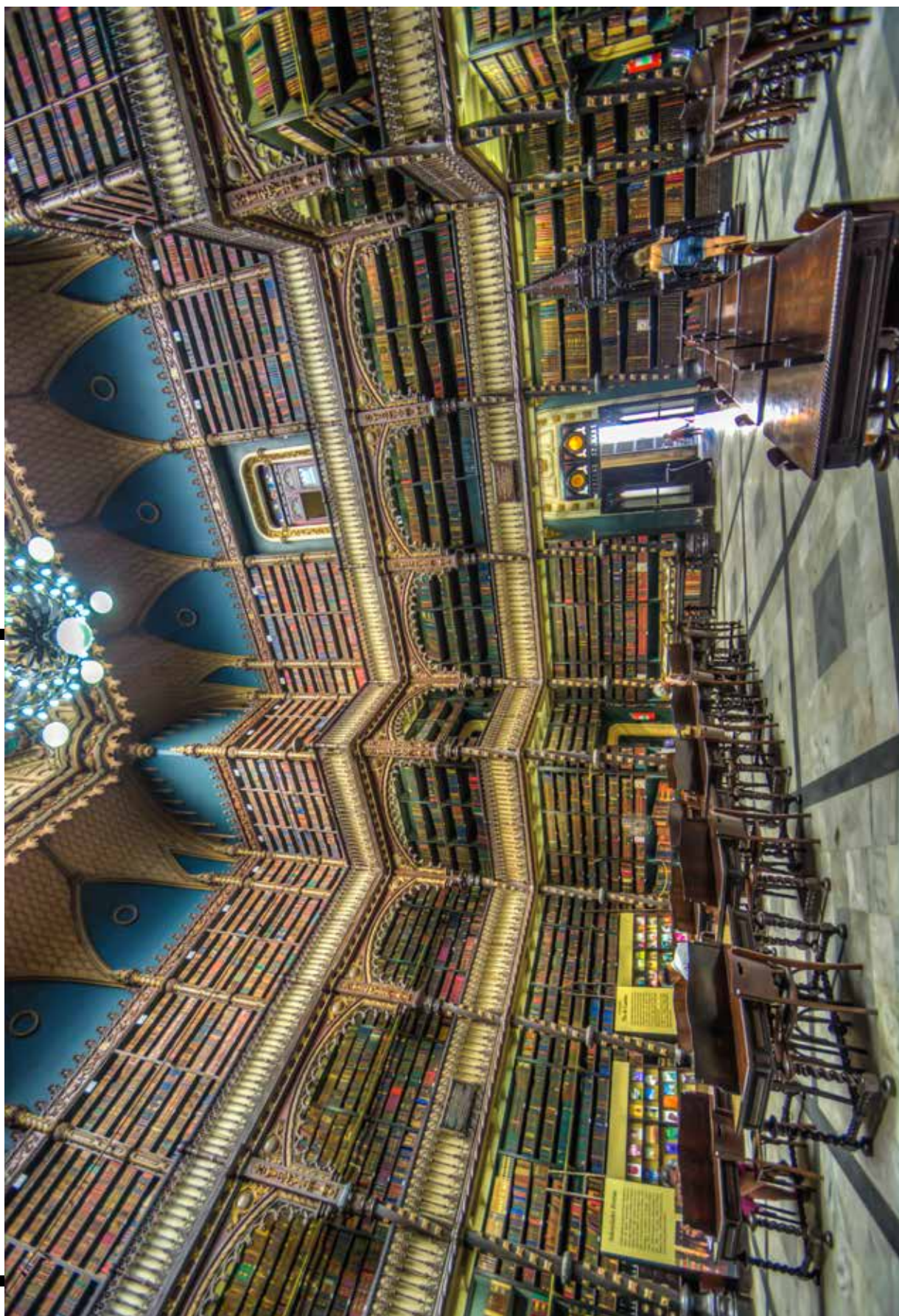
Largest collection of Portuguese texts outside of Portugal

The doors of this massive library were opened in 1887, bringing a nearly endless collection of Portuguese texts to readers in Rio de Janeiro, then the capital of the Empire of Brazil. The cabinet was founded in 1822 by a trio of Portuguese immigrants who wanted to bring their country's literary tradition to the newly independent nation of Brazil, which had previously been a Portuguese colony since 1500.

The collection's current home was built specifically to house their growing collection, and was designed to evoke a Gothic-Renaissance influence that was popular at the

time. At 350,000 titles, the collection soon became the largest collection of Portuguese works outside of Portugal; it includes rare original manuscripts, singular works of literature, and unique proofs.

Today the collection receives around 6,000 new titles a year and the collection is rising towards 400,000 volumes. The walls are lined with rising strata of stacks creating one of the most fantastical atmospheres in the world. There are also paintings and other pieces of Portuguese cultural ephemera contained in the collection, making it not only a jaw-dropping library, but a vital accumulation of Portugal's history.





An Architectural Marvel

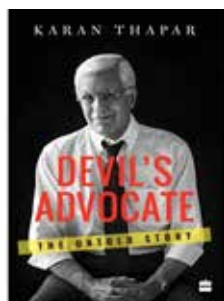
The façade, inspired by the Jerónimos Monastery in Lisbon, was worked by Germano José Salle in Lisbon stone in Lisbon and brought by ship to Rio. The four statues that adorn it portray respectively Pedro Álvares Cabral, Luís de Camões, Infante D. Henrique and Vasco da Gama. The medallions of the facade portray, respectively, the writers Fernão Lopes, Gil Vicente, Alexandre Herculano and Almeida Garrett.

The interior also follows the Neo-Manueline style on the covers, wooden bookcases for books and memorials. The ceiling of the Reading Room has a beautiful chandelier and a skylight in iron structure, the first example of this type of architecture in Brazil. The hall also has a beautiful monument of silver, ivory and marble (the Altar of the Homeland), of

1.7 meters of height, that celebrates the time of the discoveries, realized in the Casa Reis & Filhos in Porto by the goldsmith António Maria Ribeiro, and acquired in 1923 by the Royal Cabinet.

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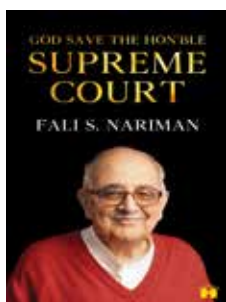
Devil's Advocate: The Untold Story

In Devil's Advocate, Karan dives deep into his life to narrate his popular interview series. Included here are stories of warm and lasting friendships, such as with Benazir Bhutto, whom he met while he was an undergraduate student at Oxford. He also talks about his long association with Aung San Suu Kyi and Rajiv Gandhi. However, not all friendships lasted—for example, with L.K. Advani, with whom he shared a close bond until an unfortunate disagreement over an interview caused a falling-out.

Author: Karan Thapar

Publisher: Harper India; 1 edition (18 July 2018)

Language: English



God Save the Hon'ble Supreme Court

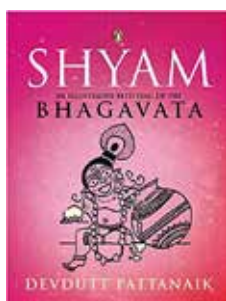
A timely volume that highlights the forthright and candid views and opinions on a wide variety of pertinent issues by one of India's most respected legal luminaries.

Fali S. Nariman, with a remarkable track record in the legal field, is not one to mince his words. He holds forth cogently on topics such as the Supreme Court and the judiciary, politicians and parliament, the media and its right to expression, the constitution (of which he is an ardent defender) and the minorities and more.

Fali S. Nariman

Publisher: Hay House India (23 July 2018)

Language: English



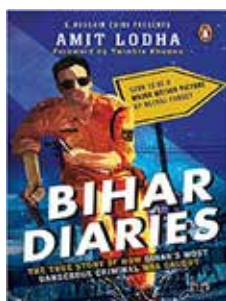
Shyam: An Illustrated Retelling of the Bhagavata

This book seamlessly weaves the story from Krishna's birth to his death, or rather from his descent to the butter-smeared world of happy women to his ascent from the blood-soaked world of angry men.

Devdutt Pattanaik

Publisher: Penguin (1 July 2018)

Language: English



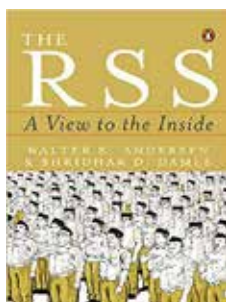
Bihar Diaries

Bihar Diaries narrates the thrilling account of how Amit Lodha arrested Vijay Samrat, one of Bihar's most feared gang lords, notorious for extortion, kidnapping and the massacre of scores of people. The book follows the adrenaline-fuelled chase that took place across three states during Amit's tenure as superintendent of police of Shekhpura, a sleepy mofussil town in Bihar.

Author Amit Lodha

Publisher: Penguin India

Language: English



RSS: A View to the Inside

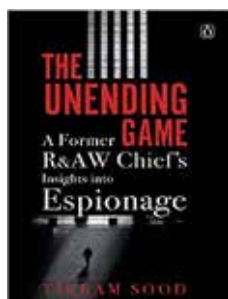
With unprecedented access, Walter K. Andersen and Shridhar D. Damle lift the curtains to help us understand the inner workings of the Sangh.

Backed by deep research and case studies, this book explores the evolution of the Sangh into its present form, its relationship with the ruling party, the BJP, their overseas affiliates and so much more.

Author: Walter K. Andersen and Shridhar D. Damle

Publisher: Penguin Viking (17 August 2018)

Language: English



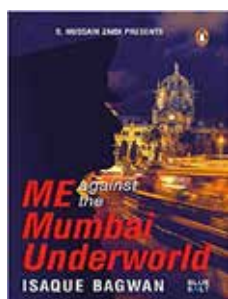
The Unending Game

As India's stature and reach grew, so do its intelligence needs. This is especially true—India that has ambitions of being a global player even as it remains embattled in its own neighbourhood. The Unending Game tackles these questions while providing a national and international perspective on gathering external intelligence, its relevance in securing and advancing national interests, and why intelligence is the first playground in the game of nations.

Vikram Sood

Publisher: Penguin Viking (13 July 2018)

Language: English



Me against the Mumbai Underworld

Bagwan, who is credited with carrying out the first encounter in the history of Mumbai Police, was witness to several of the city's defining moments—the 1980s, when smuggling was at an all-time high, the blasts that tore through Bombay in the '90s, the gang wars that marked the city, and the devastating 26/11 terror attack. His life, which has captured the imagination of many writers and filmmakers, is presented here with all its gut-wrenching details.

Author: Isaque Bagwan

Publisher: Penguin (6 July 2018)

Language: English



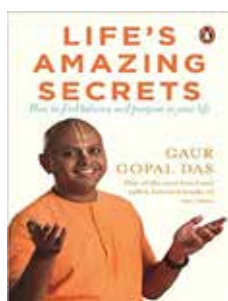
India Moving: A History of Migration

To understand how millions of people have moved—from, to and within India—the book embarks on a journey laced with evidence, argument and wit, providing insights into topics like the slave trade and migration of workers, travelling business communities such as the Marwaris, Gujaratis and Chettiars, refugee crises and the roots of contemporary mass migration from Bihar and Kerala, covering terrain that often includes diverse items such as mangoes, dosas and pressure cookers.

Author: Chinmay Tumbe

Publisher: Penguin Viking (13 July 2018)

Language: English



Life's Amazing Secrets

Das is one of the most popular and sought-after monks and life coaches in the world, having shared his wisdom with millions. His debut book, Life's Amazing Secrets, distils his experiences and lessons about life into an accessible book that will help you align yourself with the life you want to live.

Author: Gaur Gopal Das

Publisher: Penguin India

Language: English



Newsman: Tracking India in the Modi Era

Who will win the big battle for 2019 as the Indian Political League enters the final stretch? What defines the Modi persona? How will the deep divisions in society be bridged? What are the challenges ahead of a 'new' India? And what of the lingering credibility crisis confronting the Indian media? As one of the country's leading journalists with a ringside view to Indian politics, Rajdeep Sardesai's incisive analysis of contemporary events decodes the key questions of our times.

Author: Rajdeep Sardesai

Publisher: Rupa Publications (6 August 2018)

Language: English

AMUSING LIBRARIES



The Kenya National Library Service takes a similar route to spreading literacy, but their vehicles of choice are the so-called “ships of the desert,” camels. Specially curated boxes travel to rural and nomadic schools bringing not only books but also tents and mats for on-the-spot classrooms.

Camel Library, Kenya

Horse Libraries, Ethiopia

The NGO Ethiopia Reads dedicates itself to delivering books to rural Ethiopian communities. With book carts pulled by horses and donkeys, storytellers follow pre-set circuits around various regions and gather crowds of book lovers wherever they stop.



Phone Booth Libraries, U.K.

Created by locals, the Bramshaw phone booth in UK is a hot geocaching spot. Since no one really uses phone booths anymore, the booth was available for the Adopt a Kiosk program by British Telecom.



Beach Library, Bulgaria

Forgetting your beach read will never be a problem here. With over 6,000 books to browse in a variety of languages, the only thing guests lack is extra time to enjoy it all.

Bike Library, USA

This full service traveling library is part of the Carnegie-Stout Public Library. With an easily traceable route and a schedule online, the bike pedals new releases, DVDs, and children's books to various parks. No library card? No problem! The bike is equipped with all you need to apply for a card on the spot.



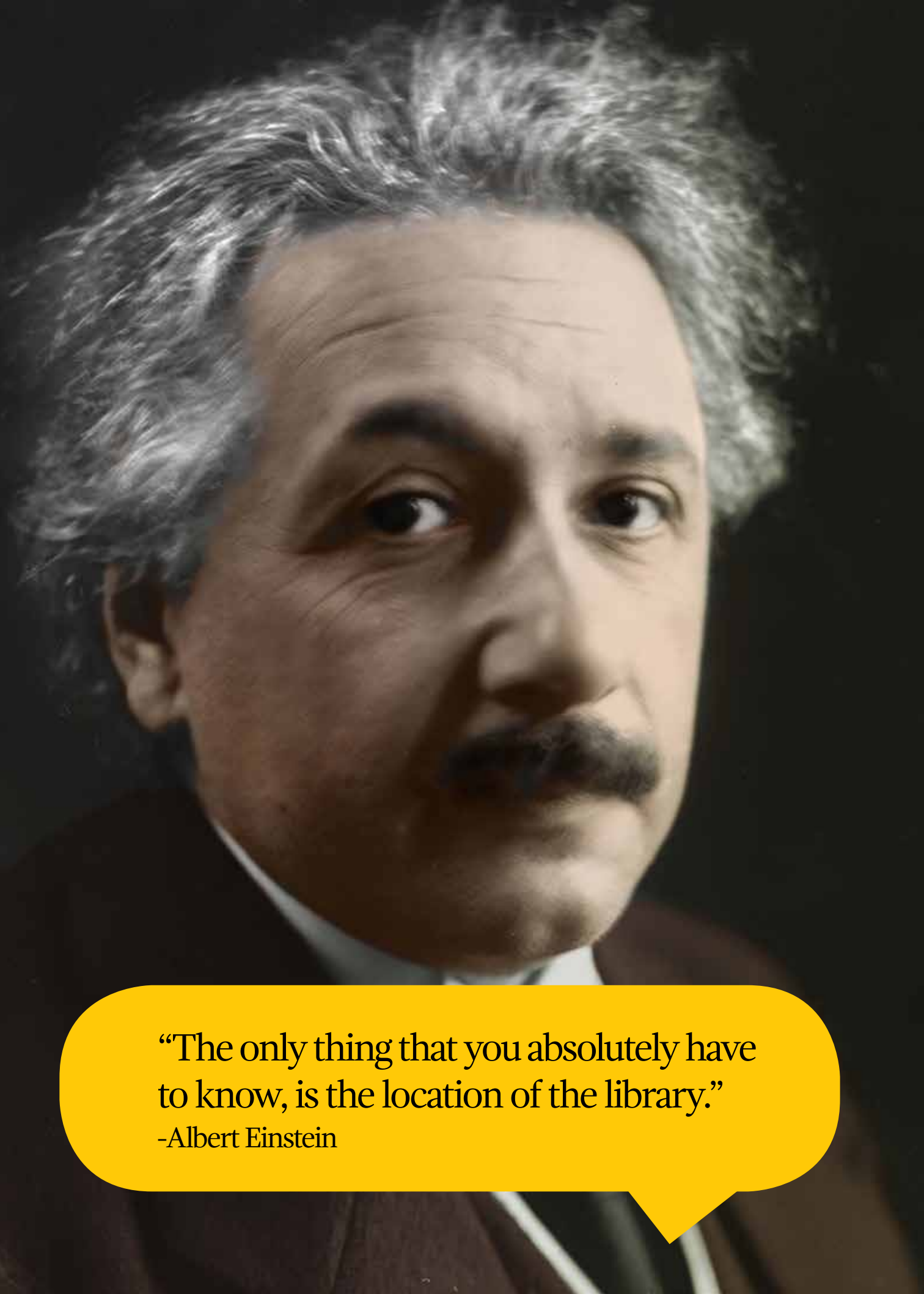
Fridge Library, New Zealand

Located on the corner of Kilmore and Barbadoes Streets, the Fridge Library stands in a miniature park, serving as a well loved book exchange for the area. Though the shelves can get messy, this fridge will always be filled with food for thought.

Floating between Hordaland and Møre og Romsdal, the Epos is a ship built for the sole purpose of serving as a floating library. The boat itself can hold about 6,000 books, but it lends out over 7,000 during its tours to 150 communities along the west coast.



Epos Library Ship, Norway



“The only thing that you absolutely have to know, is the location of the library.”

-Albert Einstein

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