



LIS Links Newsletter

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Editor: Siddhartha Shankar Ray

Associate Editor: Badan Barman

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Manjunath K S

Table of Contents

Contents	Page
Editorial Column	1
Research Article	3
LIS News	2
Upcoming Events	15
Job Vacancies	18
New PhD Awardees	21
Call for Articles	21

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Publisher's Address

Mr. Badan Barman, LIS Links Newsletter, House No. 8, Taranga Path, Krishnanagar, P.O.: Japorigog, Guwahati - 781005, Assam, India.

Email: newsletter@lislinks.com

Phone: +91 98642 05166 **Website:** <http://newsletter.lislinks.com>

Editorial Column

Technologies and Shrinking Footfalls in Libraries

Siddhartha Shankar Ray

We often come across a common grievance that majority of students and researchers of present generation are not academic minded; if the attendance in libraries is regarded as an indicator of readership, then there is no denying that they read less in comparison to their counterparts just a few days ago. The issue is quite debatable and the most befitting of the replies is if this is a fact then how they are clearing various exams? As we see in practice, the reading aids have undergone changes. The pens and notebooks are gradually being replaced by pen drives and laptops, tablets, smart phones, etc. Even the photocopiers are being rarely used. The modern cell phones with high quality camera are adequate enough to get very clear images of the pertinent pages from books and journals. Never-the-less, such images are often sent to multiple 'friends' with a few clicks of the button within seconds. It has become a trend for a group of ten students working on a specific project simultaneously visits five Libraries in a city visit with two individuals in a group. They often interacts among them through 'whatsapps' so that they can avoid duplication of material collections from different libraries. As they have 'done' with their material collection activities for a day, they leisurely distribute their collected materials among themselves. Thus, making full use of both of their shared labour and advanced technologies, the 'new-gen' readers can get along easily with their requisite study materials and at the same time making library usage statistics miserably low! As I know a couple of their teachers some of whom often enquire about their students' proposed visits to the libraries usually get disheartened because of the lack of seriousness and dedications among their students while in practice, the students have done their jobs neatly and well in time. We, the Library professionals are often subjected to questions from authority about less workload and presumably due to bad library housekeeping activities which refrains the users from using the libraries which, in turn, increases the probability of staff cuts in library sections while the reality is better and more computer

friendly library housekeeping processes are the prime reasons for such low rates of foot fall. The WebOPACs in libraries enable the users to ensure availability of the requisite books from remote locations. The Barcode enabled call numbers of books makes finding the books easier. The wi-fi enabled library environment helps whatsapp operations free. The pen drives connected to devices like laptops or tablets can easily record quite clear images of pages captured through higher mega-pixel charged cell phones and neatly assemble them sequentially in files which can be easily attached to e-mails and transmitted to multiple users within seconds. Thus, we see that while technologies help library housekeeping and maneuver service potentiality to higher degrees, it reduces the footfall to a considerable extent.

LIS News

DSSSB Librarian Marks List Displayed

The DSSSB conducted one tier written examination on 31/8/2014 for the post of Librarian (Post Code 69/10 and 2/13). The marks obtained by each candidate who appeared in the said examination are notified on 17/7/2015

Web: <http://goo.gl/iEqVAr>

NET Neutrality DoT Committee Report, May 2015

The Department of Telecommunications' (DoT's) Net Neutrality report says "the core principles of Net Neutrality must be adhered to", and that user rights on the Internet need to be protected — so that service providers are not able to restrict their ability to access any service on the Internet.

Web: <http://goo.gl/hjwcek>

Schedule of Written Examination to the Post of Teaching and Non Teaching Posts in KVS for the Year 2014-15 & 2015-16.

Schedule of Written Examination to the Post of Teaching and Non Teaching Posts in KVS for the Year 2014-15 & 2015-16 was notified on 13th July, 2015 in the official website. The examination for the post of Librarian will be held on 06/09/2015 from 9.30 am to 12.30 pm.

Web: <http://goo.gl/AgwyID>

QUT Library PhD Scholarship

The QUT (Queensland University of Technology) Business School and QUT Library in Brisbane, Australia are supporting a 3 year PhD Scholarship and are currently seeking applicants. Applications are due 14 August 2015.

Web: <http://goo.gl/AzxfMk>

Online Course Grant for Library Professionals from Developing Countries.

The Association for Library Collections & Technical Services (ALCTS), a division of the American Library Association, is now accepting grant applications for the ALCTS online Fundamentals courses, for course sections beginning between September 14 and December 18, 2015. One free seat per section is available to librarians and information professionals from developing countries. Applications may be submitted between July 10 and August 3, 2015.

Web: <http://goo.gl/zICsbd>

Appeal to Readers: News related to Library and Information Science from different regions /states of India, editorial write up, research articles are invited from the readers for inclusion in the *LIS Links Newsletter*. Send such write up through <http://newsletter.lislinks.com>