News

**Children’s Green library**
The green building sector reached another important first with the opening of the world’s first green library for children in Singapore. The Central Public Library in Singapore, called My Tree House, was recently awarded the Building and Construction Authority’s (BCA), Green Mark Platinum Award. The BCA, a government agency in Singapore, falls under the umbrella of the Ministry of National Development and aims to champion the development of an excellent built environment for Singapore.

My Tree House was developed by Singapore-based City Developments Limited (CDL) in conjunction with the National Library Board. The library achieved the title for the developers’ incorporation of LED lighting, refurbished bookshelves and use of sustainable carpeting materials. As its name suggests, the library contains a tree house, the canopy of which has been made from 3,000 recycled plastic bottles.


**Milestone in Digital Library Project**
Collaboration between the British library and the Qatar National Library — this was a landmark project for the Qatar UK 2013 Year of Culture — through which both Qataris and Britons had the opportunity to celebrate their shared history. To date, the project has processed over 85,000 pages of unique archive material which illustrates the Gulf region’s rich history. Similar projects are under way in Holland, France, and Turkey but Britain’s close historical ties with the region provides a rich archive for future historians to study with 475,000 pages from the India Office Records and 25,000 pages of the
medieval Arabic manuscripts digitized and made accessible online for the first time. The Qatar Foundation is leading the way in promoting a library culture to preserve the nation’s heritage and to encourage the pursuit of education for all its citizens. Its recent announcement of the introduction of a new master’s degree in library and information studies further illustrates this aim. The programme, at UCL Qatar, will equip students with a thorough and comprehensive understanding of this subject matter.


Northeast India’s First Online Digital Library Opened

Northeast India’s first digital library with around 15,000 e-books and journals was opened. This digital library project is the brainchild of former president Dr A P J Abdul Kalam. The library will make available rare and copyright-free books online. The Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) of the union ministry of communication and information technology helped in setting up the library. The library will operate from the Birchandra State Central Library — the oldest library in the region — which was set up in 1896 in Agartala, the capital of Tripura. The books and journals would be digitized so that they are accessible Online via a searchable online database. Besides English, rare books in Bengali and tribal language Kokborok will also be available in the digital library.


Mahatma Gandhi Heritage Portal Launched

Hon’ble Prime Minister of India, Dr Manmohan Singh said, “The Gandhi Heritage Portal is a technology-driven initiative aimed at making information on him accessible all over the world on an electronic platform”, while launching a portal, dedicated to writings, works, and manuscripts of Gandhi, at his residence in Delhi. He listed out National Manuscripts Mission, Digital Library of India, variourum on Tagore and this portal as some of the important steps taken by his government. The portal has 5 lakh pages of authentic and verified information and is expected to have over 15 lakh pages.


Bill Gates Foundation to Upgrade Two Patna Libraries

The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation decided to upgrade two public libraries in Bihar by 2015 under the banner of its Global Libraries (GL) programme. One of them is Gate Public Library in the state capital while the other is to be chosen...
between Shree Krishna Seva Sadan, Munger, and Bihar Hitaishi Pustkalay, Patna City. The main objective of the programme is to ensure the availability of critical information and state-of-the-art knowledge resources for the libraries in Bihar. Another focus area of this project is to forge partnership with relevant and potential partners from government and private sectors to add value to this project.


National Digital Repository for Schools Launched

Mr M M Pallam Raju, Minister, Human Resource Development launched an initiative to bring together digital resources for various subjects in different languages in schools. The National Repository of Open Education Resources, prepared by NCERT, is a digital resource of collection of documents, audio-visuals, interactive objects etc., which are mapped to the concepts, thus enabling access to a library from which teachers can choose appropriate resource. The Minister also launched an ICT curricula for the schools and said once the initiatives are rolled out, the curriculum would help train teachers on a large scale to benefit from ICT.


IFLA World Library and Information Congress

National Committee of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) and World Library and Information Congress (WLIC), jointly organized the 79th IFLA WLIC 2013 in Singapore from 17–23 August 2013.

The theme of the conference was ‘Future Libraries: Infinite Possibilities’ providing valuable opportunities to share insights and shape policies that address global challenges affecting our local communities.

Libraries and information centres have the power to be a positive force for change on multiple fronts. Libraries empower individuals with the resources to be lifelong learners, while engaging families and communities in collaborative reading and learning pursuits. To touch the minds and hearts of communities, librarians, and information professionals must be connected to the local communities they serve, providing services that are relevant to local needs, and connect citizens to the world’s knowledge and creativity.

Libraries are at the landmark of technological developments that are revolutionizing information access and use in this era. Information has never been more conveniently available on so many devices and in many formats to provide a myriad of learning experiences. At the same time, this information deluge presents new challenges to processing, sense-making, and ethical use. Hence, libraries and information professionals have a vital role to play in harnessing the infinite possibilities that today’s technologies offer for information access and service delivery.

Source: http://conference.ifla.org/past/2013/ifla79.htm
TERI Information Digest on Energy and Environment

TIDE aims to keep policy-makers, scientists, and technologists abreast of the latest developments in the fields of energy, local and global environment, and sustainable development. More than 600 periodicals, several hundred other documents, indexing services and other electronic resources, such as CD-ROMs, World Wide Web, discussion groups, and mailing lists, are scanned.

Editor: Dr. Nandini Kumar, TERI University, New Delhi
Frequency: Bi-annual (2 issues per year—March and September) • Print ISSN: 0975-7554 • Online ISSN: 0975-7562
Subscription rate: Print – ₹1500/$180 • Print + Online – ₹2200/$211

World Digital Libraries: An International Journal

WDL is an international peer-reviewed biannual journal. It publishes quality research papers that present original theoretical approaches. It also publishes experimental case studies related to digital library developments and maintenance, and disseminates digital information focusing on research and integration of knowledge at the interface of resources and development.

Editor: Dr. P.K. Bhattacharya, TERI, New Delhi
Frequency: Bi-annual (2 issues per year—June and December) • Print ISSN: 0974-5477 • Online ISSN: 0975-7597
Subscription rate: Print – ₹1200/$150 • Print + Online subscription – ₹1800/$214

Asian Journal of Water, Environment, and Pollution

Primarily due to high population density, many regions of the continent face severe problems of water pollution on local as well as regional scales and these have to be tackled with a pan-Asian approach. However, the available literature on the subject is generally based on research done in Europe and North America. Therefore, there is an urgent and strong need for an Asian journal with its focus on the region and wherein the region specific problems are addressed in an intelligent manner.

Editor: Dr. V. Subramanian, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi
Frequency: Quarterly (4 issues per year—January, April, July, and October) • Print ISSN: 0972-9860
Subscription rate: Print – ₹3200.00 (Within India)

Mycorrhiza News

Mycorrhiza News provides a forum for the dissemination of scientific information on mycorrhiza research and activities; publishes state-of-the-art papers from eminent scientists; notes on important breakthroughs; provides brief accounts of new approaches and techniques; publishes information on forthcoming conferences and symposia; and provides references to important refereed journals containing useful information. It is free to anyone interested. The journal is published quarterly.

Editor: Dr. Alok Adholeya, TERI, New Delhi
Frequency: Quarterly (4 issues per year—April, July, October, and January) • Print ISSN: 0970-695X
Subscription rate: Print – ₹150/$50 • Print + Online subscription – ₹200/$570

TERI Energy & Environment Data Directory and Yearbook (TEDDY) 2013/14

TERI Energy & Environment Data Directory and Yearbook, or TEDDY, is an annual publication brought out by TERI since 1986. TEDDY is often used as a reference in other peer-reviewed books and journals for energy and environment-related data. It gives an annual overview of the developments in the energy supplying and consuming sectors as well as the environment sector. It also provides a review of the government policies that have implications for these sectors of the Indian economy.

2014 • 460 pages • Hardback • 220mm x 280mm • 9788179935446 • ₹1995.00/$129

* For subscriptions outside India, please contact: IOS Press Tel. +31 20 6883355 Nieuwe Hereweg 68, 1013BG, The Netherlands E-mail: order@iospress.nl.