

Digital Library News

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GIDA Schools in LDN Receive First-ever Digital S&T Library

The DoST-LDN (Department of Science and Technology–Lanao Del Norte) recently handed over six units of Starbooks Digital Library to three schools situated in geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas or GIDA in the province. Starbooks or the Science and Technology Academic and Research-Based Openly Operated Kiosks, dubbed as the first Philippine S&T digital library, is a stand-alone information source designed to bring S&T information to the grassroots. It aims to provide S&T-based educational and learning resources in various formats to geographically isolated schools and local government units throughout the country, as well as enhance the educational competence of students in beneficiary schools.

Source: Details available at <<https://www.manilatimes.net/2021/05/05/public-square/gida-schools-in-ldn-receive-first-ever-digital-st-library/869940/>>

Library System Offers Free Digital Access to NY Times, WS Journal, Consumer Reports

The MDPLS (Miami-Dade Public Library System) has added free unlimited access to The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal and Consumer Reports online to its extensive collection of online digital resources. Additionally, ABCmouse, a popular digital education program with thousands of learning activities for children ages 2–8, is accessible from

home through ABCmouse Home Checkout. All these products are available for free with a MDPLS library card. Patrons can stay informed with access to top-notch news, business, health and lifestyle reporting and more from around the nation and the world with The New York Times and The Wall Street Journal online and become smarter consumers and save money with access to unbiased product reviews, ratings and buying guides for everything from cars and baby gear to appliances and electronics with consumer reports online.

Source: Details available at <<https://communitynewspapers.com/kendallgazette/library-system-offers-free-digital-access-to-ny-times-ws-journal-consumer-reports/>>

Library of Things: granting community access to emerging tech.

Libraries have long served the role of providing communities with access to important written resources, but patrons are increasingly looking for more than just books. As community needs evolve, libraries have been forced to evolve alongside, expanding their offerings to include necessary technologies, like Wi-Fi hot spots so people can access the Internet for free. This is often referred to as the Library of Things or LoT. Libraries in Deerfield, Ill., Concord, Mass., and Altadena, Calif., have expanded their collections to include emerging technologies and other tech tools members of the community can take home.

Source: Details available at <<https://www.govtech.com/civic/library-of-things-granting-community-access-to-emerging-tech>>

Andhra Pradesh Villages to Get YSR Digital Libraries by Dec., Internet Connectivity by 2023

The Andhra Pradesh Government has planned to set up YSR Digital Libraries across 7000 villages of the state by the end of December 2021. The libraries will be constructed at the village secretariats and six computers will be installed at each library once it is completed. These village libraries are being constructed using optical fibre, which was laid under the states' BharatNet Project. Rural Development Commissioner Mr M. Girija Sankar said that each YSR Village Digital Library consisting of 20 seats would be set up at 690 square feet area at an estimated cost of 16 lakh.

Source: Details available at <<https://www.republicworld.com/india-news/general-news/andhra-pradesh-villages-to-get-ysr-digital-libraries-by-dec-internet-connectivity-by-2023.html>>

Former Historic Barqa Parliament Refurbished into Benghazi Digital Library

A celebration was held on 10 April 2021 in Benghazi to mark the completion of the maintenance and restoration work for the headquarters of the former Barqa (Cyrenaica) Legislative Council, converting it into a modern digital library. The original building had been destroyed during the Second World War. The project and building has huge historic and symbolic importance as this month a hundred years ago it opened as the first Arab Parliament and in 1931 it was used to hold the mock trial held by the Italian colonialists of Omar Al-Mukhtar. The project is funded by the United Nations Development Fund in Libya and supervised by the Benghazi Municipal Projects Office and the Historic Cities Authority, Benghazi.

Source: Details available at <<https://www.libyaherald.com/2021/04/11/former-historic-barqa-parliament-refurbished-into-benghazi-digital-library/>>

UNESCO Launches Two Digital Library Initiatives in South Sudan

The ongoing implementation of the UNESCO Digital Library Initiative focusing on 'Building a culture of reading and research through digital media' saw a launch in two learning institutions in Juba, South Sudan, on 31 March 2021. The University of Juba and the WPDI (Whitaker Peace and Development Initiative) Community Learning Centre were the beneficiaries. This initiative aims to gradually build the culture of reading and self-learning using research on available materials in digital Libraries. The Digital Libraries powered by a device called RACHEL (Remote Area Community Hotspot for Education and Learning), contains a combination of freely available software and content modules that make it easy to bring online educational materials into places with limited or no internet access and power.

Source: Details available at <<https://indiaeducationdiary.in/unesco-launches-two-digital-library-initiatives-in-south-sudan/>>

Siddipet Gets a Digital Library

The new library was established to cater to the needs of all sections of people in the district headquarters. In addition to Telugu, English, and Urdu newspapers, a reading room with a capacity of 40 persons was made available for unemployed youth to get ready for competitive examinations. One can read international magazines as the library was provided with internet facility and connected to National Digital Library. Addressing a gathering after inaugurating the newly established digital library at the district headquarters Telangana Finance Minister Mr T Harish Rao, said that the library is being named after Vemuganti Narasimhacharyulu, honoured as Kavi Kokila. The library was constructed at a cost of 3.3 crore.

Source: Details available at <<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/telangana/siddipet-gets-a-digital-library/article34248172.ece>>

23.79 Lakh Register for Free Digital Library Service

The success of the government-run digital library initiative, launched in Karnataka in February 2020 weeks before the nationwide lockdown was imposed has come as a surprise even to the authorities. In one year, over 23.79 lakh people signed up for services during the COVID-19 pandemic. However, a closer look at the data reveals that a majority of subscribers to the free service did not download a single e-book or video. According to data provided by the Department of Public Libraries, around 10.9 lakh e-books and 5.49 lakh videos have been accessed so far. Of the 23.79 lakh who registered under the KDPL (Karnataka Digital Public Libraries) initiative, the majority 4.11 lakh people were from Dakshina Kannada district.

Source: Details available at <<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/karnataka/2379-lakh-register-for-free-digital-library-service/article33944878.ece>>

South Korea to Invest \$5.3bn into Science, ICT R&D in 2021

South Korea said on 3 January 2021 it will spend 5.8 trillion won (\$5.3 billion) on science and ICT research in 2021 as the country fosters new tech industries under its digital New Deal drive and targets going carbon neutral. The earmarked amount is a 12 per cent rise from 2020 and focuses on basic scientific research as well as new technologies, such as AI and 6G wireless networks. The ministry said it has set aside 1.8 trillion won for basic scientific research, compared with 1.5 trillion won in 2020, focusing on support for young scientists, while committing 287.9 billion won for research in core tech parts, materials and equipment as the country seeks to foster a self-reliant supply chain.

Source: Details available at <<https://cio.economicstimes.indiatimes.com/news/next-gen-technologies/south-korea-to-invest-5-3bn-into-science-ict-rd-in-2021/80089926>>

