News

e-Granthalaya Software launched

A Network of Libraries, powered by e-Granthalaya Software, has been launched by National Informatics Centre (NIC), Government of India. NIC is providing e-Granthalaya Software at ZERO cost to the libraries in the country, and now a union catalogue of libraries being made available online, accessible in public domain. Each library using e-Granthalaya has been given a home page at no cost to publish / access their catalogue. The software is available at http://www.eglibnet.gov.in for comments and feedback.

Government to set up an online Braille library

Using technology to empower the physically challenged, the National Institute for Visually Handicapped (NIVH), Dehradun, has set up an Online Braille Library to make books and reading material in digital format accessible to visually impaired persons. The Library has books that may be accessed in real time from any location and an amount of Rs 47.50 lakh has been spent on this project so far. An online catalogue of Braille books has also been hosted by NIVH which enables visually-impaired persons to ascertain the location and availability of a desired Braille book, without going to Braille libraries or Press. An amount of Rs 17 lakh has already been spent on this project so far. Besides, NIVH has also launched an Online Directory of Services for the Visually Impaired Persons. Social Justice and Empowerment Ministry has also made its website accessible to persons with disabilities which were launched in January 2010.

Source: The Times of India, 15 March 2012

India to link 9000 libraries

India will modernize and digitally link nearly 9,000 libraries across the country in a bid to provide readers access to books and information. The move under the National Mission for Libraries aims to cover 9,000 libraries in cities, towns and villages of the country for the next three years.

The Mission will conduct a national census on libraries, work towards upgradation of infrastructure of reading resources, and seek to modernize and promote the networking of libraries across the country. The mission will ensure that a young reader sitting in his village public library would be able to access books and information from across the world. However, the mission can only be successful with the joint efforts of the government, community, private sector, and non-governmental organizations.

The National Mission for Libraries will focus on improvement of the public library system of the country particularly concentrating on the states where library development is lagging behind.

Source: The Times of India, 21 March 2012

Boise Library promotes eBooks with 'digital' bookmobile

The Boise Library at Capitol Blvd, Idaho, USA has a programme that allows library cardholders to browse through, and start reading books without ever leaving their homes. Anyone with a Boise Library card, an Internet connection, and

a computer can instantly access thousands of eBooks. Library members can check out eBooks through the library's website. The eBooks may be browsed for seven to 14 days. Once that time has expired, eBooks disappear from the device that they were downloaded on. The Boise Library is adding new eBooks to their collection each day.

Source: www.nwcn.com, 10 May 2012

LexisNexis Digital Library
Lexis Nexis Digital Library is an innovative new service that offers legal professionals access to the largest collection of authoritative legal eBook content on all major mobile devices and desktop platforms. It also enables organizations to share individual eBook titles among multiple users, purchase eBooks centrally and manage their library efficiently. With the service, organizations can significantly reduce the costs associated with storing, filing and distributing traditional print books. LexisNexis Digital Library is customized for each law firm, corporation or organization, with flexible licensing to fit the specific needs of each individual customer.

Source: http://www.marketwatch.com, 23 April 2012

Arabic manuscripts from Jerusalem libraries goes online
Thousands of ancient Arabic-language documents, manuscripts and books from five Arab libraries in Jerusalem's Old City will soon be available online, under an EU-sponsored initiative that aims to preserve protect Arab heritage, language and Palestinian heritage for future generations. The Arabic Manuscripts Digital Library of Jerusalem, which was inaugurated recently in Jerusalem and Ramallah, will see the development of an online platform showcasing collections from the Khalidi Library, the Budeiri Library, Al-Aksa Library, Al-Ansari Library and the Wakf Restoration Center in the Old City. The project stated goal is to make this heritage accessible to all with the sole caveat of an Internet connection. A corpus of digital documents from various Mediterranean countries has already been created – taking papers and artifacts from libraries, archives and museums, as well as from public and private collections in the region. However, there are no immediate

plans to digitalize ancient Hebrew documents from Jerusalem.

Source: Jpost, 26 June 2012

Library and Information Professionals Summit (LIPS) 2012 on "Leadership, Ethics, Accountability and Professionalism in Library Services
A two days Conference on Leadership, Ethics, Accountability and Professionalism in Library Services, organized by Society for Library Professionals in association with Institute of Economic Growth, Asian Chapter-SLA and Ambedkar University, Delhi was organized during March 16-17, 2012 at Institute of Economic Growth, Delhi, India.

About 200 participants ranging from Librarians, Activists, Information Scientists, consultants, publishers, CEOs and entrepreneurs both from academia and industry representing several countries like USA, UK, Sri Lanka etc. Conference was marked by lively invited talks, papers, product presentations, penal discussion, and debate. Experts from across the profession grappled with issues and offered wide ranging opinions and views. Spread over two days, 5 technical sessions, 2 Keynote address, 6 invited talks, nearly 40 paper contribution, product presentations, exhibition and penal discussion conference witnessed plethora of important sessions involving a galaxy of eminent resource persons. The conference was inaugurated by Mr Brent Mai, President, Special Library Association, USA. Ms. Sheila Rosenthal, Manager of Library Services, Carnegie Mellon University, USA, Mr. Sudhir K Arora, University Librarian, IGNOU, Dr Pradeepa Wijetunge, Librarian, University of Peradeniya, Prof J K Mitra, Professor, Faculty of Management Studies, University of Delhi, Dr P R Goswami, Director, Central Secretariat Library, Ministry of Culture, New Delhi, were also present in the conference.