

## News

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### **Libraries rethink digitization efforts after author sue**

The author's lawsuit filed on September 2012, claims that Google and the five universities—Cornell, the University of Michigan, Indiana University, the University of Wisconsin, and the University of California have digitized about seven million books illegally. A majority of the contested texts are known as “orphan works”—books that are still subject to copyright, but whose copyright holders are unknown or cannot be located. The University of Michigan suspended its orphan works digitization project in response to the copyright infringement lawsuit filed against it. According to Dean of Libraries at the University of Michigan, the system for identifying orphan works is now being rebuilt to ensure that no mistakes are repeated. The re-examination of orphan works has already started, but there is no concrete date for when the university will next put up a set of works for use by its communities.

**Source:** <http://cornellsun.com/section/news/content/2011/09/23/libraries-rethink-digitization-effort-after-authors-sue>

### **You provide the search term, Green Energy portal provides the concepts**

The US Department of Energy (DOE) Green Energy portal can now map your keyword query to scientific concepts. This semantic technique,

called “keyword to concept mapping”, is applied to your search behind the scenes and helps hone your search for more efficient knowledge access and discovery. DOE Green Energy affords you the use of the familiar and simple search box—yet provides the benefits of an advanced search technology to help get to the information you need. These sources include DOE databases of technical reports and patents, filtered for green energy related subjects, such as solar, hydro, geothermal, and wind energy, energy storage, tidal and wave power, direct energy conversion, nuclear fuel cycle, biomass and synthetic fuels, and much more. The content consists of over 34,500 technical reports and approximately 1,300 patents from R&D projects representing an investment of several billion dollars. The DOE Green Energy site organizes this green energy R&D and makes it freely accessible to researchers, scientists, educators, students, and the public.

**Source:** [http://www.osti.gov/news/pressreleases/2011/september/green\\_energy.shtml](http://www.osti.gov/news/pressreleases/2011/september/green_energy.shtml)

### **Research Libraries UK Consortium (RLUK) develops journal subscription analysis tool**

As budgets become tighter and journal subscription prices increase, it is imperative that libraries look to new metrics to assess value for money. This is especially true in the case of “big deals”—large aggregations of journals

from publishers sold as a single package. Some of these packages now cost RLUK members over £1million per year and account for an ever increasing proportion of library budgets. Such deals have proved attractive as they allow libraries to expand the range of titles they provide to users for a relatively small additional fee. But, to date RLUK members have lacked a simple way to evaluate the cost-effectiveness of these packages. RLUK unveiled a powerful model that allows members to carefully analyse the value-for-money of publisher packages and to determine whether there would be cost savings to be made from moving back to title-by-title purchasing. The model allows each member to combine pricing information with the usage their community makes of the relevant journals. The library can then alter the combination of title-by-title subscriptions and document delivery options and compare the costs of these combinations to the cost of the big deals.

*Source:* <http://www.rluk.ac.uk/content/press-release-rluk-develops-journal-subscription-analysis-tool>

### **Cultural goldmine lurks in digitized books**

Although the digitization of books by Google Books is controversial over issues of copyright and book sales, it is very useful for linguists and cultural historians as this project could offer an unprecedented treasure trove. In a paper published in *Science*, some interesting data was revealed. So far, Google has digitized more than 15 million books, representing about 12% of all those ever published in all languages. The resulting data set contained over 500 billion words. This is far more than any single person could read: a fast reader would, without breaks for food and sleep, need 80 years to finish the books for the year 2000 alone. Not all isolated strings of characters in texts are real words. Some are numbers, abbreviations or typos. In fact, 51% of the character strings in 1900, and 31% in 2000, were “non-words”. According to this account, the English language has grown by more than 70% during the past 50 years, and

about 8,500 new words are being added each year. Moreover, only about half of the words currently in use are apparently documented in standard dictionaries.

*Source:* <http://www.nature.com/news/2010/101216/full/news.2010.677.html>

### **Digitization of 40,000 Sanskrit manuscripts on at BISM**

Under the National Manuscripts Mission, a collection of close to 40,000 manuscripts in Sanskrit are being digitized at the Bharat Itihas Sanshodhak Mandal (BISM) office in Pune. A team began work over a month ago. The work includes digitizing manuscripts from private sources in the city as well. The process of digitization began during August 2011, and 550 manuscripts on Ayurveda were the first of the lot to be scanned and uploaded. Dating back 600 years, the Sanskrit manuscripts pertain to various topics on Ayurveda, Puranas, Vedas, philosophy, and art. For instance, *Shivlilamrut*, *Pandav Pratap*, and *Hari Vijay*, authored by poet Shridhar, *Eknathi Bhagwat*, Sant Tukaram’s “*gathas*” and *Dnyaneshwari*, are some of the manuscripts, which would be digitized soon. It is important to note here that these 40,000 manuscripts run into several thousand pages, the digitization of which is to be completed within the next two years. So far, BISM has digitized 2,000 manuscripts.

*Source:* <http://forumforhinduawakening.org/dharma/news/2011/10/07/digitization-of-40000-sanskrit-manuscripts-on-at-bism/>

### **An initiative - light in the mountains**

The Youth Library Network in Arunachal Pradesh has won national acclaim for its efforts in empowering rural children. Although the state has undergone a massive economic facelift in the past 40 years, the quality of human development still remains as uneven as its terrain. Eighty per cent of the population, which depends on subsistence agriculture, still lives in isolated pockets with no road or electrical

connectivity and hardly any access to basic health and education. The school drop-out rates are considerably high, especially among girls. The difficult terrains, differences in culture, language, and institutions among its 26 major and 110 minor tribal communities is a big challenge for educators and policy-makers.

It is with this mission that VT-AWIC Youth Library Network, came into force. Since 2007, the movement has dedicated itself to the educational empowerment of the rural tribal youth.

Conceived by the Association of Writers and Illustrators (AWIC), New Delhi, the Network is

monitored by the Vivekananda Trust, Mysore, with active support from local organizations, Lohit and Anjaw district administration, and the Border Roads and para-military forces. Its headquarters, the Bamboosa Library, Tezu, is the first youth library in the state. Today, the movement is getting much visibility, winning appreciation from someone no less than Dr A P J Abdul Kalam. Many writers and volunteers from both India and abroad are contributing wholeheartedly to the cause.

**Source:** <http://www.thehindu.com/life-and-style/kids/article2662652.ece>