

News

World Digital Libraries 5(2): 83–86

Germany's Cultural Heritage on Web

Everyone should have access to Germany's cultural heritage. That's the goal of a new multimedia portal, the German Digital Library. It encompasses sources from 1,800 cultural and academic institutions. The website is still in the trial phase and there are a few rough edges to smooth out, but those will soon be resolved. The Deutsche Digitale Bibliothek (DDB), or "German Digital Library," is set to be an online collection of knowledge like no other. The German Digital Library aims to be a network of culture and research, a unique archive of the cultural consciousness of Germany. And Europe, the DDB constitutes another building block of the European online culture portal "Europeana," a single access point to millions of books, paintings, films, museum objects and archival records that have been digitized throughout Europe.

Source: <http://www.dw.de/germanys-cultural-heritage-goes-digital/a-16424664>

Austrian Developed Digital Public Library Using NFC Tags QR Codes

The Austrian city of Klagenfurt is building its first public library using nothing but NFC tags and QR codes. The Project Ingebord initiative has placed 70 NFC and QR code stickers

(pictured) around the city, each containing a link to a freely downloadable public domain work via Project Gutenberg and other free e-book providers. In many cases, the book contained in the tag is relevant to its real world surroundings. For example, the tag linking to Arthur Schnitzler's *The Killer* can be found near the police station. Starting this August, Project Ingebord will begin partnering with "local talent" to distribute more books, music and other digital content.

Source: <http://www.engadget.com/2012/07/10/austrian-city-builds-public-library-with-qr-codes-nfc-stickers/>

Electronic Library for Blind Allows Voice-based Browsing in Oman

Oman Digital Library has launched an electronic library for the visually impaired called *Al Noor*, it is the first in the Arab world to the voice signal system for browsing. The initiative is part of efforts by Oman Digital Library (www.al-kawkab.net) to include all segments of society in the Oman Knowledge Society project. The idea behind creating the digital library follows recommendations of studies in this field, said Saleh Bin Suliman Al Zuhaimi, General Supervisor of Oman Digital Library. The study by researcher Kaziah Bint Suliman Al Zahimiah discussed the use of maps and other touch-based educational tools for fifth grade science

students. The study highlighted that the blind can understand the science curricula such as chemistry, and physics.

Source: <http://www.omantribune.com/index.php?page=news&id=124270&heading=Oman>

Digital Braille Library in Mysore Soon

A digital Braille library will come up in the city. Talks have been held in this regard with the National Association for the Blind, where said District Minister Mr S A Ramdas said that the required equipment will be provided by the state and infrastructure by an NGO. Digital books will be printed for the visually-impaired and libraries set up on the lines of digital libraries of universities and colleges.

Source: <http://ibnlive.in.com/news/digital-braille-library-in-mysore-soon/290198-60-115.html>

Noida-based E-learning Solutions Startup iProf Launches Digital Library

Noida-based iProf offers e-learning solutions, and owns and operates a chain of Wi-Fi-enabled e-learning centers across the nation where students can buy educational tablets, download latest course materials, get updates, interact with the top faculty on board and get their doubts cleared through live video-conferencing. Tablet education firm iProf Learning Solutions India Pvt Ltd has launched a digital library, available at thedigilibrary.com. The library features interactive content and will offer education materials for competitive exams like engineering entrance tests, CAT, IAS, AIPMT, and CA.

Soon, it will also cater to K-12 education segment and, the content of the digital library is organized by class, subject and topic, with live teacher support available online and on phone. It also offers video lectures besides notes and other content. A library card will provide access

to thousands of video lectures with animations, 24x7 teacher assistance, preloaded lectures on tablet and more. Currently, the content is available in Hindi and English, but in the next couple of months, iProf will introduce some learning materials in South Indian languages.

Source: <http://techcircle.vccircle.com/2012/08/30/noida-based-e-learning-solutions-startup-iprof-launches-digital-library/>

ALA : Business Models for Library E-book

The American Library Association (ALA), released a report summarizing the current business models for library e-book acquisition and recommending new standards and structures. The report, which was created by the ALA Digital Content & Libraries Working Group (DCWG), based on conversations with publishers and deliberations on the e-book market.

According to the ALA press release, e-book publishing is expanding and evolving rapidly, and the terms under which e-books are made available to libraries show wide variation and frequent change,' said DCWG Co-Chair Robert Wolven. 'In this volatile period, no single business model will offer the best terms for all libraries or be adopted by all publishers or distributors. This report describes model term libraries should look for in their dealings with e-book publishers and distributors, as well as conditions libraries should avoid.'

Source: <http://www.digitalbookworld.com/2012/ala-report-intended-to-spark-reform-in-publishers-e-book-policies-for-libraries/>

Ancient Copy of Ten Commandments and Newton Manuscript Published Online

The Cambridge Digital Library has made available thousands of pages from fragile religious manuscripts for Internet users' perusal, including a 2,000-year-old copy of the Ten

Commandments, known as the “Nash Papyrus.” Before the Dead Sea Scrolls were found by a Bedouin shepherd in 1947, the “Nash Papyrus,” also called “The Ten Commandments,” was the oldest known manuscript containing a text from the Hebrew Bible. It gets its name from the Egyptologist Walter Llewellyn Nash who purchased the manuscript from an antiquities dealer in 1902. The text is among several important religious documents that were made public in a series of high-quality zoom-friendly images by the Cambridge Digital Library, which draws on the British university’s vast collection of manuscripts.

Also original manuscript containing Isaac Newton’s laws of motion is being made available online by Cambridge University, along with other historic works by him. The University published more than 4,000 pages of Newton’s most important works on a new digital library website which can be accessible anywhere in the world.

Source: a) http://zeenews.india.com/news/net-news/newton-manuscript-published-online_746603.html

b) http://www.nbcnews.com/id/50181707/ns/technology_and_science-science/

ICAL 2013: International Conference on Academic Digital Libraries

2nd International Conference of Academic Libraries opened with style at GGS IP University at, New Delhi, India, from 12–15 February, 2013 attended by the presence of a large number of delegates from across the globe. The theme of the conference was *Academic Library Services through Cloud Computing: Moving Libraries to the Web*.

ICAL outlined a roadmap for change management in academic libraries and identified strategic areas for the purpose. These include moving libraries to the Web to encourage library



collaboration; sourcing ICT applications and services on the internet as a service if it is not feasible for libraries to own them; Policies, programmes, and systems for ICT integration at library level and consortium level and new and qualitative dimensions to academic library services; international collaboration on all library fronts; talent development in priority areas of interest to libraries; and change management strategies.

Source: <http://www.ipu.ac.in/ical2013/index.htm>

6th International Conference on Knowledge Management in Asia Pacific (KMAP 2012)

Knowledge management in Asia Pacific organized international conference on 11–12 October 2012 at Shanghai, China, by Hong Kong Polytechnic University and Knowledge Management and Innovation Research Centre. The major objective was to provide a cross-cultural platform for the knowledge management practitioners and academics in China to network with their counterparts in the West and vice versa; to discuss the topics of mutual interests and explore the latest development, research and practices of KM, and enhance international collaborations.

Source: <http://kmap2012.usst.edu.cn/Aboutus.asp?Title>About>

