Digital Library News

Five lakh Registered for Digital Library

The COVID-19 lockdown was a time for the people to spend their entire day in closed doors. This leads to witness a rapid growth in the downloading of Karnataka Government's digital library app. The State transformed its legacy libraries into digital libraries and launched a library app. Since then more people have taken to e-learning and setting a record. It was an attempt by the Department of Public Libraries, Government of Karnataka, in association with K-Nomics Techno Solutions Private Limited, Bengaluru to keep the learning among the students active during the lockdown period and introduced a digital library for students as well as for the use of the general public. Now digital libraries across the state have set a record by registering more than 5 lakh readers.

Source: Details available at https://www.thehansindia.com/news/cities/bengaluru/5-lakhs-registered-for-digital-library-648164

Launch of First Digital Library Under Local Body in Kerala

The first digital library in the state under a local body will be inaugurated in Chemmaruthi Panchayat. The project is being launched as part of the digitization efforts in local bodies across the state of Kerala. The digital library has books from world classics to medical and engineering entrance and PSC guides. With a generational shift from paperback to digital platforms, the local libraries will also follow suit. Over 1000 Malayalam books—written by popular authors—are also part of the collection.

Source: Details available at https://www.newindianexpress.com/cities/thiruvananthapuram/2020/sep/26/launch-of-first-digi-library-under-local-body-on-saturday-2201995.html

National Digital Library of India Reaches Out to Students amid Covid-19 Lockdown

Of the 3.5 crore academic content, the Union HRD Ministry through National Digital Library of India (NDLI) has given people free access to 78 lakh content after the imposition of the lockdown while they need to register themselves to get complete access to the remaining content. The digital content is in the form of e-books, audiobooks, lecture materials, thesis, reports, articles, journals, question papers and their solutions, simulation tools and video lectures in engineering, science, management, humanities and law streams, the spokesperson said. The NDLI is also urging faculty members of institutes to share new content to the repositories for the benefit of the students, the project's principal investigator and former IIT Kharagpur, Director, Professor P P Chakrabarti said.

Source: Details available at https://www.indiatoday.in/education-today/news/story/national-digital-library-of-india-reaches-out-to-students-amid-covid-19-lockdown-1675543-2020-05-08

International

Sarawak Approves RM250m to Set up Archive Centre

The Sarawak Government has approved an allocation of RM250 million for the setting up of an archive centre in Kuching to house the state's historical properties. Chief Minister Mr Datuk Patinggi Abang Johari Tun said a lot of the state's historical properties were located abroad and Sarawak intended to get all of them such as the Malaysia Agreement 1963 documents, currently placed at the National Archives (United Kingdom) in London. Through the archive centre, Mr Abang Johari said Sarawak could exchange documents with libraries around the world that have Sarawak-related data in their possession.

Source: Details available at https://themalaysianreserve.com/2020/10/21/sarawak-approves-rm250m-to-set-up-archive-centre/

American Library Association, Capital One Announce 20 Rural Libraries Selected for Community Connect: digital access at home grants

The American Library Association (ALA) and Capital One announced 20 public libraries selected to participate in Community Connect: digital access at home, a programme supporting digital access and financial capability for rural communities nationwide. The selected libraries represent communities in 14 states across the country. They include Washington County Public Library, a rural four-branch system serving 3600 people in the Florida Panhandle; Camp Verde Community Library, a central Arizona town of 10,000 in the Verde River Valley; and Estill County Public Library in Irvine, Kentucky, located 120 miles east of Louisville. As the COVID-19 pandemic has brought into focus, Americans are increasingly reliant on broadband for the delivery of essential services like education and tele-medicine. Data from the Federal Communications Commission indicates that 22% Americans in rural areas and 28% Americans living on tribal lands lack broadband coverage.

Source: Details available at http://www.ala.org/news/member-news/2020/10/ala-capital-one-announce-20-rural-libraries-selected-community-connect-digital

Coronavirus: Northern Ireland Libraries see 24,000 new online users during pandemic

Almost 24,000 people in Northern Ireland (NI) have joined the library since the start of the coronavirus pandemic. Lockdown and restrictions have meant most new members since the start of March have used the Libraries NI website to sign up. Libraries NI saw its online membership rise by 23,569 between March and the end of September 2020. In March 2020, there were 7590 new library members—10 times as many as the same month in 2019. Prior to the pandemic, most people signing up to use library services would have done so in a library building. However, during lockdown Libraries in NI encouraged people to use their website to become a member. People flocked to the library's digital offering of e-books and audiobooks—with more than a million downloads since the start of March 2020. Many of those were for children and young people. Of the 30 most popular digital books, about half of them are now junior books. In 2019 this figure was just 2.

Source: Details available at https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-northern-ireland-54594672

New Agreement Offers K-12 Schools Free Access to Digital Library Collections

As part of a new agreement championed by Penn Libraries, all K-12 schools in the School District of Philadelphia will be given access to digital primary sources hosted by Adam Matthew

Digital at no cost to the schools themselves. The agreement will allow teachers across all age ranges and subject areas to integrate primary sources into their students' course of study. The agreement is part of a larger access deal between Adam Matthew Digital and the PALCI (Pennsylvania Academic Library Consortium Inc.), a membership organization that builds access to shared library collections and resources through collaboration among academic and research libraries in Pennsylvania and neighbouring states.

Source: Details available at https://almanac.upenn.edu/articles/new-agreement-offers-k-12-schools-free-access-to-digital-library-collections

Sindh Launches Digital Library

The Sindh Culture Department has developed a digital library based on interoperable system, through which readers will be able to access over 100 million books, research journals and articles sourced from libraries across the world. The library has been launched recently in line with Sindh High Court orders. The online platform is designed to also give readers access of the dictionaries of etymology, Cambridge and Urdu and Sindhi languages. The digital library's website, which can be accessed at https://el.sindhculture.gov.pk/, also contains multimedia resources, open source database and e-journals. So it will allow users to access the UNESCO digital library, directories of open access journals, libraries of internet archives, Britannica, Springer journals, Wikibooks, ScienceOpen libraries, and other portals with just one click.

Source: Details available at https://tribune.com.pk/story/2265233/sindh-to-launch-digital-library-on-thursday