



Dr.S.R.RANGANATHAN

(SHIYALI RAMAMRITA RANGANATHAN IYER, 1892- 1972)

FATHER OF LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE IN INDIA

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“

The only thing you
absolutely have to
know is the location
of the library

Albert Einstein

”

EDITOR



Dr. MIDHULA SOMAN V.S
LIBRARIAN
SREE SANKARA COLLEGE

“
**The library
is the heart
of an
institution**

Dr. S. Radhakrishnan

”

K, Superintendent, IIT Library, Kurnool. The article evaluates the need for library automation and the advantages of the software. This issue also covers an article by, Dr. Anjana Sankar (Editorial board member) on the role of reading in the post covid scenario. This issue aims to give the readers a clear idea of the services and resources of the college library. Summary of three books given by Library club volunteers is included in this issue which gives a descriptive, and evaluative account of the book. It provides a summary of the content, assesses the value of the books, and recommends them to other potential readers.

I take this opportunity to thank our authors, editors, and reviewers all of whom have volunteered to contribute to the success of the Newsletter.

Happy Reading.

Dr. Midhula Soman V.S

It is with profound pleasure, humility, and anticipation that we celebrate the launch of the Library Newsletter, LibSpace. On behalf of the LibSpace editorial team, I would like to extend a very warm welcome to the readership of LibSpace.

LibSpace is a platform we've built with the goal of offering an opening for academicians and scholars to generate knowledge, discourse, criticize, debate, and collaborate. Our debut issue aims to give the Sree Sankara College community a clear picture of the college library's functioning, services, and resources.

A library plays a vital role in the academic and research system and the basic and core activity of the library is to help the user community identify and access knowledge resources in its parent institution. The library is the fulcrum of support for the entire range of academic activities on an educational campus. In today's high-tech learning environment, the library as a learning resource is taking up increasingly more academic space and time in the life of a learner. In times ahead, this will be even more so.

Librarianship is such a wonderful noble profession that deals with the entire gamut of information and knowledge possession, organization, and dissemination to society for empowerment and enlightenment. The aim of librarianship is to help the users find and make use of the information contained in various kinds and resources to support individual needs. In this Internet era of information explosion to find adequate information and source is a major task. Thus making the users aware of the available information sources and services in a library is important.

The publication of the Newsletter marks a milestone in the history of Sree Sankara College, Kalady. The newsletter comes with the progress and activities of the College Library, every six months. It acts as a medium to share the activities of the library with its user community and to make the user community aware of the technologies and resources.

This inaugural issue of the Newsletter comes with an article on Library Automation with KOHA software, by Ashkar

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I'm glad to know that the library of our college has come forward to publish a biannual newsletter LibSpace. The goal of higher education is not only to promote the pursuit of knowledge but also to develop the right attitude, best work ethos, professionalism, leadership, and social responsibility. I hope that this newsletter will acquaint

both the students and teachers with the recent trends and development within our library and the academic field. This, in turn, will prove useful in exchanging ideas among the students which will result in improving their knowledge. My best wishes to all members of the editorial board.

Sri. K. Anand
Managing Director



The future of libraries is an amazing and

evolving endeavor. Strong libraries are instrumental in building strong communities. This has become especially important in this rapidly changing world of new technology, and information overload. Technology is at the forefront in people's lives and therefore it is important to us at the library that we help bring in as many technological advances as possible to give our students all possible opportunities to experience and learn with the library.

It is indeed a matter of pleasure that the library of Sree Sankara College is launching a newsletter LibSpace. This newsletter will definitely keep the entire academic community aware of the activities, services, and developments of the library. The newsletter will also keep us abreast of the academic and research activities of the college. I take this opportunity to congratulate the Editorial Team for their commitment and unstinted efforts put in. I wish the Newsletter team success in all future endeavors.

Sri. C. P. Jaisankar
Chief Operations Officer

Greetings to all!

It is an honor for Sree Sankara College on this occasion of the first edition of the Newsletter from our library Team. This Newsletter is a new attempt on behalf of our library team to reach out to the students. I congratulate Dr. Midhula Soman V S, our new librarian, on this occasion who has been successful in implementing a few new things that has changed the working of our library. Among them, is the digitalization of the library which is a great advantage to all students and teachers during this time of Covid pandemic as it will enhance their access to study



material.

I sincerely appreciate her dedication to her work. I firmly believe that this Newsletter will be of great benefit to all students.

I hope that this newsletter will revive your interest in books and encourage you to take a step towards making another positive change in your life.

With best wishes and
God's blessings!
Best wishes!
Dr Suresh A
Principal



LIBRARY AT A GLANCE

Sree Sankara College Library was established in 1954. It was elevated to the status of the first-grade Library in 1972. The Library was shifted to its present premises, Abhinava Vidhya Theertha Hall, in 2018. All the department libraries were centralized in the General Library following the Government directive in 1995.

The normal functioning of the Library is assisted and governed by a Library Advisory Committee with the Principal as the Chairman and the Librarian as the Secretary. The Library Committee meetings are held periodically and the requirements/improvements are reviewed for further streamlining.

The library is fully automated with Koha software allowing functions like circulation, OPAC search, cataloging, etc. The library has about 55,000 books and subscribes to a variety of journals and magazines. Library follows the Open Access System and the books are well-organized according to the Dewey Decimal Classification system.

Staff and students of Sree Sankara College is the users of the library. Post graduate students and Research Scholars can take five books at a time whereas undergraduate students can take two books. Ten books are issued

to the faculty members and two books to the administrative staff. Members can renew books through WebOPAC (<https://ssclibrary.texicon.in/>) by logging into their accounts. A member can reserve their books through WebOPAC or directly in the library. The library will notify the member as soon as the book is available. Issuing of reference books is not permitted. Users can also access their accounts online to check the due dates of books they've been issued as well as library materials. The WebOPAC contains a list of online e-resources that have been subscribed through NLIST, as well as open access resources. It allows users to search all of the Library's electronic resources from a single location.

The Library also maintains an institutional repository that enables the user to access the institute's publications. The access is limited to campus only, it provides a forum for academicians, researchers, students, and staff members to share their research papers, book chapters, articles, and others.

Collections of the library include magazines, newspapers, journals, textbooks, audiobooks, thesis, reference books, the bounded volume of journals, and dissertations.

A library club is functioning

Vision and Mission

The mission of the library is to transform the present traditional library into an inclusive library or a Learning Resource Centre (LRC). The establishment of the LRC will provide easy, fast, and timely access to the information resources and services of the library to all users. By making a traditional library into an inclusive library or LRC, the information requirements of users can be met without any barriers.

The main objective of the library is to support the educational, social, and cultural activities of the academicians and contribute to the information needs to support learning, teaching, and research activities by providing e-resources, indigenous databases, research productivity, learning course instructional materials, academic computing software's in a networked environment, using ICT.

including students from various departments of the college who are interested in reading and related activities, which helps in the overall activities of the library.



LIBRARY OVER THE

PAST SIX MONTHS

USER ORIENTATION PROGRAMME

The Library is one of the purposeful organs of educational and research institutions charged with the responsibility of acquiring, processing, organizing all sorts of information; being it print or non-print; to meet the information requirements of its users.

The library is mandated to ensure that library users, especially new students of the institution, have access to its collections in order to aid in learning, and research. Library orientation is one of the methods to introduce the users and potential patrons to the services and resources of the library. It makes the users aware of the available facilities and resources. Without library orientation, users may struggle to identify, locate,

access, or navigate the library.

Sree Sankara College Library conducted a Library Orientation program for the UG and PG students, with an intention to introduce them to the library and its resources and help them gain full benefits of the resources, materials, and services of the library to their maximum fulfillment and developing a competency trust with the staff of the library. In addition, library orientation aimed to educate new students on how to use the information available in the library to their advantage.



LIBRARY AUTOMATION

In this age of Information and Communication Technology, computers are being used for day-to-day housekeeping activity of the library which saves the time of the end-users and library professionals also and at the same time avoid duplication of work and make the library service smooth and effective. The influence of ICT has drastically changed the library scenario in terms of collection, organization, and services. Simultaneously, users' demands, attitudes, and information-seeking behavior have dynamically changed. They need relevant, accurate, authentic information easily, and quickly within a single place at their hand.

For quick delivery of library services and information, the Library has

been fully automated from November 2021 onwards with KOHA software and started online services including renewal, resource access, etc. At the present library, users can enjoy the library facilities online from anywhere.

Users can search for their desired document/article through Library OPAC which can be accessed from anywhere, anytime, and also a list of open access resources is provided through the OPAC which helps them to search and access it whenever required.

SMS and email alert service started in the library and users will receive reminders and notices from the library via both email and SMS services.

AUDIOBOOK PRODUCTION



Audiobook recording by Library Club Volunteer

In a view of providing alternate resources of the library books to differently-abled users, the library started recording audio-books with the help of library club volunteers. Library club members include students from various departments of the college and the volunteers participate actively in the functioning of the library.

DIGITAL LIBRARY

The 20th century was shaped by sweeping changes in communication technologies. Libraries have witnessed a great metamorphosis in recent years both in their collection development and structure. Digitization is becoming more common in libraries and information

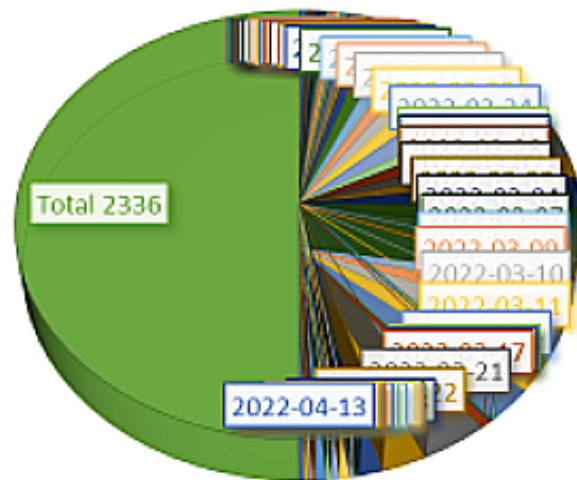
centers. Libraries all over the world are undergoing transformation and traditional libraries are changing into digital libraries.

Today, the emergence of digital technology has provided a means whereby information can

be stored, retrieved, disseminated, and duplicated quickly. Sree Sankara College Library manages an institutional repository that acts as an archive where digital contents, writings of authors, and academicians are stored in an organized way and made freely accessible to the users.

E-GATE REGISTER

To record and analyze the daily count of visitors, an e-gate system using barcode scanning is implemented. Using this, the patron's library card will be scanned by the system during entry and exit at the library gate, and this information will be stored. This method helps to generate various reports for various library management purposes. Also, it helps to analyze the category-wise, date-wise, month-wise, and year-wise visit count automatically.



LIBRARY VISITORS FROM DECEMBER 2021-2022 APRIL

Date wise Reports

Copy Excel PDF Column visibility Search records

USN	Name	Date	Entry	Exit	Location
Y10	Smitha B Nair	2022-03-25	10:05:50	10:13:38	SSCL
Y10	Smitha B Nair	2022-04-06	11:32:43	11:35:55	SSCL
XL01	Sreeja, G.	2022-03-10	10:17:17	16:30:00	SSCL
XL01	Sreeja, G.	2022-03-11	13:49:48	16:30:00	SSCL
XL01	Sreeja, G.	2022-03-24	11:37:06	16:30:00	SSCL
XL01	Sreeja, G.	2022-03-25	10:11:12	12:41:48	SSCL
XL01	Sreeja, G.	2022-03-25	12:42:08	12:42:20	SSCL
XL01	Sreeja, G.	2022-04-07	11:22:34	12:48:42	SSCL
Total		Male	29	Female	201

Showing 2,311 to 2,319 of 2,319 entries

SSC Digital Gate Register
Welcome to SSCL
Library Management System

Membership Number:

12:58:17 PM
Wed, 13 Apr 2022

300 x 400

SCAN YOUR ID CARD.

- Inside: 8
- Male: 0
- Female: 0
- Visit: 16
- PG Students 2020-2022: 3
- Degree Students 2019-2022: 6
- Degree Students 2020-2023: 4

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WEBOPAC



The advent of the computer and internet had an impact on library services. The traditional catalogue card searching has now changed to the Online Catalogue Searching system, Online Public Access Catalogue; and Sree Sankara College Library installed WebOPAC which can be accessed from anywhere at any time.

Through the WebOPAC, users can search for their required book in the

catalogue search. If it is available in the library, they can take it directly and if it is issued they can reserve the book. Users can log in to their account by providing a username and password. They can renew the book themselves by logging into the account. A wide range of open access e-resources are listed in OPAC and users can access them directly from anywhere at any time.

The library is the temple of learning and learning has liberated more people than all the wars in history

Carl T. Rowan

Programs & Events

Ethical writing & Plagiarism a tutorial



In association with the Post Graduate & Research Department of Microbiology, the library organized an online tutorial on the topic " Ethical Writing & Plagiarism" on 6th November 2021, 10.30 am to 1.30 pm via Google Meet.

The invited speaker Dr.V.M. Vinod, Technical Head, University Library, the University of Calicut introduced the concept of Plagiarism to research scholars describing in detail the etymology, reasons for copying, types, and how to avoid plagiarism, how to write a research paper confidently

without plagiarism, etc. After that, a quiz session was conducted by the Resource Person to interact with the research scholars and other participants.

Dr. A.K. Valsa, Head of the Department, Post Graduate and Research Department of Microbiology, Sree Sankara College made the introduction Speech and Dr.Midhula Soman V.S , Librarian, Sree Sankara College proposed the vote of thanks.

The poster is for an event titled "Invited talk on 'Ethical Writing & Plagiarism: A Tutorial'". It features a circular portrait of Dr. Vinod V.M. The text includes the organizing department: "POSTGRADUATE AND RESEARCH DEPT. OF MICROBIOLOGY LIBRARY, SREE SANKARA COLLEGE, KALADY". The date and time are "November 6, 2021 10.30 A.M - 1.30 P.M.". A quote from research scholars and faculty members of Sree Sankara College is included: "Who can attend? Research Scholars & Faculty members of Sree Sankara College". The contact information is "lizz-sngk-qzu". The convener information is "Convener: Dr. Midhula Soman VS, Dr. Valsa AK, Dr. Mohan S". The background of the poster shows a library interior with bookshelves.



Dr. Suresh A, Principal, Sree Sankara College inaugurating Book Exhibition

BOOK DONATION CAMPAIGN

National Library Week celebrated from 14-20 November, is an annual celebration highlighting the valuable role of libraries, librarians, and library workers in transforming lives and strengthening our communities.

The Library, Sree Sankara College conducted National Library Week Celebrations from November 14-20, 2021 with various programs to enhance the user's awareness about the library.

Book Donation Campaign was conducted from November 1-15, with a theme; "My Library, My Community, My Book."

During the book donation campaign, Staff and students of Sree Sankara College were invited to donate their good-conditioned books to the Library. A total of 220 books were received from 21 faculties of the college. In the valedictory function certificates of Appreciation were distributed to those who donated books to the library.

BOOK EXHIBITION

Book exhibition was conducted in association with DC Books, Aluva, Ernakulam from November 17-19, 2021. Dr.Suresh A, Principal, Sree Sankara College inaugurated the function and staff and students of Sree Sankara College participated in the book exhibition and made it a grand success.



SHORT STORY WRITING

A short story writing competition was conducted in association with IQAC and prize distribution was done during the valedictory function.



Dr.Suresh A, Principal, Distributing prizes to the winners of the short story writing competition

BEST USER AWARD

Best User Award was introduced and the criteria for best user selection were based on the total number of books issued and the frequency of library visits.

Best user awards (2021) were distributed to Dr. Sumi Mary George (Assistant Professor, Post Graduate and Research Dept of Microbiology), Dr.Geetha P (Associate Professor, Dept of Economics), and Sri.Ramachandran (Herbarium Keeper).



Dr.Sumi Mary George, receiving the Best User award from Dr. Suresh A, Principal

VALEDICTORY FUNCTION

In the valedictory function, a Welcome speech was made by Dr. K.N. Harikrishna Sharma (Assistant Professor, Dept. of Sanskrit, Member of Library Advisory Committee) and an overview of the National Library Week program was done by Smt.Lakshmipriya MR. (Assistant Professor Dept. of Malayalam)

Best User Awards and prize distribution to short story writing competition winners was done by Dr.Suresh A (Principal) and Certificates of Appreciation were distributed by Dr.Preethi Nair, IQAC Coordinator. Dr.Midhula Soman VS, Librarian proposed the vote of thanks.



WOMEN'S DAY 2022

2022
അന്താരാഷ്ട്ര
വനിതാ
ദിനം



The Library, Sree Sankara College celebrated International Women's day 2022. Library conducted a book exhibition focusing on books by female writers. Staff and students were invited to share their inspiring messages and thoughts on the library notice board to encourage and promote Women's day. The feedback was good as many users shared their powerful thoughts and messages on the space provided on the library notice board.

ഉണർന്നിരിക്കുമ്പോൾ കാണുന്നതാണ് സ്വപ്ന'മെന്നു രചിച്ചതിനെ
ഹൃദയത്തിലേറ്റിയവൾ...
മാരിവില്ലിന് ഏഴുനിറങ്ങൾ പോരേന്ന്
സർഗവേദനയാൽ തെളിയിച്ചവൾ...
വാക്കുകൾ നെയ്ത വലയുടെ കണ്ണികളിലൂയലാടി വേരറ്റ നേരിനെ
തിരിച്ചറിഞ്ഞവൾ...
പരിമിതമെന്നപഹസിക്കപ്പെട്ട ചിറകുകൾക്കു താരാപഥത്തിലും
ഇടംതികയില്ലെന്നറിയിച്ചവൾ...
നോവുകളെ ആഴങ്ങളിലൊളിപ്പിച്ച് മാലോകർക്കായ്
ആഹ്ലാദത്തിരകളാൽ മായാജാലം കാട്ടിയവൾ ...
അവനെ അനുകരിക്കാതെ അവളായി നിന്ന് അവനെപ്പമാകാൻ
അവന്റെ കരുത്താകാൻ വെമ്പൽകൊണ്ടവൾ ...
അവളില്ലയെങ്കിലീ പ്രപഞ്ചമില്ല



വരികൾ: ലക്ഷ്മി പ്രിയ എം ആർ
അസിസ്റ്റന്റ് പ്രൊഫസർ
മലയാളം വിഭാഗം
ശ്രീശങ്കര കോളേജ്



Books written by female authors



Students and Teachers of Sree Sankara College writing the women's day messages.

koha

INVITED PAPER

AN OPEN SOURCE EPITOME FOR ACADEMIC LIBRARY MANAGEMENT

Ashkar K

Junior Superintendent of Library

Indian Institute of Information Technology Design and Manufacturing
Kurnool, Andhra Pradesh



The world's first open-source library management program was developed and published in 1999 by a public library serving a population of 30,000 in New Zealand. The Horowhenua Library Trust named the software Koha, which is a traditional Māori term meaning a gift or donation, or contribution. Katipo Communications' participation contributes to the creation of a web-based LMS. The GNU General Public License (GPL) launched Koha applications to make sure that the project was sustainable and to allow more people to use it, improve and expand it along the way. Koha is a promising full-featured open source ILS (Integrated Library System) currently being used by libraries all over the world.

Librarians and open source software communities have a lot of things in common in nature. They both believe that information should be freely accessible to everyone. Koha software has the distinction of being

the first open-source integrated library management system. The advent of Koha has made it possible the transition from traditional to technology-based library services. It is used across the globe in a large number of academic, public, and special libraries. Koha is implemented in India by libraries of important institutions, including British Council Libraries, IITs' IIMs, and other esteemed institutions. Koha encapsulates all required modules for complete library management. Koha modules cover all library functions – acquisition, serials, patron, circulation, cataloging, reports, and tools. Koha is Standards compliant – MARC 21 (or UNIMARC) for cataloging, Z39.5 for importing cataloging, UTF-8 for non-English catalog data, and SIP2 for RFID integration. Koha enables easy access to information for library staff and users. It facilitates effective and powerful searching enhanced catalog display using content from Amazon, Google, Library Thing, Open Library, Synthetics. Koha can work in consortia, multi-branch, or single-

branch mode. Automation of alerts to remind patrons and staff about, for example, overdue items or the arrival of new items and reduce processing time of newly added titles with z39.50 compatibilities, online supervision and excellent library management through automated collection of data are some other benefits. The user interface of Koha software is very configurable and adaptable and has been translated into many languages. In addition, Koha has no vendor-lock in. So libraries can receive technical support from any party they choose or they can manage themselves.

In general, Koha integrated library management software has among others, basic features needed to run a library. It has the following features:

ACQUISITION	CATALOGUING	CIRCULATION & PATRON	SERIALS MANAGEMENT
Budget with multiple funds	Cataloguing as per AACR2 standard	Supports unlimited patron categories	Subscription details with prediction
Real time update of budget / fund	Create spine and bar-code labels	Bulk upload or modification of records and images	Receive single or multiple copies
Alert on budget limit expenditure	Batch modification and deletion	Manage check-in, check-out, renew, reservation, ILL services	Define frequency patterns
Order suggested title and give live updates to users	Copy catalogue for any type of item	Blocking of users	Alerts for missing issues
Claim and track order status	Customized cataloguing (data entry) templates	Offline circulation module	Single window display of complete serial history

OPAC	ADMINISTRATION	REPORT	STANDARDS COMPLIANT
Access OPAC on any device	Define role based access	100+ predefined reports	MARC21
Basic to advance search with filter	Define categories of items and users	Customized reports for NAAC and AICTE	ISO2709
See book covers, ToC and Reviews	Define circulation and fine matrix	CSV format for further analysis	Z39.50
Suggest resources; comments, tagging and star rating	Define SMS and email alert system	Grouping of reports	OAI - PMH
Create recommended, online reservations and account status	Support multiple library configuration in a single installatio	Filter reports based on item, patron categories or branch	UNICODE

(Tables: retrieved from <https://edutechindia.com/koha-library/> dated 11.04.2022)

From this point of view, it may be concluded that Koha is a useful package for the creation of a database and for information retrieval systems or libraries. To play this role more efficiently in order to meet the challenges of the 21st century. Koha users are getting an advantage from a vivacious and enthusiastic open source community, with thousands of installations in the world. The accessibility and ease of use in the libraries is the strength of Koha. It brings together library users and staff, as both can see various aspects of the system and can work together more effectively to achieve each user's goals.

“

I do believe something magical can happen when you read a good book

JK Rowling

”

THE TRANSFORMATIONAL ROLE OF READING IN THE POST-COVID SCENARIO

Dr Anjana Sankar S

Associate Professor

Post Graduate & Research Department of English
Sree Sankara College, Kalady

Reading is generally looked upon as a lower order language skill that follows the basic skill of speaking but its role in the effective use of vocabulary and the mastery of language is indisputable. The great genius Mark Twain who created immortal characters has observed that the difference between the almost right word and the right word is like the difference between the lightning bug and the lightning and it is an accepted fact that the choice of the apt word in the right context is the result of immense vocabulary, a direct outcome of wide reading. Our own Sashi Tharoor has described the sickly childhood of his which compelled him to devote many hours to reading which he cites as the reason for his strong word power, not to speak of M. Mukundan, the famous Malayalam novelist who too had a similar childhood. Dr. Ambedkar who has held his voracious reading responsible for his good character and personality, the impact of Leo Tolstoy's works on Gandhiji, the love of reading nurtured by Nehru that made him such an outstanding writer and the impact of reading on Swami Vivekananda which enabled him to influence the thinking process of people internationally - all serve to highlight the point.

A look at the international arena brings several other examples too. John F. Kennedy, the former President of America, loved reading so much that while wounded and hospitalized during the Second World War, his visitors in

hospital could not see him as he was always surrounded by a pile of books on his pillow; he had almost exhausted the works of Sir Winston Churchill, and apart from books on history and politics, he also loved James Bond novels. Winston Churchill, a world famous orator and writer, the only prime minister to have won the Nobel Prize for literature which he won for his War Memoirs, honed his skills through his reading of the likes of Oscar Wilde, George Bernard Shaw and Leon Uris. Former US Presidents like Abraham Lincoln, who was mostly self-educated, compensated for his lack of formal education through reading while Franklin D. Roosevelt is believed to have read almost two books a day. Barack Obama has mentioned about his passion for literature and reading in *Dreams from My Father* that when he wasn't working he would spend many a weekend in an empty apartment making do with the company of books. Many actors and celebrities like Shah Rukh Khan, Oprah Winfrey are all widely read.

But the greatest dilemma faced in the digital society today is the overloading of information on the human brain making it hard for it to handle so much of material made available through television, the internet, and cell phones. Much of our valuable time is being snatched away from us which is devoted to checking the What's App messages and emails and SMS. As a result, what remains is just information and very little retainable knowledge. Along with these,

innovative ideas that can disrupt conventional thinking and existing norms are born, paving the way for new methods of doing business, creating new avenues, and inventing valuable products.

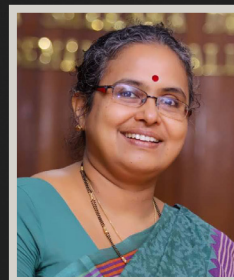
At the unbelievably fast pace at which the world is moving, imagination remains at the forefront of all meaningful activity. It is in this context that the relevance of books and reading increases as both play a major role in the formation of creative minds. Reading a book curled up in your bed or sitting in a quiet room/ library or beneath a tree is akin to meditation as both the activities provide one with a divine contentment and inner peace which nothing else can substitute.

The unique way in which each individual's imagination works is revealed from the fact that a book is invariably more liked and appreciated than a movie based on the same. The simple reason is that when reading a book, the reader has the freedom and scope to imagine as one pleases while in a movie, it is invariably the director's imagination at play which may not often meet the expectations or agree with that of the viewer. There are also different levels of understanding even while reading a novel or a story. The mere act of reading and comprehending the story just requires the reader's understanding whereas arriving at the moral of the story or the novel demands wisdom.

Reading is a habit best inculcated from childhood and as Albert Einstein said -If you want your children to be intelligent, read them fairy tales. If you want them to be more intelligent, read them more fairy tales. The emphasis is to catch them young and the best way is to get them addicted to stories is by narrating them to kids who haven't yet reached the age to read on their own. Then they can gradually be introduced to comics and story books, with plenty of pictures which are eye-catching, colourful and light reading materials. Every child can be encouraged to build up a small library at home and owning books of one's own will gradually develop into a source of personal pride which will abide throughout life. Parents can make it a habit to buy books not just for their own children on special occasions like birthdays or festivals but also for their friends as well. Parents can also donate books to the school and college library on varied topics of interest. Similarly children can be taken to bookshops and libraries thus engaging them and developing the habit of book browsing. In the internet age children can also buy books online which is far easier and cheaper.

There could be a few who are critical of the benefits of reading and in their view reading makes one introverted, asocial and something of a couch potato. Yet to counter these, voracious readers have scientific facts to support them. Reading is one of the best ways of overcoming Alzheimer's

and dementia as it keeps the brain very agile and occupied. Reading also can make one smarter, as it brings in new information each day thus enabling to retain them and put them to good use as and when the need arises. Thus stockpiling the human brain with new information each day makes one smarter. Another argument favouring reading is the study conducted by the National Endowment for the arts which concluded that reading makes one more engaged throughout life, and those who read are more likely to vote and be more cultural. According to a behavioural Researcher Cristel Russell, reading can alleviate any stress or turmoil occurring at any stage in life and this is best exhibited from the spike in the sale of books all over the world during the Covid Lock down period. Psychologists have often suggested a new book as the best remedy when one faces a relationship breakup or just simply needs to relax. The best outcome of reading is that every time while reading something new, the brain 'makes room' to store new information that can be put to use as and when the need arises. Reading helps to boost analytical thinking by recognizing various patterns in writing. A study conducted by the University of Buffalo has concluded that by acquainting oneself with possible realities and fictional story lines, the reader opens the mind to new emotions and feelings which equips one to empathize with people and also to understand different cultures. Those who read can forge ahead in their careers as well as life in general.



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BOOK REVIEW

TEETHING BY MEGHA RAO

Last day I lay in my bed rereading the first chapter of Teething. and I am reminded of my precious childhood days shared with the door of my eyes, my sister. The times when I could sleep next to my mommy and listen to her mind soothing stories. The times when all I had to worry was about waking up early in the morning and going to school days when I would wait for the last bell to ring so that I could see both of them standing in the queue to take me back home. I remember, we used to fight over the remote to switch channels and I am the one who cry at last. Also, I remember you hugging and kissing me at night because you were sorry that you fought with your little sister. I know how proud you were when I bagged prizes at school and I remember how glad I was when realized that you gained happiness by making your sisters happy. And you were our big sister who read Harry Potter and Da Vinci Code. You would tell us the story of Harry and Hermione and Ron and I became a fan before I knew it.

"Teething" by Megha Rao, known for her poetry assortment, is somewhat unique where we get to find out about a story written in the poetry form.

What comes into your mind when you read in the forward of a memoir that the book is about a woman who has colored her hair blue yet prefers to enjoy the quiet corner of any party? My first thought would be to meet her sooner.

Anyway, the foreword by Gurmehar Kaur about Megha Rao had won me much before I read Rao's words. I was an instant fan and when I started reading her poetries, good god, there was no looking back!

A book about trying hard to fit in the stereotypes of society and upon failure how cruel life becomes can be perceived in each page. A book about sad discrepancies of social stigmas could have been depressing, but I don't know why it made me sad and proud at a time. The lines cut deeper into the soul and at times the reader may want to shout out loud the words from a high rooftop. Usage of mundane items and events have been used as metaphors to describe some hard-hitting incidents. And, I have found them brilliant.

I never wanted this book to end. I rarely annotate books but I couldn't stop this time with this beautiful book. I may not compare her works with anyone but after reading some recent works of the similar are, I always found myself still searching for the right hit, but I can surely say Megha has a gift of gab. She knows her words. I would have loved the book more if I could get my hands on such hard-hitting words in my early twenties.

Chocolates from the Gulf made me shiver, Beedi is too relatable and the verse Safe Space is my favorite. Highly recommended. This book needs to be read more.

I thank the poet Megha Rao and Harpercollins for providing me an opportunity to read such an eloquent collection of wordplay. These days when

I carry the burden of adulthood with me, when I am bullied at college for being a recluse, when I have trouble sleeping at night, I think of you both. I think of how you both enquire about me to mom "Koch enthedekuva". The word Koch reminds me that all of childhood is not yet lost.

Megha Rao, you are a beautiful human being. Your words took me to a place I have never been before. Every poem you write is a lullaby to me. Every metaphor in your poem brings me goosebumps that fantasize to become a poet like you someday. I adore the fact that your poems have the power to heal the wounded. That your poems talk about things nobody ever has dared to speak about. That you redefine the structure of poetry

Sometime back, Megha Rao went live on Instagram announcing that she was releasing this splendid book of art and truth written so beautifully. I ordered this poetry book on that day itself and was waiting for Amazon to deliver though it took a while. Meanwhile, I'm glad this book arrived just a while back, and to use, and read Megha Rao's thoughts is just enchanting. I swear the poet is alive; the witch knows the spell so well. I have been listening to her podcast ever since I discovered her on Spotify and have been shamelessly sharing it with everyone whenever a new podcast is released. I owe most of my time to her for making life as relevant as it. Thank you for existing and finding beauty in chaos and art in this messy mundane life. Thank you for this!



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'DIARY OF A WIMPY KID' (THE THIRD WHEEL) BY JEFF KINNEY

The famous and most entertaining book 'Diary of a Wimpy kid (the third whereas I)' was written by Jeffrey Patrick Kinney, who is an American author and cartoonist and best known for the children's book series 'Diary of a Wimpy kid'. He has also created the child-oriented website 'Poptropica'. Kinney's struggles to become a newspaper cartoonist have led him to become a writer for children's novels. He didn't have a diary when he was a kid but he started to write it in his mid-20s. He says, "my real-life journey inspired 'Diary of a Wimpy kid'.

At present, 'Diary of a Wimpy kid' actually contains 19 books which is published by Jeff Kinney they are, "Diary of a Wimpy kid, Rodrik rules, the last straw, Dog days, the ugly truth, Cabin fever, the third wheel, Hard luck, the long hall, Old school, Double down, the gateway, the meltdown, wrecking ball, the deep end, big shot, Diary of a Wimpy kid do-it-yourself, the Wimpy kid movie diary and the Wimpy kid school planner. His first book was published in April 2007. It is most popular with kids at the age of 7 to 12 but the books are fun for kids of all ages.

'The third wheel' is all about his valentine's day dance at Day's middle school. The book contains jokes and problems faced by how he survived inside his mother's Tommy before Tommys born and that's very interesting. When his mother is going for sleep he torts to kick and party. The way Kinney

has written makes us eager to read the next without stopping. In between, he has also drawn many cartoon illustrations that help us visualize those scenes in our minds which is said in the story. It's very entertaining and to read it with fun.

As in his diary, Greg scrambles to find a date but at the same time his best friend 'Rowley', woes have any prospects and expectations. So to call anyone for the date Greg buys chocolate and writes if they are interested to go on dance with him and at the end of the chocolate he also writes, "P.S if the answer is no, please hand this to Julia (that is the girl sitting next to her)" to save money, he knows the worth of money well even though he is a kid.

After thinking a lot Greg got 'Abigail' as the dance partner. But the twist happens at the end. They went to a restaurant in Rowley's dad's car. Since Rowley used to sit on baby boosters, Rowley and Abigail have seated next to each other. The state didn't want to sit on them, so he had seated at the very back of the scene since they were getting late. At the restaurant, Greg paid the whole bill which was a bit expensive but he didn't want to show 'Abigail' that he is not stingy. In between, Rowley had chickenpox (which was just a pimple Greg had mistaken), Greg didn't want to show this because he will not be able to go to the dance tonight. So Rowley had hidden them with a scarf. When Greg was dancing with Abigail, he noticed a

pimple he thought she had chickenpox but it was just a pimple (as Rowley had) that had come out when her makeup had gone a bit when she was crying.

At the end of the day, Greg got chickenpox and was pretty sure that he didn't get it from Rowley since he had no chickenpox, but was a pimple. Greg's mom usually used to give him Rodrik's (Greg's elder brother) used bath towel but this time he got a fresh towel since he had chickenpox. A few days later, Greg came to know that Rowley and Abigail are couples now.

At the end of the few pages of the book, it has many activities for children to do. Some questions, our opinion, etc. The thing I liked about the book is the hardcover and its way of printing, handwriting, and in between the cartoon illustrations that give a lot of fun visualizing it. The part that I liked the most is the first one where Greg was in his mother's Tommy and it was fun to read. I bet that you will never stop reading the book series of a wimpy kid once you start it and I recommend you to try out one of the series.

IKIGAI: THE JAPANESE SECRET TO A LONG AND HAPPY LIFE

BY HECTOR GARCIA & FRANCESC MIRALLES



SARA ABRAHAM

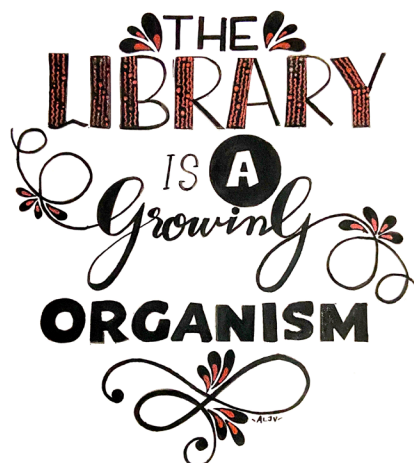
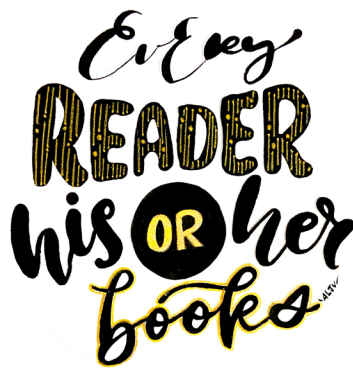
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The people in Japan believe that everyone has an 'IKIGAI' - a reason to jump out of bed each morning. IKIGAI brings satisfaction, happiness, and meaning to our lives. This book continues many powerful and proven concepts which can help you to improve your way of living.

The purpose of this book is to help you find yours and to share insights from Japanese philosophy on the lasting health of body, mind, and spirit. It helps you to realize the value of a purposeful life and hence to achieve longevity. IKIGAI discusses the life of people in Okinawa, their mindsets, attitudes, diets, and routines. This encourages you

to find your own 'ikigai'. It is written in simple language and conveys how to lead a simple life.

'BRING MEANING AND JOY TO EVERY DAY WITH IKIGAI'



Laws of Library Science - Calligraphy by

ALEENA JOY

First Year BSc Physics,
Sree Sankara college, Kalady



FACULTY ACHIEVEMENTS (2021)



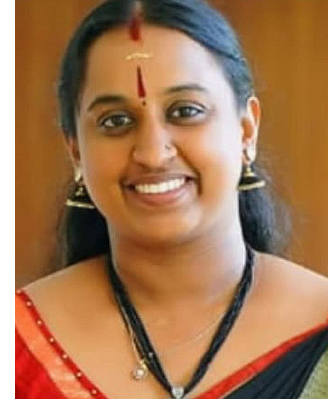
MANJU V KUMAR

Assistant Professor, Department of Sanskrit has been awarded PhD in Sanskrit by Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam for her thesis entitled "Doctrine of Bhakti- An Analytical Exegesis of Sandhyasutras" under the supervision of Dr.N.Ushadevi.



SINITHA B NAIR

Assistant Professor, Department of Physics has been awarded PhD in Physics by Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam for her thesis entitled "Effect of self Doping and Metal Oxide Impregnation on the photocatalytic Activity of TiO₂ Nanotubes" under the supervision of Dr.Rachel Reena Philip.



SREELEKSHMI R

Assistant Professor, Department of Sanskrit has been awarded PhD in Sanskrit by Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam for her thesis entitled "Speech and Silence: A reflection on Sankar's Advaitic Prerogative" under the supervision of Dr.N.Ushadevi.



RAHUL RAMESH

Guest Lecturer, Department of Commerce has been awarded PhD in Commerce by Kannur University, for his thesis entitled "Green Consumerism in Kerala: Problems and Prospects" under the supervision of Prof. Dr. PT. Raveendran.



RAJEEESH K P

Assistant Professor, Department of English has been awarded Ph.D. in English by Pondicherry Central University, for his thesis entitled "The Need for the Superhero: An analysis of Power Dynamics in Select Graphic Novels of Alan Moore" under the supervision of Dr.H. Kalpana.

“

A writer only
begins a
book
A reader
finishes it

Samuel Johnson ”



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