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ADINET Wishes everyone a very Happy Basant Panchami 2026

(Photo: *Saraswati* by Raja Ravi Varma)

Pause & Ponder

“If people are doubting how far you can go, go so far that you can’t hear them anymore.”

– Michele Ruiz

****Readers Please Note****

Tap the Title to read the full article

A children’s library in Hyderabad where stories shape values



Saturday mornings are at their busiest at Kathatitam in Hyderabad. Tucked away on the fifth floor of a complex in a

quiet Gachibowli lane, the library-cum-cultural space opened in August, 2025, with its village-themed décor and calming ambience, transports young readers into another world. When we visit, the children pause their reading to welcome Lakshmi, a farmer, for a storytelling session.

“Dear friends, I am nowhere close to being qualified to play a farmer. It is a deeply respected profession, and I am honoured to step into this role,” says storyteller and founder Shilpa Kiranveer, as she slips into character to explain the significance of Sankranti for farmers. For the next 15 minutes, she becomes Lakshmi — a woman who works the land, contributes to food production, manages her household and cares for her children. Through expressive narration, Shilpa brings the lives of women farmers vividly alive for her young audience...

Source: [*The Hindu*, 27 Jan 2026](#)

Parents, please don’t stop reading to your children – a great picture book could change their life

Picture books help children develop their imaginations, find empathy for others and take pride in what makes them unique – all of which make for good adults.



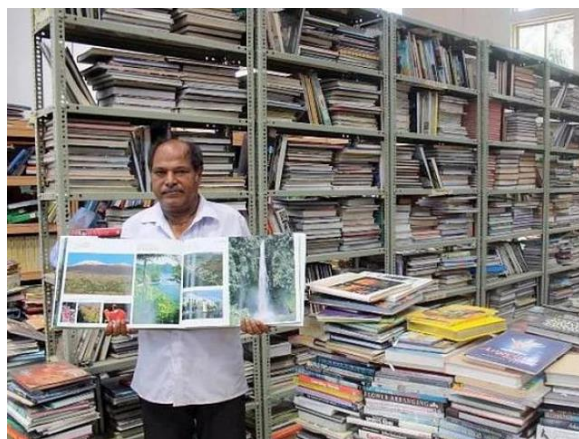
Children are made readers on the laps of their parents.” – Emilie Buchwald

I can't think of a better way to start the year than having one of my books chosen in the Guardian's readers' poll for the best Australian picture books of all time. *Come Over to My House*, co-written with musician Eliza Hull and illustrated by Daniel Gray-Barnett, is a rhyming picture book that explores the home lives of children and parents who are d/Deaf or disabled. I am so proud to have been a part of creating this book, and so thrilled to see it on this list among so many extraordinary titles.

Some of the books on this list were created by dear friends and peers. Others are books I read to my children when they were young. It's wonderful to see so many Australian picture books have stood the test of time, passed down from one generation to the next. Many of these picture books hold such a strong place in our hearts because they represent a cherished time in our childhoods: memories of being cuddled on someone's lap, or sitting cross-legged on a mat listening to a beloved adult fill the room with funny voices...

Source: [The Guardian, 26 Jan 2026](#)

From Bus Conductor To Padma Awardee, How Anke Gowda Built India's Largest Free Library



In a quiet village near Srirangapatna in Karnataka's Mandya district stands a place where knowledge breathes freely. It is not a grand university or a government-funded institution, but Pustaka Mane, one of India's largest free-access libraries. Behind this extraordinary space is Anke Gowda, a man whose life has been shaped entirely by books, sacrifice, and an unwavering belief that knowledge should belong to everyone.

Born into a farming family in Mandya district to Marigowda and Ningamma, Anke Gowda grew up with very limited access to books. Reading was not a habit easily available in his childhood. Yet, during his college years, his curiosity for learning was awakened and encouraged by his professor, Anantharamu. That encouragement planted a seed that would quietly transform his life, and the lives of countless others...

Source: [Outlook, 26 Jan 2026](#)

Educators Diversify Their Libraries in Challenging Times



Author, speaker, and diversity consultant Verna Myers once said, "Diversity is being invited to the party; inclusion is being asked to dance." With

this sentiment in mind, PW asked three educators about steps they are taking to diversify their libraries in an era of book bans and challenges, to keep every reader dancing.

As a kid, Tim Jones said that he lived in a bubble. "It wasn't until I got out of the town where I lived that I met people who were different from me." Now, the school librarian at JFK School in Louisville and SLJ's 2025 School Librarian of the Year, he teaches an increasingly diverse school population consisting of 95% students of color, 15% multi-lingual students (with a total of 10 languages spoken), 25% kids with learning disabilities, and 15% identified as gifted...

Source: [Publishers Weekly, 26 Jan 2026](#)

Personalized library model adapts book recommendations to readers' changing knowledge



University libraries hold vast collections of scholarly work, yet most academic books are borrowed only a handful of times each year. A study published in the International Journal of Information and Communication Technology suggests that the problem lies less in library logistics than in the lack of a sophisticated recommendation system available to readers. The team behind the research have come up with a new approach to library recommendation systems that replaces the static models

with an approach that adapts to the readers' changing learning needs...

Source: [Phys.org, 26 Jan 2026](#)

Libraries must become vibrant centres of discussion & exchange of ideas, says Telangana governor Jishnu Dev Varma at HLF



Hyderabad: Libraries must move beyond being silent storehouses of books and become vibrant centres of thinking, discussion and exchange of ideas, Telangana governor Jishnu Dev Varma said, underscoring the need for more spaces for literary conversations in Hyderabad.

Speaking at the inauguration of the Hyderabad Literary Festival (HLF) on Saturday, the governor said the city needs more libraries and cultural centres to nurture innovation and meaningful dialogue, especially among young people. "The old concept of a library is fading. Libraries today have to be alive and relevant, places where youngsters gather, reflect and create," he said...

Source: [The Times of India, 25 Jan 2026](#)

Journey of a reader: from a struggle to a joyful sanctuary



I still vividly remember the look of horror on my primary teacher's face when she realised I hadn't quite mastered the mechanics of reading. I had been happily 'reading' the story from the pictures, making it up as I went along, until she asked me to sound out specific words. I hadn't a clue. As a child with mild dyslexia, it was a struggle and a 'rude' awakening; it took me much longer to read than my peers. Yet, once I finally broke the code, you couldn't get my nose out of a book.

Eventually, I became an English teacher, and among my many roles in schools over the years, I have also been a teacher-librarian. The joy of reading, a fascination with books and a deep love for libraries have always been part of my life. Humans are hardwired to make sense of the world through narrative; we consume stories non-stop. However, there has been a significant shift in how we consume them – through film, TV, podcasts and audiobooks...

Source: [Times Malta, 25 Jan 2026](#)

Are librarians the key for teaching AI literacy?

As computer science student Kavya Raval learns about Java programming this term, she may ask an AI chatbot to break down a tricky concept or create practice problems for her ahead of exams. She might even ask it to give feedback on her answers.



"It's like I have a tutor available for me at all times, and I can get my doubts cleared instantly," the 18-year-old said.

Still, the first-year Toronto Metropolitan University (TMU) student also knows to be balanced and careful in using artificial intelligence tools — concepts emphasized in new workshops from TMU's library services she recently completed to earn an AI badge.

Having attended "really traditional" schools in India that banned electronic devices, Raval previously steered clear of AI. Now in Canada, however, she's happy the workshops have taught her how to responsibly leverage the technology.

"AI is being integrated into every single field that we see, so it is really important to us to understand what's the proper use of it," she said....

Source: [CBC, 24 Jan 2026](#)

'We want people to sit, pause, relax': National Trust to open its libraries for public use

There was a time, not so long ago, when a visit to a National Trust stately home could be a staid affair and sitting on the furniture tended to be discouraged, with pine cones or teasels often placed on chairs to remind people not to perch.



This year, one of the aims of the conservation charity will be to make people feel more at ease in its grand houses and, where practical, allow them to sit on historic chairs and use libraries and reading rooms rather than simply peer into them.

“The key principle is we want people to be able to feel at home, feel relaxed and welcome,” said Tarnya Cooper, the National Trust’s cultural heritage director. “These places belong to all of us. We want people to sit down, pause, relax.”

Two properties, Wightwick Manor in the West Midlands and Blickling Estate in Norfolk have already been made more welcoming....

Source: [The Guardian, 12 Jan 2026](#)

Librarian and English professor build AI literacy



“Is using ChatGPT cheating?”

Dayna Durbin gets this question a lot.

As the undergraduate teaching and learning librarian at University Libraries, she works primarily with the first-year writing program (English 105). She teaches students basic research skills, introduces them to the campus library system and shows them how to use all the in-person and digital resources available to them.

“When ChatGPT came out, we started to get questions from students concerned with plagiarism, with making sure that they weren’t breaking the honor code or cheating by using generative AI tools. It became a kind of advising role for the libraries,” she says.

To help meet this need, Durbin collaborated with Dan Anderson, director of the Carolina Digital Humanities Initiative and the writing program in the UNC College of Arts and Sciences’ English and comparative literature department. Together, they created the Carolina AI Literacy Initiative to develop artificial intelligence literacy support materials for students and instructors.

The initiative, funded by a grant from the School of Data Science and Society, offers videos and modules that guide users through AI basics. Students can learn to compose effective prompts, recognize bias, fact-check AI output and avoid plagiarism. It also provides education about popular AI tools, curricular development support for instructors, and formal and informal opportunities to ask questions, learn more and experiment...

Source: [The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 29 Dec 2025](#)

**This issue has been compiled by
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