

ADINET (Advanced Information Network of Libraries in Gujarat)
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Pause & Ponder

“Libraries allow children to ask questions about the world and find the answers. And the wonderful thing is that once a child learns to use a library, the doors to learning are always open.”

– Laura Bush

ADINET Librarian's Day 2026



Advance Information Network of
Libraries in Gujarat

ADINET Librarian's Day Seminar 2026

In Collaboration with
National Forensic Sciences University, Gandhinagar

**Secure Knowledge
Networks:
Libraries in the Era of
Cyber Security and Digital
Collaboration**



August 22, 2026 | NFSU, Gandhinagar, Gujarat

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****Readers Please Note****

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While thousands of European libraries close, Croatia is moving in the opposite direction



ZAGREB, 24 July (Hina) – A new report by the European Union's Open Method of Coordination (OMC) expert group has recognised the success of Croatia's cultural policy in promoting reading literacy, libraries and access to culture, the Ministry of Culture and Media said on Thursday.

The examples of best European library practices cited in the report include the nationwide Month of the Croatian Book programme, the Dalmatina Library, a specialised department of the Marko Marulić City Library in Split, and the national "I Want to Read, Too!" campaign, which promotes the right to read for people with reading difficulties and dyslexia.

While around 3,000 libraries have closed across Europe since 2012, Croatia is one of only four countries, alongside France, Portugal and Slovenia, to have increased its total number of libraries during the same period, according to the report...

Source: [Croatia Week, 24 Jul 2026](#)

What does a Research Librarian actually do?



As part of our series celebrating National Science Month, Wits Communications had a chat with Matomane about his career, his passion for knowledge and the future of research librarianship. The Science Month series shines the spotlight on our unsung heroes who enable Wits scientists across all our faculties to conduct

excellent research and push the frontiers of knowledge.

Tell us what drew you to librarianship?

I am a Research Librarian at the Engineering Library, supporting the Faculty of Engineering and the Built Environment.

My professional journey has been shaped by a curiosity about how things came to be - history, scientific innovation, technology and the ways knowledge shapes society. That curiosity naturally led me to Information Science.

I studied Library and Information Science before completing an Honours degree in Archives and Records Management. I later enrolled for a Master's in Information Science specialising in Digital Records and am currently pursuing a PhD in Information Science. My research explores how artificial intelligence can be integrated into digital record-keeping systems and used to strengthen research support.

Information Science is uniquely interdisciplinary. It allows us to engage with every field of knowledge, making the work continually interesting and intellectually rewarding. The profession is also incredibly diverse...

Source: [Wits University News, 24 Jul 2026](#)

Library forced to close as council puts up rent

A community library has been forced to close after the council significantly increased the rent, its manager said. Danesholme Library in Corby is run entirely by volunteers, after the former Northamptonshire County Council offloaded several libraries in 2018.



Manager Steven Arnold-Cowell said the library was previously paying a peppercorn rent, but this year North Northamptonshire Council raised it to £5,500.

A council spokesperson said: "The rent being offered is at a significant discount to the market rate and is in line with all of the other community managed libraries."

Arnold-Cowell said there was no way they could afford the new rent but is looking for ways to try to reopen the library.

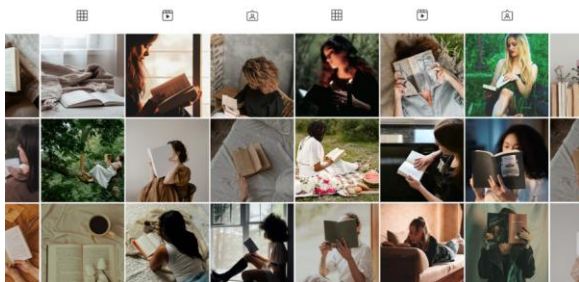
He said most of the outgoings were due to storage heaters which cost around £1,000 a month to run.

A grant application for an upgraded heating system was not successful, but Arnold-Cowell is considering trying again, and has also appealed to local businesses to help fund building improvements.

The council said the library had "very low visitor numbers compared to other community managed libraries", and that the library had struggled with a lack of volunteers "resulting in a reduction of opening hours"...

Source: [BBC, 24 Jul 2026](#)

How the Role of Book Cover Design Has Changed in the Age of Social Media



I work in the Art Department at HarperCollins, where I have a front-row seat to the conversations that shape how books appear in the world. What kind of cover art reads as “literary” versus “commercial,” what signals a “book club book,” what feels “serious” versus “friendly,” and increasingly, how to make a cover socially legible online. Covers today are expected not only to attract readers in bookstores, but to circulate fluidly through Instagram posts, TikToks, Substack photos, and carefully curated apartment interiors. Books are now asked to function simultaneously as texts and as lifestyle objects, and designers are now tasked with imagining multiple scales of reach simultaneously, from the bookstore table to the phone screen...

Source: [Literary Hub, 24 Jul 2026](#)

College professors face an emerging challenge: We know students are no longer reading entire books

Anyone who has spent time on a college campus lately has probably heard laments from faculty about their students’ reading habits, or rather nonreading habits. Such complaints are more than an unfounded nostalgia for a bygone age.

Reading – not just any kind of reading, but reading long, complex, challenging books – is quickly vanishing from the American scene.

As Sunil Iyengar, who directs the Office of Research & Analysis at the National

Endowment for the Arts, observed in 2024, approximately 49% of adults reported reading at least one book in the past year. That compares with nearly 55% of adults who reported the same 10 years earlier.

This decline in reading is also reported across some American high schools.

A 2024-2025 survey of 1,250 high school English teachers showed that they assigned an average of 2.81 books for their classes to read, from start to finish, each year.

A separate 2008-2009 nationwide study, which surveyed 400 English school teachers in ninth, 10th and 11th grades, found that they assigned an average of four books annually...

Source: [The Conversation, 23 Jul 2026](#)

Meet Brunello Cucinelli: The billionaire building a Universal Library in Italy for the next 1,000 years with free access to humanity's greatest books, inspired by the ancient Library of Alexandria



When most billionaires think about leaving a legacy, they build skyscrapers, museums, or charitable foundations. Italian luxury fashion entrepreneur Brunello Cucinelli has chosen something different: a library. The

founder of the cashmere fashion empire is creating the Universal Library of Solomeo, an ambitious cultural project in the medieval Italian village where his company is based. Inspired by the ancient Library of Alexandria, the library aims to preserve humanity's greatest books and make them freely accessible to readers, scholars and future generations. More than a collection of books, Cucinelli envisions it as a living monument to knowledge, beauty and human dignity that will continue growing for the next 1,000 years.

The story behind Brunello Cucinelli's 1,000-year Universal Library project

For Brunello Cucinelli, the Universal Library is the culmination of a lifelong love affair with books. The idea grew from his belief that literature, philosophy and history have the power to shape better societies. Instead of investing solely in commercial ventures, he has spent decades restoring Solomeo, a medieval hilltop village in Italy's Umbria region, transforming it into a centre for culture, craftsmanship and education. Construction of the library began in late 2021 as part of this broader vision. Rather than creating a conventional public library, Cucinelli wanted a timeless institution that would preserve the finest ideas produced by humanity. He has described the project as "a gift for the next thousand years", hoping that each generation will continue adding meaningful works to its shelves...

Source: [The Times of India, 20 Jul 2026](#)

ALA Council adopts Guidance on the Use of Artificial Intelligence in Libraries



CHICAGO - The American Library Association (ALA) Council has adopted "Guidance on the Use of Artificial Intelligence in Libraries," a new resource designed to help libraries develop and revise policies for the ethical, human-centered use of artificial intelligence.

Developed by ALA's 30-member Artificial Intelligence Policy Working Group, the guidance reflects the perspectives and expertise of members from across the association. Formed by Council at the 2025 Annual Conference in Philadelphia, the working group considered the practical, philosophical, ethical and operational implications of AI for libraries and library workers.

"Artificial intelligence is shaping the information landscape, and the guidance from ALA reflects both innovation and the values at the heart of librarianship," said ALA President Dr. Maria McCauley. "This document gives libraries a practical starting point for approaching AI responsibly, ethically and with people at the center."

"Guidance on the Use of Artificial Intelligence in Libraries" is intended to serve as a living document that will be updated as technology, law, professional practice and community needs evolve. The resolution asks the Information Technology Advisory Committee (ITAC) to steward the guidance, monitor developments in AI and propose future revisions to Council as needed...

Source: [ALA, 16 Jul 2026](#)

A librarian, a front porch and a legacy



Heidi Good Gauder '90 loved reading outside. Her husband recalls it was impossible to get her indoors during the spring and summer. She would start the mornings on their deck with a coffee and stay under its canopy after dinner until dark. And she always, always had a book in her hand.

It was fitting, then, that the University of Dayton chose to memorialize her with a porch, one that students can visit no matter the weather or the season, because this porch is inside Roesch Library.

Nearly 100 guests gathered April 28 to celebrate the dedication of Heidi's Porch, a donor-funded, life-size porch replica complete with a backlit photo of the student neighborhood, sitting near the leisure reading collection on the first floor of Roesch Library. Gauder, a librarian and researcher who spent her career building community around books, died in November 2024...

Source: [University of Dayton Magazine, 08 Jul 2026](#)



Evidence has been steadily mounting of Americans' declining interest in reading. A 2025 study from researchers at the University of Florida and University College London reported that daily reading for pleasure in the United States dropped by more than 40% in the last two decades, with pronounced declines among black, low-income, and rural Americans. This trend has led some to say that America is becoming a "post-literate society," which could lead to the "death of democracy." The question is what to do about it.

Despite being one of the few public institutions in a position to promote reading culture, public libraries have largely gone unmentioned in this debate. No one would blame libraries exclusively for Americans' giving up on reading; our society is saturated with smartphones and other potent distractions. But when the reading crisis became evident, libraries had one job — and thus far, they've let us down...

Source: [National Affairs, Spring 2026](#)

This issue has been compiled by the
Institute for Plasma Research (IPR)
Library, Gandhinagar

The Mission of Public Libraries