

ADINET (Advanced Information Network of Libraries in Gujarat)
e-News Digest

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Pause & Ponder

"The library card is a passport to wonders and miracles, glimpses into other lives, religions, experiences, the hopes and dreams and strivings of ALL human beings, and it is this passport that opens our eyes and hearts to the world beyond our front doors, that is one of our best hopes against tyranny, xenophobia, hopelessness, despair, anarchy, and ignorance."

– Libba Bray

ADINET Librarian's Day 2026



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

Click the image for details

ADINET organized Quarterly Seminar in collaboration with Nirma University



Glimpses of the ADINET Quarterly Seminar held at Nirma University on 27 Jun 2026

****Readers Please Note****

Tap the Title to read the full article

Book clubs proving popular at council libraries



Love a sports biography, scary story or reading books in different languages? Christchurch City Council Libraries has a raft of book clubs on offer for free.

The latest is 'Sporty Reading' a space for all sport biography lovers to get together to discuss their favourite reads.

The monthly book club starts at Fendalton Library on June 30th, it's free and no booking is required.

There'll also be guest speakers occasionally to chat about their sporting life and favourite sport biographies.

Christchurch City Libraries Book Club Co-ordinator Fee Jay said the libraries book clubs are becoming increasingly popular.

"A standout club for me is Tuesday Terrors Horror Bookclub at Turanga, hosted by evil mastermind, Mike Moroney.

"It features a different sub-genre of horror each month, it's so good even the security guard at the library has joined."

Fee said people with any reading ability should come along to a club.

"Whether you're a seasoned reader or just getting started, book clubs are a safe space for people to share their thoughts on books that inspire them."

She said book clubs are amazing as they bring people from all over the city together and allow them to find common ground in their love of reading...

Source: [Christchurch City Council Newsline, 30 Jun 2026](#)

New action plan seeks to revitalize rural libraries

China has rolled out a new action plan aimed at revitalizing rural libraries and improving reading services in the countryside.

The plan, jointly issued by the Publicity Department of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, seeks to upgrade the country's network of rural reading rooms.

Rather than launching large-scale construction, the plan emphasizes improving the quality and efficiency of existing rural reading facilities.

Local governments are urged to avoid large-scale demolition and construction projects, reject one-size-fits-all approaches and refrain from creating showcase projects with little practical value. The plan also calls on officials to reduce unnecessary burdens on grassroots organizations.

The action plan follows the implementation of a regulation to promote reading among the public, which took effect in February, and provides a legal framework for expanding public reading services.

Rural reading rooms were established to improve cultural services in villages by providing free books and public reading spaces...

Source: [China Daily, 30 Jun 2026](#)

Libraries launch screen-free audiobook collection for children



From Paddington to Pippi Longstocking and Percy Jackson, readers of all ages can enjoy audiobooks without screens thanks to a new collection launched by Westmorland and Furness Libraries.

Voxblock is an award-winning audiobook player designed to encourage a love of books in children from toddlers to teens. Simple and screen-free, there are no apps or downloads to worry about and no Wi-Fi needed as the offline player works straight out of the box.

Customers at libraries in Penrith, Barrow and Kendal can choose from a wide variety of titles including much-loved stories and classic tales, non-fiction, educational content and calming or mindfulness recordings.

The screen-free Voxblock player and recycled-card story blocks are available to loan for up to three weeks free of charge. By removing the need for screens, children can enjoy listening to books independently in a safe and focused way as they develop key skills such as vocabulary, confidence, listening and a love of storytelling...

Source: [Westmorland and Furness Council News, 29 Jun 2026](#)

England's public library collections are in danger of being hollowed out, new research warns



England's public libraries are being quietly eroded, according to a major new study from the University of Sheffield. With physical collections shrinking and maintenance budgets falling in real terms, the research warns that libraries risk becoming unable to meet the diverse needs of their communities in the years ahead.

The research, commissioned by The Combined Regions (TCR) and conducted by the University of Sheffield, gathered data from 36 public library services across England and consulted a wide range of industry stakeholders. It paints a picture of a sector demonstrating resilience under serious structural pressure, but one increasingly stretched beyond sustainable limits.

Between 2022/23 and 2024/25, the average number of physical items per person held by library services fell from 1.49 to 1.26. Physical stock budgets were cut by an average of £18,761 in 2024/25. Yet over the same period, issues per person—a measure of how much libraries are actually used—rose from 3.62 to 3.73. Libraries are lending more from smaller collections, with less money to spend...

Source: [phys.org, 29 Jun 2026](#)

New Jersey launches library network for AI skills and workforce training



The New Jersey AI Hub, LibraryLinkNJ, and the New Jersey State Library have launched the NJ AI Library Learning Network, a statewide initiative that will use public libraries to deliver artificial intelligence literacy and workforce skills programs.

Five library systems will take part in the first phase. They will receive training, curriculum, resources, and ongoing support to provide practical AI learning opportunities within their communities.

The initial offer will cover three areas: AI for All, AI for Jobseekers, and AI for Small Business. The sessions will support residents seeking a basic understanding of AI, people preparing for work or career progression, and small business owners considering how the technology could be used in their operations.

The New Jersey State Library, an affiliate of Thomas Edison State University, is working with LibraryLinkNJ and the New Jersey AI Hub on the initiative. Microsoft TechSpark is also supporting the program.

Five library systems join first phase

The NJ AI Library Learning Network will provide participating libraries with

materials and technical support rather than asking each system to develop AI training independently.

Under the AI for All strand, libraries will offer introductory learning for residents seeking to understand how AI works and how it is being used. AI for Jobseekers will focus on employment and career-related applications, while AI for Small Business will support local business owners...

Source: [*ETIH*](#), 29 Jun 2026

Coexisting with the Machine



Artificial intelligence (AI) unsurprisingly remained a hot topic at this year's "Top Tech Trends" panel at the American Library Association's 2026 Annual Conference and Exhibition in Chicago on June 27. Several speakers, however, tempered their enthusiasm with nuanced discussion of specific applications for the technology.

Moderator Amanda Gray Perry, web and digital user experience librarian at Hesbergh Libraries at University of Notre Dame (Ind.), grounded the panel's discussions of AI in lived experience. "The more time I spend with technology, the more I am aware of the importance of including humanity in the process," she said, also citing Notre Dame's faith-informed DELTA framework for ethical AI.

Nicole Steeves, library technology director at Chicago Public Library, addressed the situations where AI may be appropriate, and where it isn't. In reference services, for example, "AI doesn't have the skills of a human, and it doesn't have the judgment of a librarian." Readers' advisory and traditional catalog search are areas similarly ill-suited for AI, she said.

A more promising use of AI is in real-time translation, she said, noting that Chicago's Rogers Park neighborhood is among the most linguistically diverse neighborhoods in the world. "Real-time translation can make it possible to serve them in a way we never have before." Other potential uses include improving accessibility and large-scale digitization...

Source: [American libraries, 27 Jun 2026](#)

Not just books - how renting a sewing machine from the library can improve democracy



Finland's libraries are increasingly being valued not by how many books they lend, but how they help societies function.

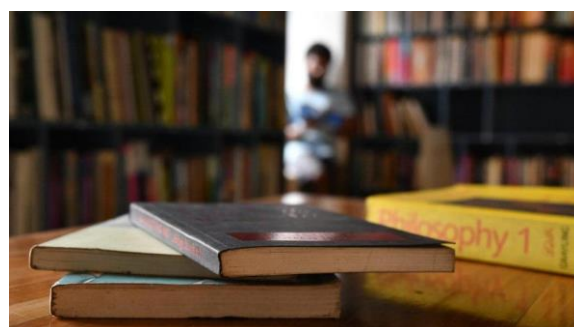
On a freezing January morning in Helsinki, around 20 people gather outside Oodi, the city's central library, waiting for the doors to open.

"I have tears in my eyes when I see people almost run into the building at

08:00, heading straight to their favourite spots," says Katri Vanttinen, director of library services for the whole of the Finnish capital. "It shows that the library really belongs to the public."...

Source: [BBC, 20 Jun 2026](#)

Library Science graduates face unemployment as schools rely on teachers



As another National Reading Day approaches, nearly all government schools in Kerala continue to face a persistent institutional gap—the absence of dedicated librarians.

According to reports, librarian posts remain completely vacant throughout State-run and aided institutions. Despite norms mandating dedicated library staff, successive governments have delayed permanent recruitment for over two decades. While the authorities cite severe financial crisis as the primary justification for freezing these appointments, this defence has drawn intense criticism from student groups and job aspirants alike.

Stopgap measure

"Every school collects mandatory library fees from students without delivering the actual professional services of a qualified librarian..."

Source: [The Hindu, 13 Jun 2026](#)

**This issue has been compiled by the
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Library, Gandhinagar**