



“There are worse crimes than burning books. One of them is not reading them.”

Joseph Brodsky.

## Vol. 5:1 , Spring 2021

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Dear Readers,

This is the second newsletter that we are issuing during the pandemic. Our new central library building A16 still has not much been tested by students as it was opened in February 2020 just one month before the pandemic started. Not everything had been set-up at the time. So, during 2020 we had to adjust to the pandemic but we also managed to execute some of the pending plans.

This newsletter reports these changes and happenings apart from the usual themes.

Hope to see you all soon back on campus.

**Dr. Astrid Kiehn**  
LAC Chair

## Updates on Library Facilities

It was long pending --delayed by the pandemic--, but finally the new RFID gates arrived and was installed at the central library building. They do not only raise an alarm when a book not checked out is to leave the library, but they also keep track of the number of visitors. The technicians also shifted the RFID gates at A5 building South Campus. The visitor of A5 intending to take out or return a book can now directly enter into the books section without crossing the reading room. The entry to the reading room from the staircase has been closed to ensure minimal disturbances.

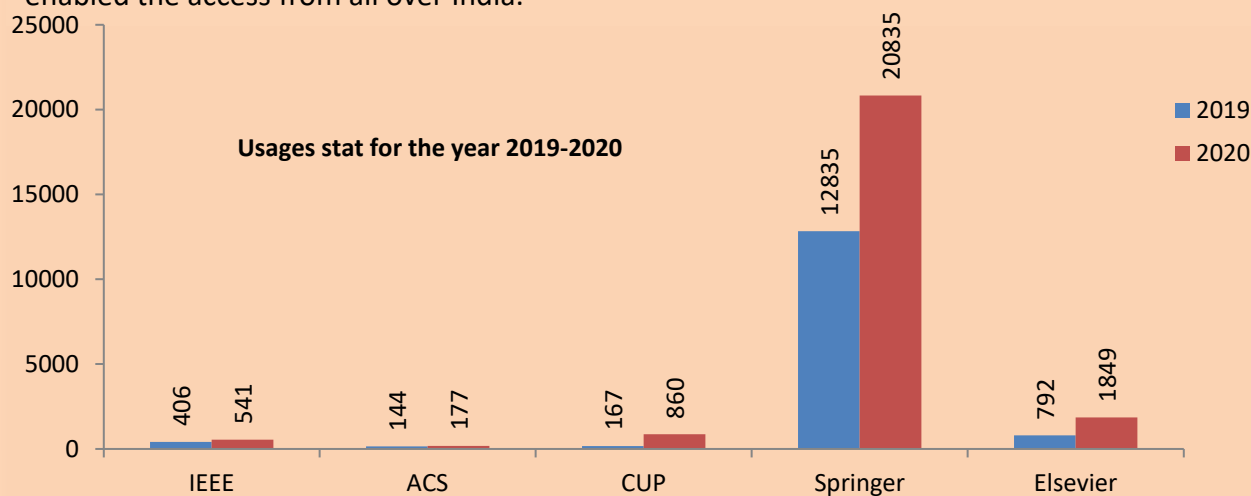


Major progress for A16 is that the central heating has now been put into operation. With this, the library will be a comfortable space for studying at the North campus during winters.

Other changes concern the adaptations to the pandemic. On both campuses, hand sanitation facilities have been installed. Books are sanitized after their return. As the night curfew of Himachal Pradesh was recently lifted, we have extended the opening hours to 9 pm at the South campus. Social distancing rules still apply. For users not on campus or not favouring visiting the library facilities, online services of the library have been augmented, see the compilation on the third page of the newsletter. We have also provided the statistics on page 2 showing the increased use of e-books during the pandemic.

## • E-books Usage Statistics Analysis

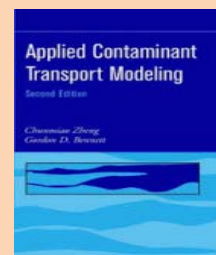
The Central Library of IIT Mandi has procured to 18 e-book databases in different subjects from a number of publishers. A comparison of the download data of five large publishers - IEEE, ACS, CUP, Springer and Elsevier – is given in the bar chart below for the years 2019 and 2020. As one would expect, there was a higher need of e-books during the pandemic. The remote access facility has enabled the access from all over India.



## Book Review

### Applied Contaminant Transport Modeling

By Chunmiao Zheng, Gordon D. Bennett



The book is one of the most detailed and fundamental books for groundwater flow and contaminant transport modeling. The book is written for a broad range

of readers spanning UG/PG and research scholars. The book provides a platform to build the knowledge foundation of the occurrence of groundwater, its flow in various geological formations, and its pollution from different sources (point and nonpoint). It contains the details of the application of Darcy's law and its limitation. The description of geologic formation based on the permeability and velocity vectors gives insight into the groundwater flow pattern within the aquifer. The development of the partial differential equations based on the physical processes is given in detail. Based on the heterogeneity of the porous medium and the complexity of the contamination, insight to develop various process-based models are guided.

The book also helps readers in understanding the fundamentals of numerical oscillations, limiter and conversion criteria. Towards the end, the readers are provided with enough details to build their own groundwater model, experimental data is provided to validate and calibrate the model.



**Dr. Deepak Swami**  
Assistant Professor,  
School of Engineering

## New Services During COVID-19

**Remote Access Service:** Keeping in mind COVID-19 situation, we had started a very valuable service and that is regarding the off campus access to our subscribed e-resources. More than 1000 users has used the same facility within a short span of time.

<https://library.iitmandi.ac.in/pdf/Help%20files/Remote%20Access.pdf>

<http://library.iitmandi.ac.in/os/erec/faculty/>

**Online E-resource Recommendation Facility:** Central Library, IIT Mandi subscribes & purchases e-resources in terms of e-books, e-journals & other databases every year on the basis of the inputs of our faculty members. To simplify the process we has created an online recommendation portal through which faculty members can submit their recommendations.

**E-books collection Database :** Central Library, IIT Mandi has a rich collection of more than 21000 e-books from different publishers. A separate portal allowing the user to search using different parameters has been created for the benefit of our clientele. Details on other databases related to the e-books are also available.

<http://library.iitmandi.ac.in/os/ebk/>

<http://odr.iitmandi.ac.in:8080/xmlui/>

**Online Digital Repository:** The library is maintaining an Institute Repository (IR) related to the scholarly publications of the IIT Mandi community. Bibliographic details of all MS and PhD Thesis/Dissertations of our students with searching facility has been updated within this portal. At present the collection comprises 194 thesis/dissertations.

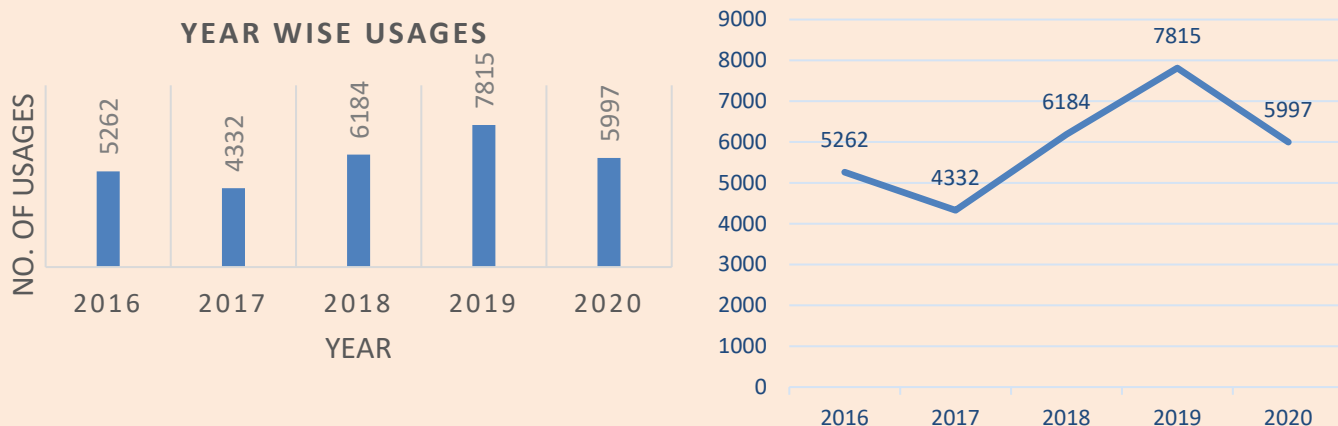
## Student Views about the Library

The Central Library in South Campus provides all required resources along with a reading room facility. I am a regular user of the reading room and find this place adequately comfortable to delve into readings and sit for long durations without feeling much fatigued. The library also has good Wi-Fi connectivity at all times. The sitting arrangement in the reading room is spacious enough to feel unhindered by fellow readers, and at the same time be in their company.

**Ms. Pooja Sankhyayan**  
PhD Student.

## Database to Know – Web of Science

The Central Library, IIT Mandi has subscribed to the citation analysis tool called "Web of Science" since 2016. WOS has a collection of thousands of peer-reviewed Journals, Books Series, Books and Conference papers and proceedings. WOS covers the records from 1900 to the present. Usage stats from 2016 to 2020 is displayed below. For more details on the "Web of science" [Click here](#)



## Faculty/Staff Views about the Library

"For a long time, I did not know where the offices of the Director, Registrar, Dean Faculty and Finance Officer of IIT Mandi were. I didn't know the location of the Faculty Recreation Club or the Medical Unit or the A10 building until the inevitable need arose to visit these places. But from my first day in IIT Mandi, I knew where the Institute's Central Library was. This was because I swore by the words of Albert Einstein, who once famously said: "The only thing that you absolutely have to know is the location of the library." IIT Mandi is only twelve years old. This is too short a period to develop a world-class library. In spite of these limitations, our Library has already become the best in Himachal Pradesh after the Indian Institute of Advanced Study library, Shimla. With 20000 print books, 21000 e-books and 20000 journals, the Library has become an enviable shrine of knowledge within a dozen-odd year.

It has an exquisite collection of books bubbling with thoughts, ideas and stories. From differential equations and condensed matter physics to the human genome project and Weinberg's story of the first three minutes of the universe, from the philosophies of Plato and Aristotle to the political critiques of Althusser and Agamben, from the Annales history of Europe to the history of the river Ganga, and from the Ramayana and the Mahabharata to the Constitution of India, we have it all, with more books being added year after year. Please visit the library at least once in a fortnight, and believe me, it will change your life forever."



**Dr. Manu V Devadevan**

Assistant Professor

School of Humanities and Social Sciences