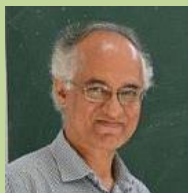# Central Library
IIT Mandi

Newsletter

"Library has been the centre of all progress in the history of mankind"   **- Unknown**

Message from The Director

T. A. Gonsalves
Director

The Central Library in a university has traditionally been a vast repository of books. Often it is a hallowed repository, akin to a cathedral where devotees tread cautiously and quietly, where library staff kept a watchful eye on their precious collections.

Today, with information becoming more and more digital in form, online in nature, the Library is undergoing a sea change. It still has books, but an increasing fraction of its resources are online. No more are students compelled to visit the Library to tap its fount of knowledge.

With the completion of the North Campus, our Library will soon have several new locations to complement its current home in A5. This raises a question: is "Central Library" an apt name for such a distributed facility?

Congratulations to the Library Staff on bringing out this first newsletter. We expect that this newsletter will serve to keep the IIT faculty and students aware of the trends in library services.

Message from The Chair, LAC

Astrid Kiehn
LAC, chair

Dear Members of the IIT Community,

With this newsletter, the library aims at regularly informing you about new developments, happenings and its future plans. You will also find bits of readings: a book excerpts, book reviews, reader views etc. We hope you will find this mixture of information and entertainment useful and enjoyable, and look forward to your feedback and many visits to the library.

Opening Hours

Monday to Friday
8:00 AM to 12 Midnight
Saturdays & Sundays
8:00 AM to 9:00 PM

Circulation Counter
Monday to Saturday
9:00 AM to 6:00 PM
Sunday Closed

Central Library : An Overview

Central Library IIT Mandi is an information hub where all types of users' information needs are satisfied. From the very beginning of the institute, the library renders its services to students, faculty and staff. From only print books that constituted the total collection of the library, it has now been transformed into an information centre that has documents in various forms, which range from print books to e-books & print magazines to e-journals/databases. Currently, the library has more than 16,500 print books collection and subscribes to almost all major databases and journals in the fields relevant to the IIT Mandi courseware. The circulation system has also seen its development from manual register entry to RFID system.

Growth of print books collection can be seen by the fact that till March 2011 there were 7000 print books volumes for the 171 (including 33 faculty) of the library's users. Till March 2017, for the user community that has grown up to nearly 900, the print volumes have been increased to more than 16,500. In the same way, in 2011, there were approx. 30 e-journals and 9 full text plus one bibliographic e-databases were being subscribed. In the subscription year of 2017, this figure has been changed to approx. 300 e-journals, 15 full text & 3 bibliographic e-databases. Also Central Library has a very rich collection of more than 11,000 e-books titles from various publication houses including Elsevier, Springer, Wiley, IEEE, Pearson, McGraw Hill, Oxford, University Press, etc.

Library Advisory Council

Dr. Astrid Kiehn
(Chair)
Dr. Shyam K. Masakapalli
(Member)
Dr. Suman
(Member)
Dr. Sarita Azad
(Member)
Dr. Satvasheel Powar
(Member)
Dr. Renu Rameshan
 (Member)
Mr. NS Bhandari
(Member Sect.)

Vol. 1, Summer 2017

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Recommended Readings

In every issue, the newsletter will publish a list of such books which fit in the category of "Recommended Readings." These titles have been recently acquired by the library and will be available for easy access to the readers. The Central Library does not claim that it is a book worth reading but basis the selection of that title in the recommended readings because of its the online reviews and the star ratings. Each title has been provided with a URL link in order to facilitate a reader to make an informed decision before picking up such a book to read.

	Star Rating
1. Chris Bernhardt : Turing's vision-the birth of computer science (MIT Press)	4.75/5
2. Siddhartha Mukherjee : The gene-an intimate history (Penguin Books)	4.35/5
3. Frantz Fanon : The wretched of the earth (Penguin Books)	4.16/5
4. Peter D. Schiff : How an economy grows and why it crashes (John Wiley)	4.12/5
5. Katherine Frank : Indira -the life of Indira Nehru Gandhi (HarperCollins)	3.91/5
6. Thomas Elliott Berry : The most common mistakes in English usage (McGraw Hill)	3.75/5
7. Tyler Cowen : The great stagnation-how America ate all the low hanging fruit of modern history, got sick, and will (eventually) feel better (Penguin Books)	3.73/5

* This is not an exclusive list of procured books. Selection has been based on star rating given on the website
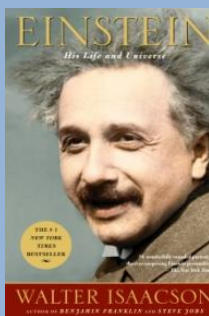
Know books arrangement scheme in Central Library, IIT Mandi

Class, in the language of 'Library science,' is a permanent place where a book on a particular topic is found. It can be understood by an example. Let us take a book titled, 'Solid-state physics' written by C. Kittel, classified as **530.41.** When you want to find a book on 'solid-state,' irrespective of all other elements of a book, you directly go to the above said class no. i.e. 530.41. In the library, you will find all the books on 'solid state' under this class no. This is done by using a classification scheme-DDC (Dewey Decimal Classification) devised in 1876, which is being used by majority of the libraries in the world. It means wherever you go, chances are that you use a library which applies this classification scheme and there also, you will find all books on 'solid-state' at the location of **530.41**. The class no. is followed by 'Book No.' and both constitute 'Call No.

Must Read

Every issue of the newsletter will bring to you a review of one book which is considered to be a 'Must Read.' The book will be recommended by one of the members of the IIT Mandi faculty.

Einstein: His Life and Universe-by Walter Isaacson

Einstein: His Life and Universe is one of the finest biographies written in recent times, and arguably the best account yet on the life and works of Albert Einstein. It portrays the odds against which a lowly clerk at the Swiss Patent Office wrestled to eventually become the greatest ever genius in the history of science. Einstein's convictions in the truths he discovered intuitively, his challenge to the establishment and scientific orthodoxy of his times, and his opposition to war and commitment to a just, equitable, and peaceful world order, forms a fascinating story, told here with wit, candour, and ingenuity. While reading this book you can still feel the impressions of his work on present time. I personally feel that this story of a great scientist can be found very fascinating not only for a reader interested in science but a non-science reader also. This book is essential reading and a guidebook for mankind in the troubled times it lives in.

Contributed by
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IEEE Xplore Digital Library

The IEEE *Xplore* digital library is a powerful resource for scientific and technical contents published by the IEEE (Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers) and its publishing partners. IEEE *Xplore* provides web access to more than three-million full-text documents in electrical engineering, computer science and electronics. Approximately 20,000 new documents are added to *IEEE Xplore* each month. The contents in IEEE *Xplore* comprise of:

- 170+ journals
- 1,400+ conference proceeding, and
- 5,100+ technical standards

> IIT Mandi has access from Vol. 1, Issue 1 to 508 e-resources published in various document types

Besides the above said collection, e-books from IEEE-Wiley (1974-2014), Computing & Engineering collection from IEEE-MIT Press (1974-2014) & Morgan & Claypool (2006-2013) have also been procured by IIT Mandi.

Searching the database: Searching the IEEE database is very easy. For a layman who has just start using IEEE, the easiest approach may be by the simple keyword. Besides simple search, Advanced search, Publication search and Command search options are available to reduce the number of hits and raise the relevance. Advanced search option facilitates the search by the provision of Boolean operators AND, OR

> IIT Mandi has perpetual access to 1400+ e-books available on IEEE platform

and NOT. Publication search is used when you exactly know 2/3 search terms to get the most accurate result. Command search option is a unique way to manipulate the search approach in various ways.
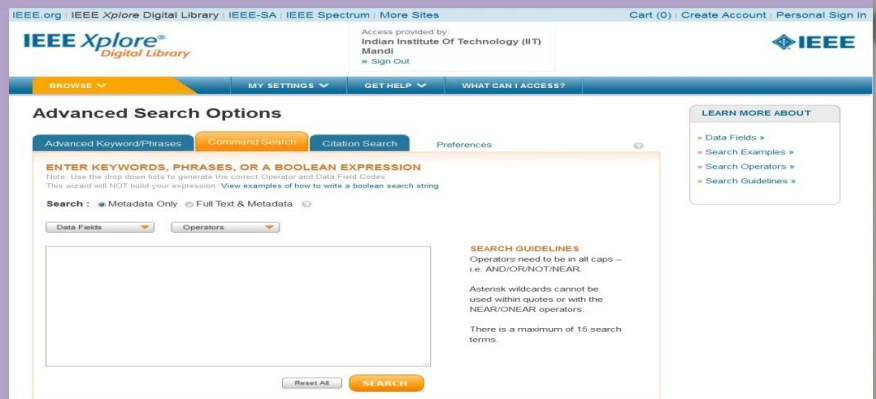
Interactive HTML Articles is a unique way to explore an article from various points of view to analyse the authenticity. Among the search results click on the HTML link and it will show you an interactive page containing various tabs named as Abstract, Authors, Figures, Multimedia, References, Cited by, and Keyword.
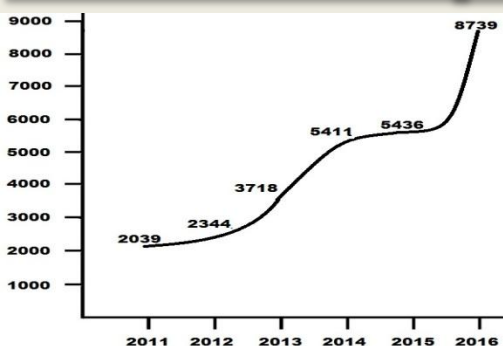
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A view of 'Command Search' Option

Usage

IIT Mandi started subscribing IEEE database from 2011. In 2011, 427 full-text e-resources were accessible under the umbrella of IEEE Xplore with 2039 downloads. In the span of 6 years of continuous subscription, with the growing community of IIT Mandi, the usage has now increased up to 8739 downloads with 508 e-resources till the end of December 2016. From the usage point of view, IEEE is the third most used database among all the subscribed databases by IIT Mandi.

Feedback of Library Users

At the beginning of this semester, the library collected its first online feedback to assess user satisfaction and to identify issues and requests. With 13 faculty members, 15 research scholars, 1 staff member and 42 students providing feedback, the participation was less than hoped for. Still some general observations could be made. We give a brief summary here; the full feedback may be accessed in the library near the magazine section.

Most of the questions offered a choice between five given answers. For the evaluation, we translated answers indicating the highest degree of satisfaction/agreement to a numerical 5 "grade", those expressing lowest satisfaction/agreement to a 1, and others in between, respectively. In the following, (x,y,z) stands for the average grades given by faculty (x), research scholars (y) and students (z), respectively.

We were happy to see that the professional behavior of library staff and their dealings with users was appreciated with (4.31, 4.40, 4.21). Most questions concerning library services (library orientation program, book circulation hours, book sorting in shelves, computer facilities, library webpages, announcement of new media by sms/email, procurement time of new media, help with unavailable resources) were graded with 3 or better by all the groups. Exceptions concern the size of the reading room, (2.08,3.21,2.86), and the adequacy of printing and photocopying facilities, (2.80,2.33,2.61). In both cases, this outcome was expected due to the lack of space or facilities. The recent extension of the opening hours of the reading room to 12 midnight being sufficient was rated (3.91, 3.71, 3.91).

Concerning resources, users participating in the feedback were less satisfied. The statement "resources meet my research needs" was answered with (2.31, 3.00, 2.72), and likewise "resources are appropriate for my course needs" with (2.92, 3.07,2.73). These results were essentially confirmed by the reply to "there are not sufficient resources on the topic I am researching" with (2.69, 3.67, 3.45). Faculty members appear to either have a better understanding of what can successfully be sought or missed the negation in the question.

Another set of questions was related to the use of online media and online search. The e-book collection is not used by many; (2.77, 2.43, 1.97) is the answer to "have you ever used the E-books collection?" This answer correlates with the preference to read printed books rather than their online-versions (4.15, 4.40, 4.22). Difficulties with downloading e-resources seem less but correlate with their use: (2.67, 2.40, 2.23) concerning e-books and (3.69, 2.91, 1.90) concerning articles (question: "have you ever experienced any difficulty while downloading an e-book/article?"). Web OPAC system is mainly used from within the library by scholars and students, (2.58, 3.43, 3.40).

The remaining set of questions – definite and open – aimed at getting a better understanding of users' needs and wishes concerning the new library to be set up at the north campus. The answers given emphasized the wish to have an environment which encourages a longer stay: easy orientation, clear book sorting, seating arrangements close to the shelves, water and coffee facilities. The many requests concerning the reading room emphasized its importance for students to learn and study: requests were made for partitioned tables, lockers, group study facilities, more space, more books and e-resources, and full day opening.

All in all, the feedback was a useful exercise. Some of the issues mentioned like noisy chairs in the reading room could immediately be resolved, others we are working upon (procurement of a photocopy machine, AC). We obtained useful inputs for the upcoming library and hope to implement many of the features requested. We thank all the users who gave their feedback and shared their vision with us.

Astrid Kiehn
LAC, Chair

Quiz

• Fiction collection has been arranged separately from regular collection, Yes or No?
• A student can get issue book(s) during vacation period, Yes or No?
Give your answer *Here* & get a chance to win surprise gift !

Feedback

• Have you find newsletter informative?
• Which is good part?
• Which is bad part?
• What all would you like to find in next issue?
Give your Feedback *Here*