



“The only thing that you absolutely have to know, is the location of the library.”
- Albert Einstein

Vol. 4:1, Winter 2019 in this issue

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Dear Readers,

The autumn semester is almost over. Despite our hopes we had not been able to shift the central library to the new library building, A16. Some adjustments within the building had to be executed. However, we utilized the semester to analyze library statistics to obtain a better understanding of users’ behavior and needs. This issue of the newsletter is therefore dedicated to statistics. Circulation of course text and reference books was started in the satellite library on North campus in August 2019. It turned out that the number of books checked out in the satellite is higher than the respective number on South campus. We further looked in more detail into the checkout data and related them to student residence campus-wise. Our (interesting) findings are summarized in the article below. We thank the student office for supporting us with hostel residence numbers.

The new semester will see many changes in the library. Furniture has arrived and books are already packed to be transferred to the North campus. We hope to see many of you in the new and old, but changed library facilities.

Dr. Astrid Kiehn, LAC, Chair

Library Statistics :-

Over the concluding semester, we evaluated the statistics of the library to get a better understanding of users’ behavior and needs. The checkout numbers of books and the number of visits to the library at South campus (SC) and the satellite library at North campus (NC) were correlated with hostel resident numbers of BTech, MSc, MS, MTech, and PhD students. Since August 2019, all BTech students are residing on North campus. In turn, most MSc, MS, and MTech students are now living on South campus. PhD students are more evenly distributed over the two campuses. Residence per campus and academic years is given in Figure 1. The total number of book checkouts is given in Figure 2.

HostelResidents	AY 17/18			AY 18/19			AY 19/20		
	SC	NC	total	SC	NC	total	SC	NC	total
BTech	407	130	537	280	341	621	0	739	739
MA, MS, MSc, MTech	121	82	203	213	132	345	433	64	497
PhD	202	52	254	81	177	258	174	101	275
total	730	264	994	574	650	1224	607	904	1511

Figure 1: Number of students residing in hostels campus-wise in Autumn Semester 2019.

User Group	Spring Semester 2018 (AY 17/18)	Autumn Semester 2018 (AY 18/19)	Spring Semester 2019 (AY 18/19)	Autumn Semester 2019 (AY 19/20)
Btech	1958	2252	1839	2210=2013 (NC) +197 (SC)
MA, MS, MSc, Mtech	1431	1651	1588	1701=429(NC)+1272 (SC)
PhD	873	770	678	472=131(NC)+341 (SC)
Total	4762	4673	4105	4383=2573(NC)+1810 (SC)

Figure 2: Number of book Checkouts per user group.

Our first comparison concerned the data for the spring semesters of 2018 and 2019. Much to our surprise, the total number of books checked out had declined though the number of students had increased by 19%. The number of books checked out by BTech students went down from 1958 to 1839, while for the same time period the number of BTech students went up by 13.5%. There is no clear explanation for this drop, but the residence on NC which at the time did not have book circulation facilities might be one reason. In the 2018 spring semester only 3rd year BTech students were staying on NC, while in the respective semester in 2019 it was 3rd and 4th year students. For PhD students, the number of book checkouts dropped more dramatically, and during these springs the majority of them was on SC in 2018 and on NC in 2019. However, there may be other explanations like open book exams taken in a big course or not. It may also be that online material is more heavily used in courses and for self study.

Figure 3 contains the average number of checkouts per student for the last four semesters. This includes the last semester which had book circulation on both campuses. The announced service of remote checkout (from NC with collection on the next day) was not used by anyone.

Checkout period	BTech	MSc	MA	MTech	MS	PhD
Feb - May 2018	3.6	11.2	-	5.0	2.9	3.4
Aug - Nov 2018	3.6	6.6	2.5	3.6	3.9	3
Feb - May 2019	3.0	6.7	4.0	3.0	3.0	2.6
Aug - Nov 2019	3.0	3.6	4.0	3.1	4.1	1.8

Figure 3: Average number of books checked out by students over the last four semesters.

The majority of the most frequent library users stays on South campus where they have to share the 46 seats of the reading room. The ground facts show that this number of seats is not sufficient: at night the class rooms in A5 are used for self and group studies. Regarding NC, it currently has 75 seats in the satellite. With the occupation of the new library building (A16), the ratio of study seats per student residents on NC will further improve as around 100 study seats will be added to the existing 75 seats. But also SC will benefit from this change. Most of the books will shift to NC, so there will be more space for study seats. In the long term, however, it has been recognized that more night study seats for the library on South campus are desirable given that approximately 500 more student residents will occupy the hostels currently under construction.

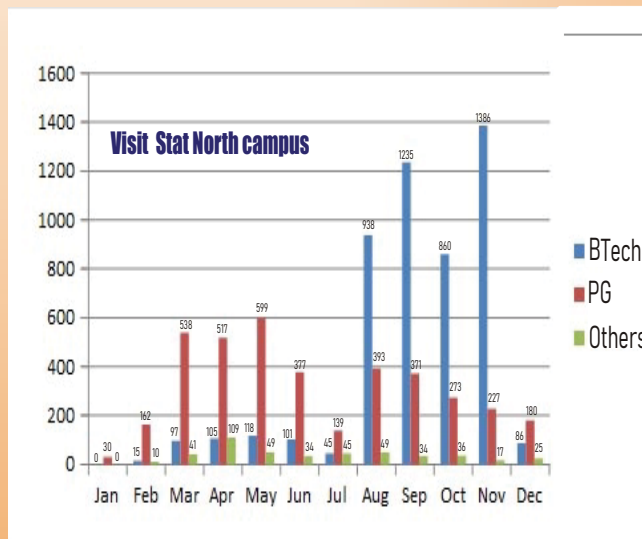
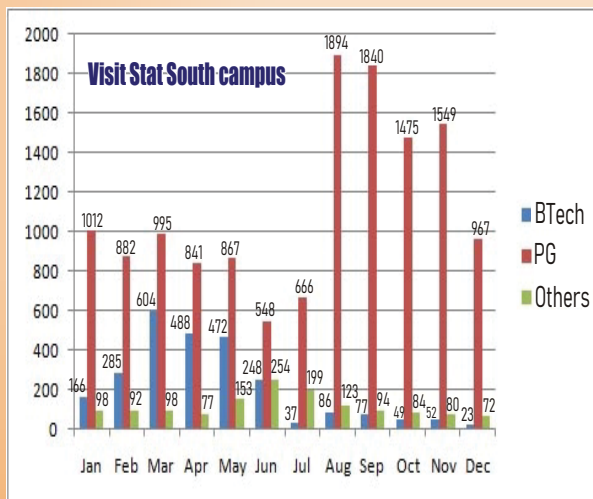
Most Circulated Books during Jan-Dec 2019 with star Rating

The books mentioned below are the most circulated during the last year and also have a good star ratings. We found the rating from www.goodreads.com

Sr. No.	Details of Books	Check-outs	Star Rating
1.	Thomas Calculus by George B. Thomas-Pearson,2009	217	1
2.	Elementary Engineering Drawing by N.D. Bhatt- Charortar Publishing house, 2008	138	2
3.	Basic Electrical Engineering by D.P. Kothari-Tata McGraw Hill, 2008	116	3
4.	Basic Electrical Engineering by Nagsarkar T.K.- Oxford University Press, 2011	79	4
5.	Signals and Systems by A.V. Oppenheim, Prentice Hall, 1997	56	5
6.	Thomas Calculus by Weir, M.D. -Pearson Education, 2009	56	6
7.	Introduction to Algorithms by Cormen Thomas - Prentice Hall, 2009	50	6
8.	Network Analysis and Synthesis by F.F. Kuo- Wiley India, 2009	47	7
9.	Design of Analog CMOS Integrated Circuits by Behzad Razavi- Tata McGraw Hill, 2010	47	7
10.	Electrical Engineering: Principles and Applications by Allan R. Hambley- PHI Learning, 2013	38	8
11.	Phyton Programming for the Absolute Beginners by Michael Dawson-Cengage Learning,2010	35	9
12.	Advanced Mechanics of Solids by L.S. Srinath- McGraw Hill, 2009	35	9
13.	Phyton Data Science Handbook : essential tools for working with data by Jake Vanderplas- SPD, 2017	33	10
14.	Textbook of Electrical Technology (Vol. 1) by B.L. Theraja- S. Chand, 2009	33.	10

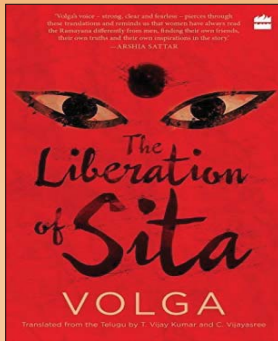
Library Visit Details

Total number of library visits for the period of Jan - Dec. 2019 is 17,547 for South Campus, and 9,241 for North Campus . on South Campus August has the maximum number users (2103). On the other hand, on North Campus September has the maximum number of users (1640).



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Book Review :-



The Liberation of Sita

Author: Volga (Popuri Lalita Kumari); **Translators:** T. Vijay Kumar and C. Vijayasree
Publisher: Harper Perennial, 2016

Volga's *The Liberation of Sita* translated from Telugu is a feminist retelling of the stories of Sita and other female characters of India's oldest and most popular epic *Ramayana*. The winner of Sahitya Akademi Award 2015, this work deviates from the version by Valmiki markedly. The book traces the journey of Sita through various ordeals, that set her off on the path of Self-discovery. She meets other women, who by sharing their experiences with her help her gain strength and wisdom, resulting in her eventual 'liberation'. Volga tries to subvert the main narrative using minor female characters of the epic, who try to escape the shackles of patriarchy

by questioning the notions of beauty, loyalty, motherhood, dharma. This tradition of using mythological characters to share social message has long since existed in Telugu literature as told by the author in an afterword.

The stories are told from Sita's point of view, as she meets these women, who were betrayed by the men in their lives in the name of duty, but remain strong instead of resigning themselves to fate. The four women, Surpanakha, Ahalya, Renuka and Urmila help Sita build a life of her own through their experiences. The interactions between the characters happen in the form of dialogues, where the voices of these minor figures are as important as that of Sita. Each one of these characters help Sita along her journey toward independence and self-assurance. The last chapter shows the internal turmoil of Rama, who is torn between his duty for his state as the ruler and love for Sita. He remains shackled to his responsibilities till the end, whereas Sita gains freedom and control.

The translation appears disjointed and simplistic sometimes, but the author's strong voice is carried over. The characterisation of Rama and the rivalry between Aryans and Dravidians may appear biased, but overall the book provides a compelling alternative reading of India's most loved moral story. Although it received widespread flak when it was published, it delivers a strong message. It is a powerful book for everyone who is familiar with the famous epic, but especially recommended for girls and women who have been conditioned to accept things as they exist, with mythological stories only serving as a guidebook on how to conduct oneself.

Reviewed by
Dr. Neha Kaushik

Exhibition Board :-

Since last year the library is maintaining a display board exhibiting books related to some important days of days of the calendar. So far, the days celebrated in this way were World Hindi Day, National Tourism Day, India's Republic Day, National Women's Day, National Science Day, Earth Day, Himachal Diwas, World Environment Day, Indian Independence Day, Teachers' Day, Hindi Diwas, Engineers' Day, World Tourism Day and Children's Day. While continuing with these exhibitions, we are planning to introduce more topic shelves, like special topics in computer science. Library users are invited to suggest other topics which may be of general interest.



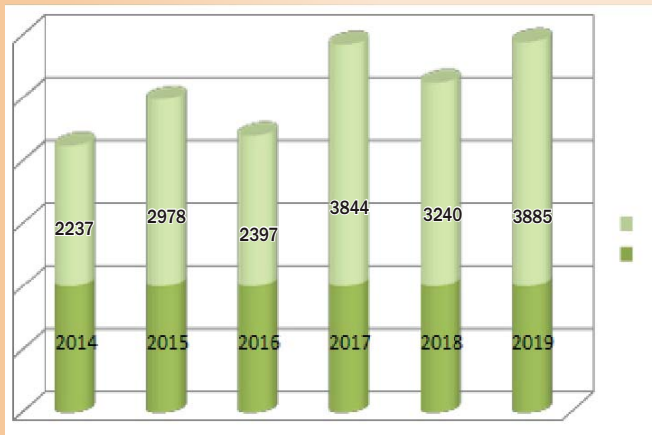
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JSTOR

JSTOR is a digital library containing digitized issues of academic journals providing full-text access to 12 million academic journal articles, 85,000 books, and 2 million primary source documents in 75 disciplines. It collaborates with the libraries to connect students and faculty to vital content and low-cost access to scholarship, while helping publishers reach out to new authors and audiences. Founded in 1995, JSTOR today provided free or low-cost access to more than 1,500 institutions all around the globe. It strives to work with experts to preserve the original print publications and make them available for future use. Through digitization of printed scholarly journals, it helps participating libraries to free physical space and reduce capital cost associated with storage and access. In 2009, JSTOR merged with ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that works to advance and preserve knowledge and improve teaching, learning, and research through the use of digital technologies.

Use statistics of JSTOR facility by IIT Mandi for last five years is given below:

Year	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Usage	2237	2978	2397	3844	3240	3885



A Request to Reading Room Users

It has been observed that many users of the reading room on South campus occupy a seat by comfortably spreading out laptop, books and notes, but after some time they leave the room for a longer period. In that way the reading room often looks totally occupied though many seats are indeed vacant. We request such occupiers to pack their belongings and leave them neatly in some corner of the table (on their own risk), so that newcomers can find a seat. It is admitted that the number of study seats in the library on South campus currently is less. It should soon increase but for the time being, we request users to please adjust to the shortage and give everybody a fair chance to study there.

Staff Views about Library



Dr. Chander Singh
(Medical Officer)

The library is a very special place in the IIT Campus with its rich collection of books and journals. IIT Mandi Library operations are automated using KOHA. It is a sanctum place for scholars and researchers. It fulfills users informational need in both print and electronic format. Although the institute does not have any formal course pertaining to medical science, still the library has a good collection in this field. Apart from the collection, what attracts me most is its tranquil ambience.

The Central Library with its modern collection and knowledge base and innovative information services plays an indispensable role for students, faculty and the surrounding community in their intellectual pursuits.

“ Libraries store the energy that fuels the imagination. They open up windows to the world and inspires us to explore and achieve, and contribute to improving our quality of life.”



(Sidney Sheldon (1917-2007. American writer and producer)



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