

# INFORMANIA

ANNUAL NEWSLETTER OF BIPIN CHANDRA MEMORIAL LIBRARY

**RADHAMADHAB COLLEGE, SILCHAR**

Vol. IX

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## The Blazing of TRAIL

**PROF. PARTHA SARKAR**

Professor and Head

Department of Mass Communication,  
Assam University, Silchar

The first newspaper in the Assamese language was "Orunodoi" (অৰুণোদই), which means "The Dawn." It was first published in 1846 under the guidance of Nathan Brown, an American Baptist missionary. *Orunodoi* is credited with shaping modern Assamese prose and reviving the Assamese language, which had been overshadowed by Bengali under British administration. This newspaper marked the beginning of Assamese journalism and was an important step in the cultural and linguistic revival of Assam. The missionaries visualized the need for a vehicle to spread the message of Christ and the liberal ideas of the West. Their need for obtaining a suitable media resulted in the birth of Orunodoi.

The Assamese language, the medium of vernacular journalism of the Assamese people, can be traced back to the seventh century. It developed literary forms only by the 13th century. Rudra Kandali's translation of the *Dronaparva* and Madhava Kandali's rendering of the *Ramayana* are the two works of classical eminence of the early period. The new Vaishnavite movement in the 15th century gave an impetus to the development of Assamese literature. Sankardeva popularized this movement by his great poetic compositions, dramas and lyrics.

The American Baptist Missionaries had a plan to enter China and to spread Christianity in that country. The American Baptist Foreign Missionary union took keen interest in this regard. The Chinese authorities did not allow any foreigner to enter China. So the Baptist Missionaries cancelled their plan. In 1836, Major F. Jenkins Commissioner of Assam wrote to Mr Trevellyan, a civil serviceman in Bengal, inviting the Baptist Missionaries to start a station at Sadiya.



It was really interesting to learn about the activities of these Baptists in Assam - how they mixed with the Assamese people and learnt the language within a short period, how they innovated a new literature and journalism and imparted a new education in a modern form through that language, how they carried their mission forward with the help of a young Assamese civil officer, Anandaram Dhekiyal Phukan.

The *Orunodoi* was published in two sections, the magazine and the newspaper, and the varying sizes of the two were maintained up to 1850. In that period the size of the *Orunodoi* was eight pages. From 1851, the newspaper size was doubled to sixteen pages. The wide readership of the *Orunodoi* proves that it became popular among the educated people, -- both Christian and non-Christian. In the beginning in 1846, 249 Assamese persons subscribed to the paper. In 1867-68, the number of subscribers went up to about 700. But after that period the numbers of subscribers are not available.

The *Orunodoi* made a sterling contribution not only towards the growth and development of the modern Assamese language and literature but also towards the growth of a new outlook in the minds of the Assamese people.

The *Orunodoi* played a very significant role in fostering the consciousness of the Assamese people towards their mother tongue and thereby in infusing a spirit of nationalism. The language used in *Orunodoi* may be termed as the first trend of a secular literature in the state, free from the 18th century religious feelings. Another contribution of the *Orunodoi* was the introduction of a 'Book Review' alongside lists of new books. Notable among these was the publication of the review of the *Assamiya Larar Mitra* (Friend of Assamese Youth) by Anandaram Dhekiyal Phukan by *Orunodoi*, (Vol IV, 10, October 1849), appreciating the motive and the attempt of the writer.

The contributions of the *Orunodoi* had its manifold effects on the Assamese society. For the first time, it created a conscious readership among the people. It also sought new paths in the cultural life of the people of Assam. The long existence of *Orunodoi* besides being an indication of its professionalism, proves that even in those days of 'Journalism as a Mission', a good financier was required.

## ***Message from the Principal***



*I feel proud and happy to know that Bipin Chandra Memorial Library, Radhamadhab College, Silchar is going to publish its tenth edition of Annual Newsletter "INFORMANIA". The very name of this newsletter suggests that it is full of information. Library is the store house of knowledge and a library newsletter can be the mouth piece of the library which will provide information about the services and facilities available in the library for the users. The publication of the library newsletter reflects the rich academic environment/atmosphere prevailing in the institution.*

*The constant endeavour of the Librarian to improve the services and facilities in the library is really commendable. This newsletter will keep the users abreast of library happenings and resources available in the library.*

*I wish a grand success of this fabulous newsletter.*

(Dr. Debashish Roy)

*Principal*

## ***From the desk of the Librarian***



I am happy to bring out the 10<sup>th</sup> edition of the Annual Newsletter of the library-“Informania”, which reflects the activities of the library during the academic session 2023-24. This intends to keep the library users in touch with the library issues and services. I on behalf of the entire team of library invite you all to our college library, make meaningful use of the library and of course give us your valued suggestions so to make improvisations in the library. The introduction of WEB OPAC, Institutional Repository, concept like ‘Library at the Doorstep through Mobile’, Smart Attendance and Smart Display have added more feathers in the crown in addition to OPAC, Bar-Code Technology, E-Resources, Online Memberships, Digital Library, Reprography, Internet, Smart Card, etc. The library intends to develop more options for better services in the coming years. My special thanks to the Principal, Dr. Debashish Roy for his constant encouragement and consent to do something positive for the library. I express my gratitude to the members of the Library Committee for their positive advisory role. The library cannot function without my staff members, Sri Galim Gangmei, Library Assistant, Sri Kamalesh Das and Sri Sandip Das, Library Bearer, Sri Ujjal Karmakar, Data Entry Operator and Smt. Supriya Roy, Library Attendant and I owe my sincere gratitude to them.

Last but not the least, I thankfully acknowledge the approval of the Publication Cell to publish this newsletter.

With warm regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read 'S. Choudhury'.

(Dr. Sonali Choudhury)  
Librarian (Editor)

### ***Services provided by the library:***

- *Computerized Library Database of 19,750 books using SOUL 3.0 Library Management Software.*
- *Computerized Circulation Service with Bar-code enabled Library Smart Card.*
- *Computerized Catalogue (OPAC).*
- *Concept like ‘Library at the Door Step through Mobile’ with WEB OPAC facility.*
- *Library\_Webpage: [www.rmcollege.org/library](http://www.rmcollege.org/library)*
- *Special Collection on: Barak Valley, North-East, Women Studies, Book Bank, Research Works, Literary Works, etc.*
- *Internet (with Wi-Fi connection)*

- *Digital Library (with D Space Software) with Clients, Server and Software.*
- *E-Resources and online memberships.*
- *Reprography.*
- *Departmental Library.*
- *Regular subscription of 30 periodicals.*
- *Annual Library Orientation Programme.*
- *Binding of books and compilation of journals and periodicals.*
- *Spacious Reading Room for students and staff.*
- *Smart Library Attendance, Smart Display, etc.*

### ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED DURING 2023-24:

#### 1. Five-Days Online Short Term Course:

Five-Days Online Short Term Course on “Application of ICT in Higher Education” was organized by IQAC in collaboration with National Institute of Electronics and Information Technology (NIELIT), Guwahati with the support of the library from 31/07/2023 to 04/08/2023. All the faculty members from the college and few participants from other institutes participated in the course.



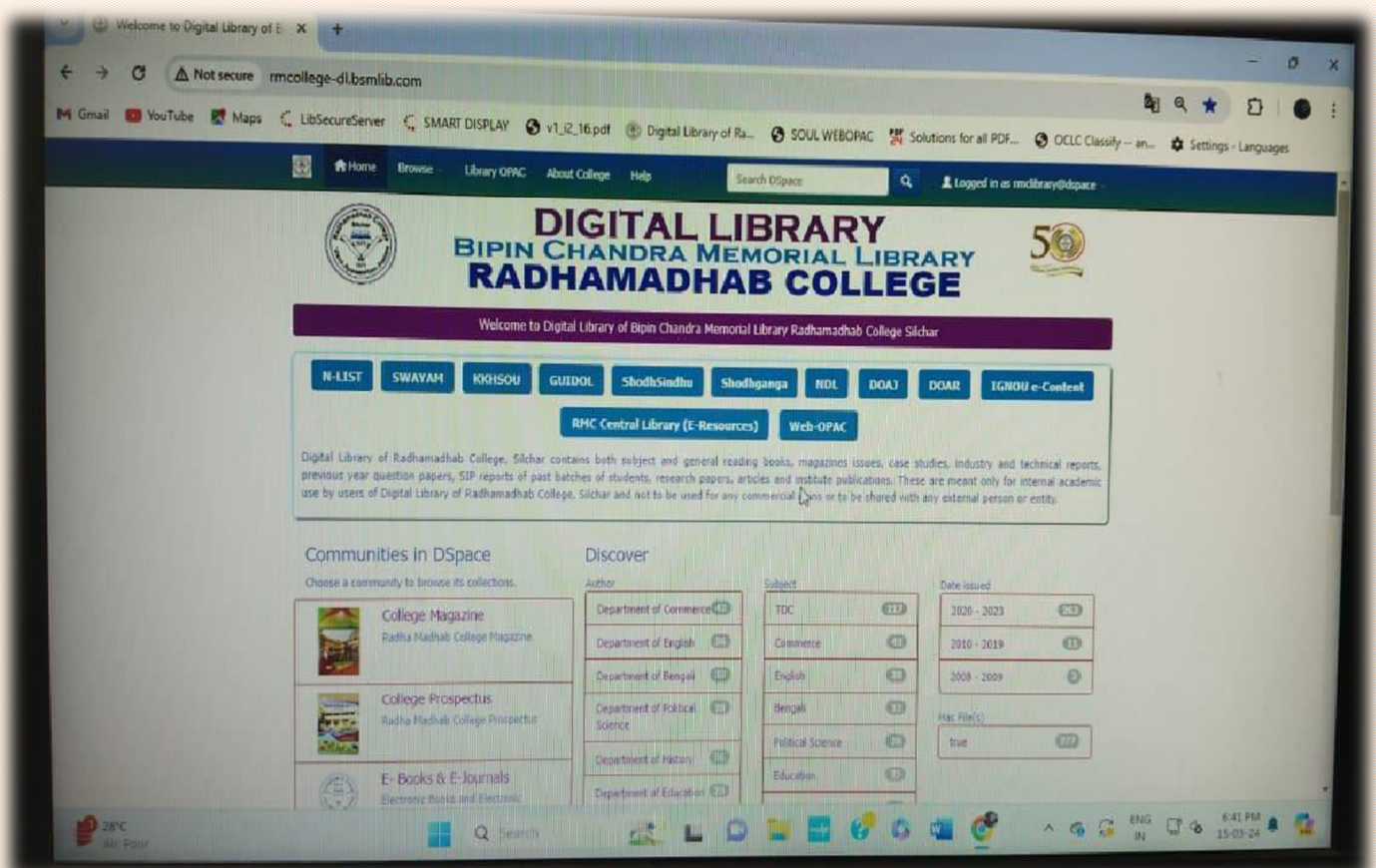
## 2. Celebration of Librarians' Day:

The library participated in the celebration of National Librarians' Day on 12<sup>th</sup> August, 2023 in collaboration with Assam College Librarians' Association (ACLA) in Women's College, Silchar with a seminar on "Implementation of LIS Education at FYUGP with Special Reference to NEP 2020" with Prof. Mukut Sharma, Head, Dept. of Library and Information Science, Assam University, Silchar as the key-note speaker.



## 3. Initiation of 3.0 facilities in the library:

The library has initiated facilities like Smart Card (Bar-Code enabled), Digital Library (Institutional Repository) with a cloud-based storage, WEB-OPAC and concepts like 'Library at the door-step through mobile'.



## Workshop on 'Introduction of 3.0 Facilities':

A one-day workshop on 'Introduction of 3.0 Facilities' was organized by the library on 19<sup>th</sup> March, 2024 to explain the users as to how to use the recent developments in the library which are called 3.0 facilities like Digital Library with a cloud-based storage, WEB-OPAC and concepts like 'Library at the door-step through mobile'.



## 4. Best Library User Award:

Best Library User Award was conferred on two students who have optimally used the library by Principal, Dr. Debashish Roy in presence of Vice-Principal, IQAC Coordinator(s), Library Committee members, teachers and students.

## 5. Smart Attendance System and Smart Display in the library:

The library has come up with new system of record for library visitors with Bar-Code enabled Smart Library Card and smart display of library visitors' record along with details of facilities and services of the library in the Display Monitor.



BIPIN CHANDRA MEMORIAL LIBRARY RADHAMADHAB COLLEGE	
Library Collections	
BOOKS	: 20000
PRINT JOURNALS	: 30
BOUND VOLUMES	: 100+
E-JOURNALS	: 8,700+
REFERENCE	: 13000
E-BOOKS	: 1,255
GOVT. PUBLICATIONS	: 25
THESIS	: 20
SERTATIONS	: 25



## 6. Observation of World Environment Day:

Environment Day was observed by the IQAC of the college with the support of the library on 5<sup>th</sup> June, 2024 with plantation drives in the college campus and Radhamadhab Government Junior Basic School, Kanakpur, Silchar.



## 7. Release of Library Newsletter:

The library newsletter 'Informania' (Vol.IX, Year: 2022-23) was released on 19<sup>th</sup> March, 2024 by Principal, Dr Debashish Roy in presence of Vice-Principal, IQAC Coordinator(s), Library Committee members, teachers and students.



## 8. Library Literacy Programme

Library Literacy Programme was conducted on 28th June, 2024 in 252, Ambikapur L.P. School, Silchar where books, copies and pencils were distributed to the students of the school. The programme was attended by Principal, students and members of the Library Committee.



## 9. Distribution of Certificates to students of Library and Information Science and Training conducted:

Certificates were distributed to the pass out students of Diploma Course in Library and Information Science on 23<sup>rd</sup> December, 2023 in presence of Principal, IQAC Coordinator(s), Committee members and teachers. It may be mentioned here that the said course is conducted by Self-Financing Cell with the support of the library. Also one-month training was conducted in the library as a part of the course.



## 10. Career Counselling on IAF:

A Career Counselling Programme on 'Career Prospects in Indian Air Force' was conducted by the library on 7<sup>th</sup> May, 2024 with officials from IAF counselling our students.



Silchar, Assam, India  
RQ5X+4W2, Rongpur, Silchar, Uttar Krishnapur Pt II, Assam 788005, India  
Lat 24.80835°  
Long 92.800257°  
07/05/24 02:23 PM GMT +05:30



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