The idea for this celebration originated in Catalonia where on 23 April, Saint George's day, a rose is traditionally given, as a gift for each book sold.

UNESCO proclaimed April 23 as World Book and Copyright Day in the 28th session of the General Conference in 1995. The resolution was by considering that historically books have been the most powerful factor in the dissemination of knowledge and the most effective means of preserving it.

23 April is a symbolic date for world literature for on this date and in the same year in 1616, Cervantes, Shakespeare and Inca Garcilaso de la Vega all died. It is also the date of birth or death of other prominent authors such as Maurice Druon, K. Laxness, Vladimir Nabokov, Joseph Pla and Manuel Mellia Valejo. It was a natural choice for UNESCO's General Conference to pay a worldwide tribute to books and authors on this date, encouraging everyone, and in particular young people, to discover the pleasure of reading and gain a renewed respect for the irreplaceable contributions of those who have furthered the social and cultural progress of humanity.

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By celebrating this day throughout the world, UNESCO seeks to promote reading, publishing and the protection of intellectual property through copyright.

The Vidyalaya Library is celebrating the World Book and Copyright Day with an exhibition of famous and popular books from 20-25 April, a competition on Bookmark designing and a Meet the Author session.

April 23: World Book and Copyright Day

Staying safe on Orkut

The popularity of social networking sites continues to increase, especially among teenagers and young adults. The nature of these sites introduces security risks, so you should take certain precautions.

Online safety Rules

- When asked by friends or strangers, online or offline, never share Account IDs and Passwords.
- Don't reveal any personal identity information in your Screen Names, such as your birthday, hobbies, hometown or school.
- In any information exchange, like e-mail or chat, never give any personal information about yourself or someone else.
- Don't share photos of yourself, your family, or your home with people you meet online.
- Never open e-mails that come from unknown sources. DELETE them.
- If you receive mean or threatening comments online, don't respond. Log off and report the activity to your parents.
- Nothing you write on the Web is completely private. Be careful what you write and to whom.
- Never make plans to meet an online “friend” in person.

WHEN IN DOUBT: Always ask your parents for help. If you’re not sure, log off.

What security implications do these sites present?

Social networking sites rely on connections and communication, so they encourage you to provide a certain amount of personal information. When deciding how much information to reveal, people may not exercise the same amount of caution as they would when meeting someone in person because

- the internet provides a sense of anonymity
- the lack of physical interaction provides a false sense of security
- they tailor the information for their friends to read, forgetting that others may see it
- they want to offer insights to impress potential friends or associates.

While the majority of people using these sites do not pose a threat, malicious people may be drawn to them because of the accessibility and amount of personal information available on them. The more information malicious people have about you, the easier it is for them to take advantage of you.

Predators may form relationships online and then convince unsuspecting individuals to meet them in person. That could lead to a dangerous situation. The personal information can also be used to conduct a social engineering attack. Using information that you provide about your location, hobbies, interests, and friends, a malicious person could impersonate a trusted friend or convince you that they have the authority to other personal or financial data.

What are social networking sites?

Social networking sites, sometimes referred to as “friend-of-a-friend” sites, build upon the concept of traditional social networks where you are connected to new people through people you already know. (e.g., Orkut, Facebook, Hi5, Myspace, Friendster, Twitter, Bigadda, etc.)

STOP PRESS! New Bar-coded Students ID cards and Library Book Issue Cards for this Academic year will be ready by June 2009

Da Vinci Code

“Blinded ignorance does mislead us! Wretched mortals open your eyes”

These words were said by the famous painter LEONARDO DA VINCI, the creator of the world famous paintings like The Mona Lisa, the Last Supper, the Vtruvian man etc. He was an expert in many fields. It is said that Da Vinci has left many codes in his paintings. In the year 2003, a novel by DAN BROWN established that Da Vinci has certainly left many secrets. The book was none other than THE DA VINCI CODE. It is a fiction featuring Richard Langdon, a symbologist and Sophie Neveu, a cryptologist who deals with numerical code breaking. The story starts with a murder. The curator of The Louvre Jacques Saunere’s murder and the message left by him Langdon and Neveu towards a new world of thousands of years old secrets. Although the number of characters are limited, each one plays a definite role. The language and style of writing is incredible. The main theme of the book is the journey towards the Priory key-stone which leads one to the Holy grail and many other well hidden secrets. According to the myth, only the members of the Priory of Sion, a secret society knows the exact location of the Holy grail. Da Vinci being one of the grandmasters of the secret society wanted the world to know the truth and hence left many clues in his paintings. One such striking trait is visible in the last supper. Da Vinci has assigned certain feminine characters to disciple John seated next to Jesus Christ. Holy grail happen to be the cup in which Jesus had wine during The last supper. Mary Magdalene is also referred to as the Holy Grail. It is said that Da Vinci has painted John as Mary Magdalene to show Jesus’s intimacy towards her. Mary Magdalene, a prostitute who joined Christ and later became of his favorite disciple. In the book the author establishes that Jesus had relationship with Mary Magdalene and that their bloodline exists to this century.

A huge uproar was roused by this very book. The church and many disciples of the church launched protests against the book and movie alike. In many places the authorities were forced to ban the book. The reason put forth was that the Da Vinci Code hurts their religious sentiments. Despite many controversies the book happen to be a best seller throughout the world. Anyone who thinks a fiction can never affect your religious beliefs may go ahead and read the book without hesitation.

Reviewed by KARTHIKA.P., XII A (Shift-II)
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For more reviews, visit the Library website and the E-magazine: LibZine