

# Kalimpong College Library: A Legacy since 1962 and a Decade of Renewal, Engagement, and Academic Excellence

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Kalimpong College is situated in the heart of Kalimpong town, in the Kalimpong District of West Bengal. Established in 1962, the College Library was also founded in the same year, initially operating from within the college building. To mark the Golden Jubilee of the institution, a new and dedicated library building was constructed. The foundation stone of the Golden Jubilee Library Building was laid on 13th March 2012 by Shri Bratya Basu, Hon'ble Minister of Education, Higher Education Department, and Government of West Bengal. The building was formally inaugurated on 26th June 2015 by Dr. T.B. Subba, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor of Sikkim Central University.

For the past ten years, the new library building has served as a vital academic and intellectual space for students, teachers, and members of the public through an open access system. It houses both a lending library and a reference section. The library currently holds over 21,000 books and provides digital access to e-books and e-journals through INFLIBNET-NLIST (available till March 2025). Since April 2025, the college **is accessing** resources under the ONOS policy. The **ONOS** (One Nation One Subscription) is a Government of India initiative that provides centralized access to a wide range of academic resources, including e-journals, databases, and e-books, for all higher educational institutions. One Nation One Subscription (ONOS) intends to acquire national licenses for e-journal/database subscriptions from most of the prominent journal publishers. A total of 30 major international journal publishers have been included in ONOS. All the journals published by these publishers will be accessible to the students, faculty members and researchers of the participating institutions.

In addition to its core services like circulation of books, book binding, e-services, reference, reprographic services, purchase and processing of RUSA 2.0 books and personalized assistance, the Kalimpong College Library has actively hosted several programs since the Diamond Jubilee celebration 2022. These events, often organized in collaboration with academic departments, are listed below in chronological order:

## Library Programmes and Activities

1. **Library Exhibition** for Class 11 & 12 students from six higher secondary schools in Kalimpong on 13.09.2022
2. **Photography Workshop** on 14.09.2022 – 49 participants
3. **Talk on National Education Policy 2020** by Dr. R.P. Dhakal on 15.09.2022 – 36 participants
4. **English Department Seminar** on 17.09.2022 – 40 participants
5. **English Department Seminar & Film Screening** on 30.11.2022 – 150 participants
6. **M.A. Political Science Seminar Presentations** on 03.12.2022 – 20 participants
7. **M.A. Political Science Seminar Presentations** on 10.12.2022 – 18 participants
8. **Guest Lecture** by Mrs. A.G. Pradhan on Business Communication on 21.03.2023 – 38 participants
9. **Lecture on Business Communication** by Mrs. Ahana Gurung on 28.03.2023 – 37 students
10. **Seminar on C.V. Raman and Indian Musical Drum** on 04.04.2023 – 40 participants
11. **Guest Lecture** by Dr. Pawan Rai on “Gaze of the Excluded: Postcolonial Epistemology in International Relations” on 27.04.2023 – 53 participants

12. **Invited Talk** by Dr. Pathik Roy on *Chinua Achebe's Things Fall Apart* on 28.04.2023 – 50 participants
13. **Special Programme** by the BBA Department on 28.04.2023 – 50 participants
14. **Hindi Diwas Celebration** on 14.09.2023 – 36 participants
15. **English Department Seminar** on 24.09.2023 – 60 participants
16. **Special Lecture** on “A Freudian and Feminist Analysis of Desire” on 29.09.2023 – 60 participants
17. **ICSSR-ERC Sponsored National Seminar (Technical Session IV)** on 04.05.2024 – 25 participants
18. **Internship programme** by Mr. Gidon Lepcha on 18.11.2024 – 25 participants

### **Extension Services and Community Contributions**

- **Library Subject Expert (2023–24):** Dr. Rekh Mani Sharma served as the subject expert for the recruitment of rural librarians under the Department of Mass and Extension, Government of West Bengal.
- **Digital Library Consultation:** The library offered expert suggestions to Rotary International Kalimpong in June 2024 for building a digital library.

### **NAAC Accreditation Recognition**

In the most recent NAAC accreditation process 2023, the Kalimpong College Library received a score of over 3 out of 5 point, equivalent to an ‘A’ grade. The NAAC peer team specifically appreciated the efforts and resources of the library.

### **Newly Added services for users (2022-25)**

1. OPAC search inside the library
2. Kalimpong College Magazine (REEDS) Archive

### **Distinguished Visitors and Testimonials**

Apart from regular visitors—college students, IGNOU learners, alumni, and seminar participants—the library has been appreciated by several eminent personalities, including:

- **Prof. Om Prakash Mishra**, Vice Chancellor of North Bengal University, who visited on 19.11.2022 and commented:  
*“Much impressed with the design, décor, ambience, and accommodation of this library.”*
- **Ms. Shanta Chettri**, Member of Parliament, who visited on 02.05.2023 and given feedback as: *“Visited the library of Kalimpong College today. Very well maintained and an excellent library of Darjeeling and Kalimpong District.”*
- **Research Scholars** from Jadavpur University, who visited the library to study the college magazine *REEDS*. One of the scholars wrote:  
*“It was a wonderful experience to be able to look at the Kalimpong College Magazine archives. Thank you for your cooperation.” – Vishikha Doeogaunka*

In summary, the Kalimpong College Library stands as the intellectual heart of the institution, fostering academic excellence through its extensive resources and vibrant programmes. With the integration of ONOS, users enjoy seamless access to a vast collection of e-journals, e-books, and over 21,000 physical textbooks and reference volumes. Nevertheless, the library’s daily footfall over the past three years has not met expectations and warrants significant enhancement. For the library to grow and shine as a place of knowledge, it needs ongoing support and active involvement from teachers, staff, and students. Everyone should also take good care of its valuable resources, especially the physical books.