

Report on the Orientation Program on ELT Digital Materials, held at the American Library on 14.11.2023

The orientation program on ELT Materials was organized by the American Library at their premises on 14th November 2023. A group of 25 participants attended the program. Apart from Kolkata, the participants were PGELT learners and former learners who had travelled from Nadia, Malda, Midnapore, Bardhaman, Birbhum, Hooghly, and Howrah to attend the program. The 2-hour program began at 2 pm with welcome remarks by the Deputy Director, Juan Clar and an interactive chatting with Mr Clar. At 2.10 pm there was a quiz and a group photo session. From 2.30 pm there were a series of presentations by the American Center group. Ms Megha Roy Chatterjee presented on USIEF. She talked on higher education in USA and the exchange programs. There were specific questions on PhD research and post doctoral research from the participants. Replying to the questions, she said that the Educational Foundation promotes exchanges of outstanding scholars, professionals and students. Ms Aswaryia Mondal, English Language Program Manager, talked on English as a tool for Empowerment and Teacher Training Programs. These programs were for school teachers as well as academic counsellors. Ms Priyanka Sinha, American Space Co-ordinator, presented a general overview of American Space, the English Language Programs and the Cultural Programs. Mr Anutosh Biswas, from public relations and Ms Bobby Hore, program manager also spoke on the occasion. A few participants were interested in training programs while a few others had expressed their willingness to get engaged in various educational programs associated with the American Center. An American Space is a platform for resources and programs for English Language Teachers and ELT Practitioners. It provides engagement activities, such as workshops on career skills. English Language Teachers are leaders in their own ways in the classroom. For ELT practitioners there are discussions on entrepreneur and leadership development.

There was a Library walk-through and hands on introduction on Digital Library resources. The Digital Library resources include Academic and Research Resources, Academic Search Premier; Jstor, Bookfix and Kanopy. A number of participants had availed the Digital Free Resources from the library on the same day. The databases include newspapers, magazines, journals, video and dissertation, which can be searched and browsed by users. The e-resources are *Press Reader*, *Flipstar* for news paper and magazines, *Academic One File* for peer-reviewed journals, *ProQuest Dissertation and Thesis Global* for dissertations, *Gale Middle school* for journals, news papers and magazines, *Bookfix* (books and videos for English readers), and *Kanopy* for Videos. The participants had a hands-on training on familiarity with e-resources, searching and browsing and navigation activities. The participants had also learnt on the scholarships programs for teachers and professionals to teach or conduct research in the U.S. and professional development programs for leadership and skill development. These programs offer opportunities for personal, academic and professional growth. The Orientation program had motivated the thriving ELT fraternity from the University to reach out and nurture the young minds while learning 'the language'.

