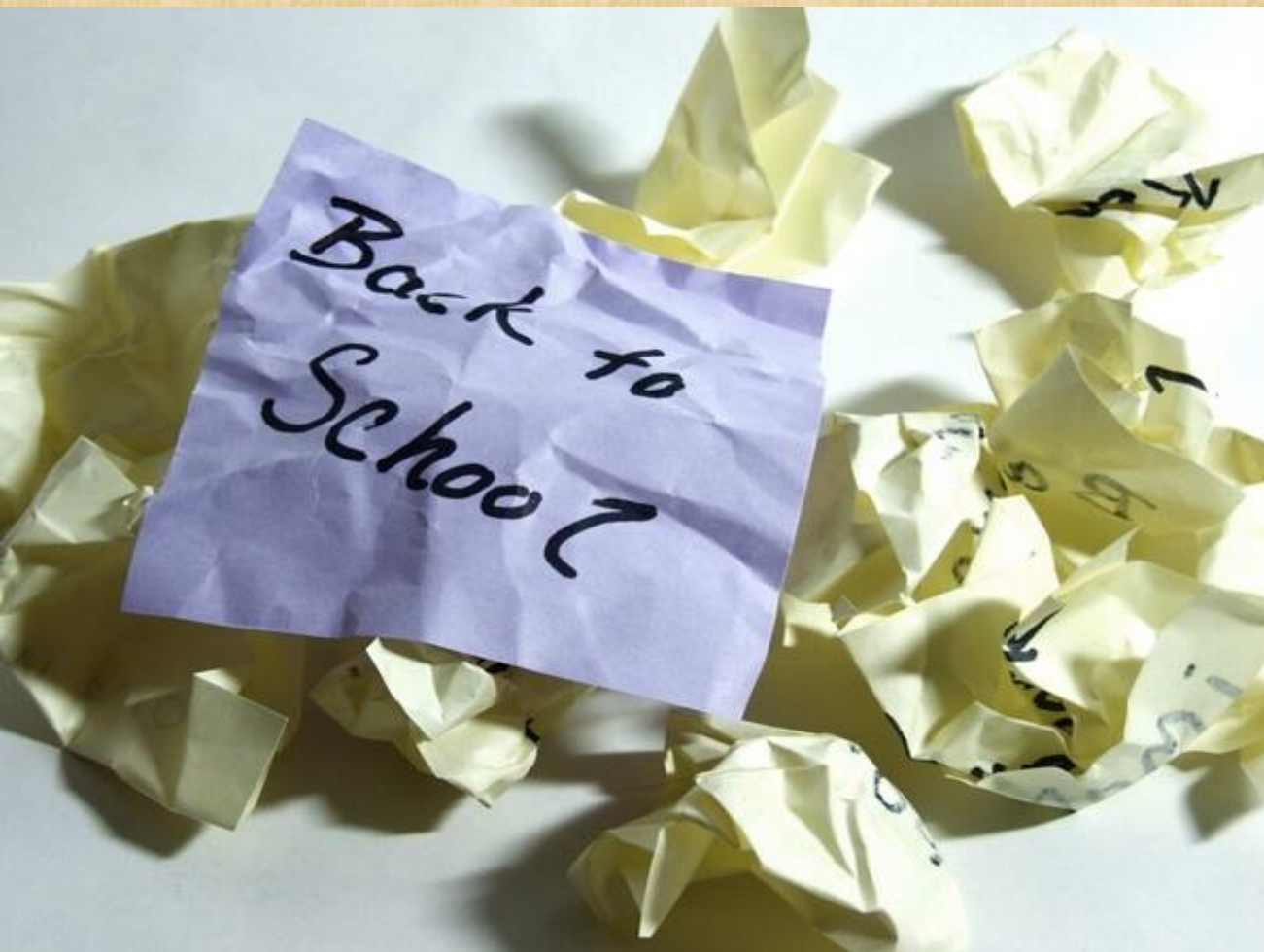


Rethinking university librarianship in the post-pandemic scenario: Experiences from the Central University of Himachal Pradesh

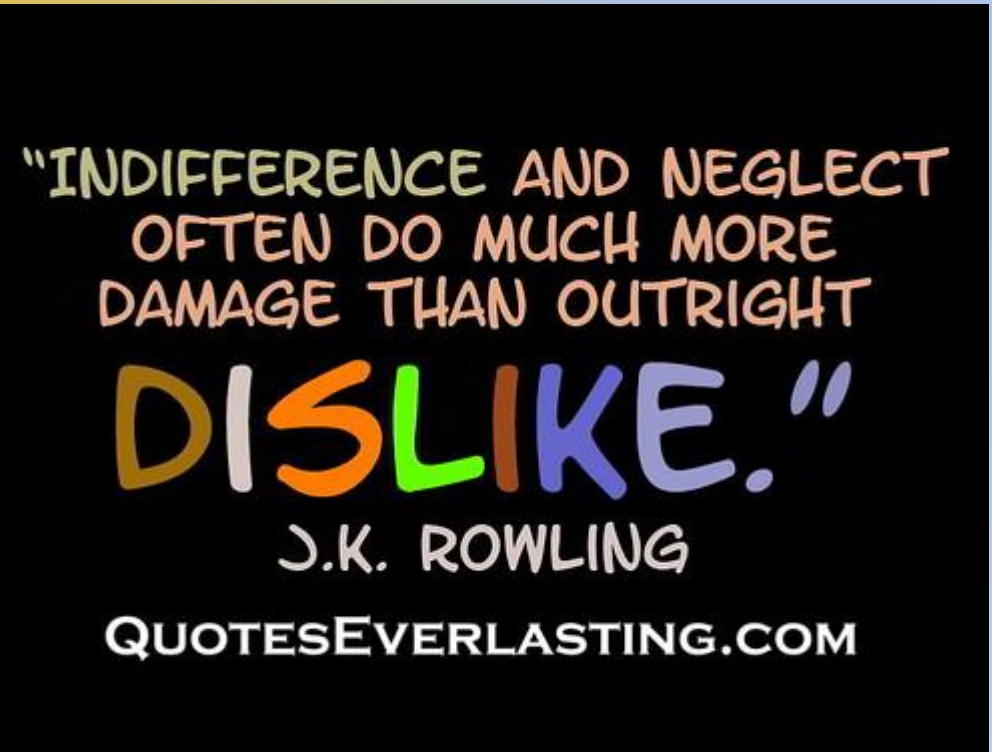
Arjun Sanyal (Twitter: @arjun_sanyal)
Assistant Librarian
Central University of Himachal Pradesh

The big challenge for Indian universities in the wake of the pandemic



The long hiatus and the CUHP students.....

- Indifference towards the academic curriculum.
- Informational anxiety.
- A fatalistic sense of loss of belief in one's abilities.



Indifference towards academic curriculum

- The disconnect with F2F classroom teaching leads to being increasingly disinterested in studies and increasing sense of academic deprivation.
- The growing problem of “infodemic” complicates things further.



Informational Anxiety

- Goes beyond the idea of “Library Anxiety” as propounded by Constance Mellon.
- This is marked by a strong distaste towards educational information resources of all types.
- The problem is all the more compounded by the fact of inequitable digital divide.

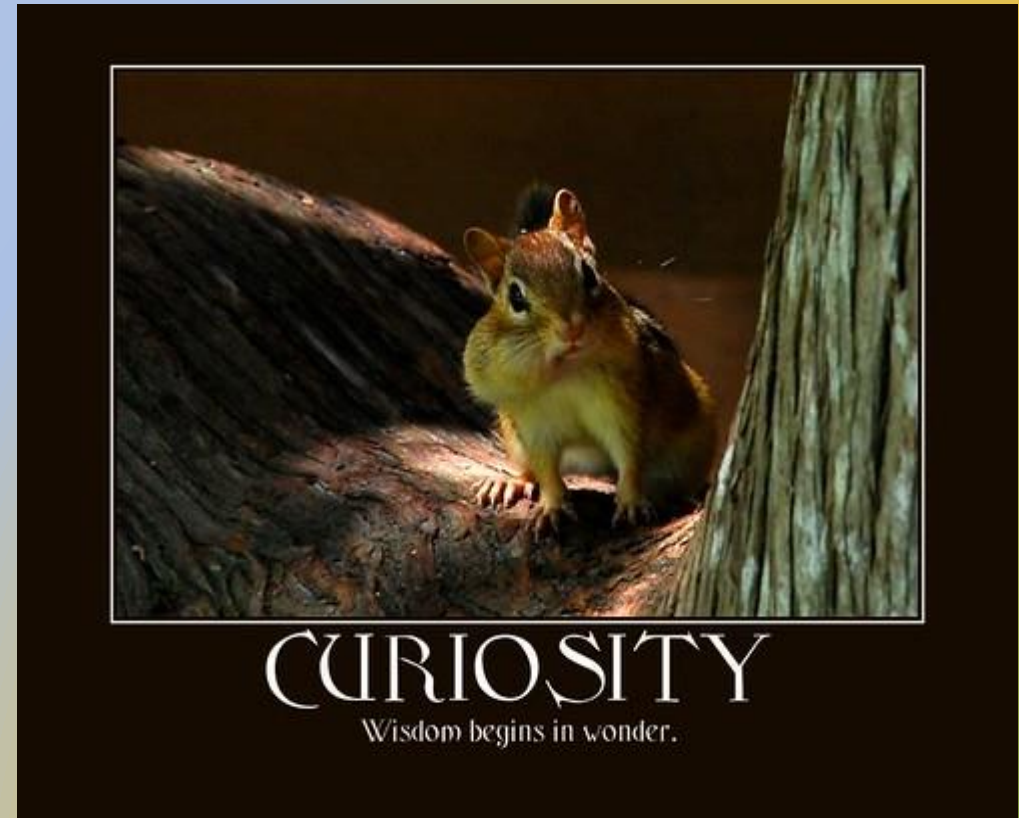


A strong sense of negative fatalism about oneself

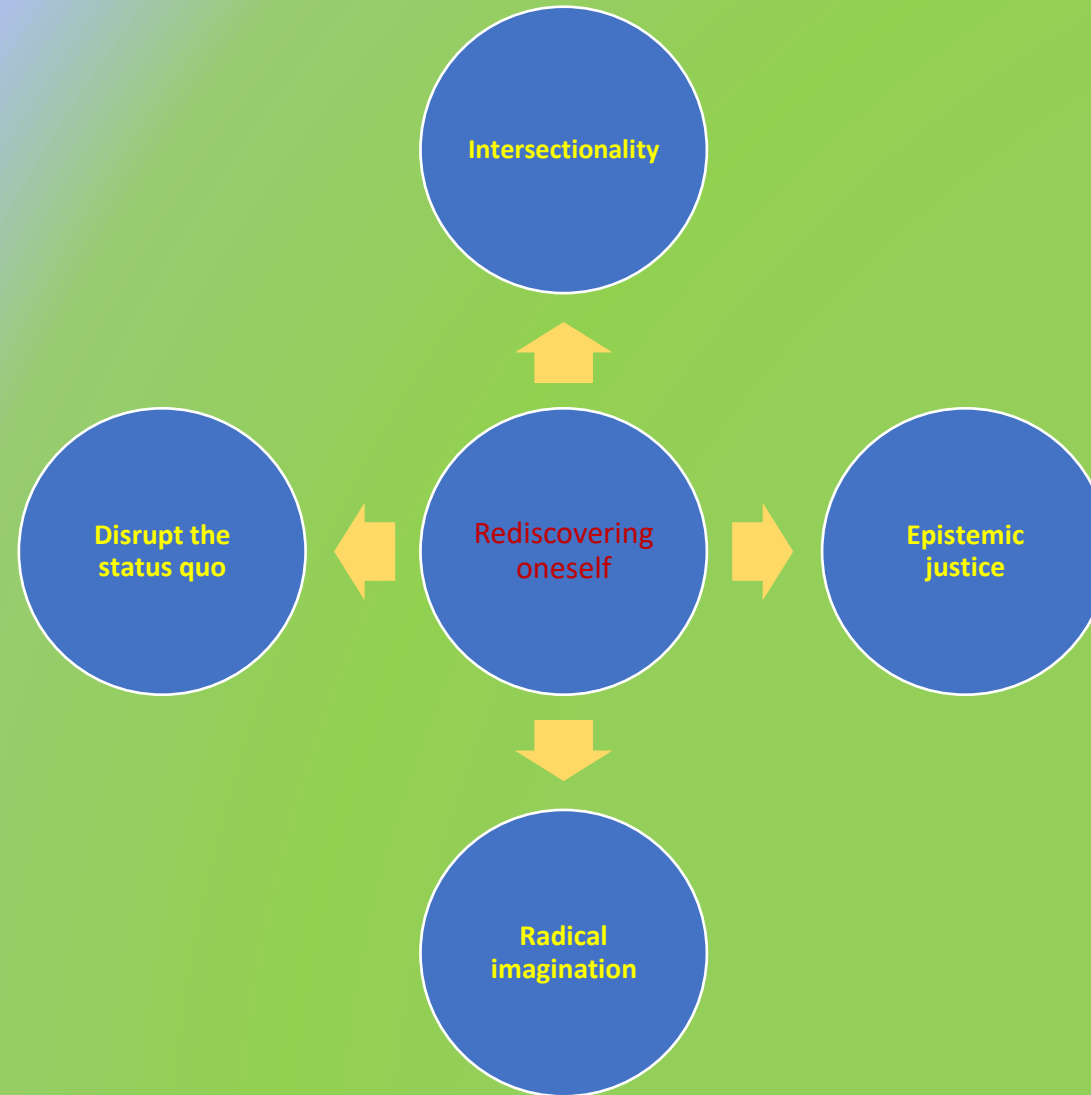
- A sense of fear.
- Loss of belief in one's abilities.
- A niggling doubt about pursuing further higher education.



What needs to be done.....



The philosophical underpinnings



The CUHP Library Roadmap

- An open house session with students regarding improving library services using mind-mapping tools
- Experimental makerspace-cum-Third Space
- Motivational lifestyle sessions for students

After two months.....

- Students coming back to universities in large numbers, particularly to the library.
- An uptick in demand from students for a repeat of the makerspace-cum-third space and motivational life style sessions.
- An increased demand for sessions with both faculty and library staff on to make learning participatory and enjoyable.

Keep learning.....

