Foreword

The publication of the book titled ‘Inventive Digital Tools for Collection Management and Development in Modern Libraries’ come at a time libraries (academic, special, research, public, school) and others are facing serious problems on collection development particularly those in the developing countries of the world such as India, Thailand, Ethiopia, etc.. In the light of this, I am of the opinion that this publication is timely. This is because information provided in the book will assist libraries stakeholders to combat these current problems of collection development they are facing. Solving the problem will enable libraries in India and beyond, the opportunity to compete with their counterparts in the other nations.

Collection development is a core activity for librarians in the digital age. Although collection development has changed dramatically due to the availability of electronic information, buying materials and negotiating licenses for the provision of e-resources continues to be the primary way librarians build their collections. While the proliferation of electronic options has changed approaches to the provision of reference services, information literacy and meeting the information needs of the users, some core collections activities remain. With the changes in information formats, budgets and scholarly publishing, print ordering is more complex. Some collection work, for example, is centralized within acquisition departments and/or consortial arrangements with groups of librarians. Librarians continue to collaborate with users, faculty and researchers to build their library collections and to support programs and services. Various patron-driven acquisitions (PDA) models are also popular in the 21st century (Draper, 2013).

However, it should be noted that the process of building a balanced collection is a long-range, iterative process. Librarians, whether in an academic or strictly other settings, aim to make collection development decisions based on rigorous assessment of the information needs of users, analyses of print usage statistics and overall budgeting. Collection management may include the application of well-developed selection criteria, replacement of worn items and ongoing weeding and moving print materials to online equivalents. Some libraries use approval plans and blanket orders to build collections. In medium-sized libraries, collection responsibilities are usually shared among group of liaison librarians. Meanwhile, we are in a changing world otherwise known as digital age where new technologies keep emerging every now and then. On this note, libraries the world over, will have to acquire inventive or newly emerged digital tools useful for collection management and development in the contemporary modern libraries.

Selecting print and electronic book and journal collections is among the most important activities for librarians. Therefore, some important collections issues to consider by modern libraries’ librarian using inventive digital tools for collection development are: what is the library’s annual budget? what is the overall scope of the library collection? what is most likely to be most needed? how does the library balance print and digital resources? Are the resources needed fee-based, and if radically different in
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print, do we need both formats? Duplication of sources, multiple vendors, online access and authentication, adaptability of database interfaces and, of course, budgets are all part of successful collection development. No doubt, this book will provide more information about issues associated with collection development for electronic resources.

Modern libraries irrespective of their type are the treasure trove of knowledge which cater for the needs of scholars, scientists, technocrats, researchers, students and others who are directly associated with the mainstream of higher education. In this competitive age, the policy makers have to rise to the occasion and create a new generation of knowledge workers. The information provided in this book will equip libraries stakeholders with the best tools, techniques, procedures and practices on collection development. The libraries play an important role in providing necessary forum and resources for faculty and students for instance to do their research and advance their knowledge. In order to effectively meet the growing needs of the clients and achieve success in the management of libraries, the need to actively address the many challenges currently faced in developing good collections in libraries is indispensable. The design and delivery of innovative resources and services; collection development policy formulation and information about how to carry out all these tasks are contained in this book.

Change is inevitable and essential to any functioning institution. But change can be stressful, especially when it upsets established routines and patterns. Library managers need to be able to lead staff through episodes of change while remaining empathetic. As a result, this book will show them how to: engage library staff in the process and encourage their active participation; navigate successfully through common types of change, such as space planning, departmental reorganization, and changes in work responsibilities; and draw on concepts from psychology, communication, empowerment, planning, and evaluation to minimize friction. Most workplace changes are not ends in themselves but part of a continuous process of transition. With reference to short narratives that use real-life examples of change principles, this book will help library managers reassure their staff that change can be an opportunity for reflection and personal growth.

The book is divided into 21 chapters featuring different topical issues on the Inventive Digital Tools for Collection Management and Development in Modern Libraries. These chapters include topics like - role of librarians in the collection management and development of libraries using Web 2.0 technology, a case study of universities in Tamilnadu, India, Multimedia and library and information services, ICT Skills among library professionals, the role of radio frequency identification in modern libraries among others.

It is observed there is currently limited or no text that featured such subject matter. This book edited by Dr. S. Thanuskodi has filled the void. The book will provide Library and Information Science students especially in India the mastery of library and information science practice in dealing with using emerging digital tools for collection development and management. The contributors to the books are distinguished professionals in their own rights, who have based their contributions mainly on research in their local environment. Thus, first-hand knowledge of the situation in their respective countries is presented.

This book has been devoted mainly to libraries irrespective of the regions in India. It is hoped that in the revised edition, a comparison on how India and other developing countries of the world are making use of digital tools for collection development and management in modern libraries will be unravelled. This is believed will further strengthen and add more quality to the book.
I must congratulate Dr. S. Thanuskodi of the Alagappa University, India for gathering highly distinguished authors, across India to contribute to this excellent work. I recommend this book to all stakeholders in library and information practice throughout India and beyond. This is a useful addition to the literature on Library and Information Science.

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Adeyinka Tella is a senior lecturer in the Department of Library and Information Science, Faculty of Communication and Information Sciences, University of Ilorin, Nigeria. Tella did his PhD through Commonwealth Scholarship and finished in September 2009 from the Department of Library and Information Studies; University of Botswana. In 2007, he was awarded small grant for thesis writing for the PhD students’ category by the council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRIA) and Federal Govt. of Nigeria Post-Graduate Students’ award in 2003. He has up to 120 publications mostly in International reputable and high impact refereed journals together with chapters in books. He is one of the contributors to an information science reference “Cases on Successful E-learning Practices in the Developed and Developing World: Methods for the Global Information Economy”. Tella has edited two books: i. Library and Information Science in Developing Countries: Contemporary Issues, ii. Social Media for Strategic Library Development. He is working on the third book titled ‘Information Seeking Behavior and Challenges in Digital Libraries’ which is expected to be out of press by August 2015. Tella is currently the Editor-in-Chief International Journal of Information Processing and Communication (IJIPC) and Associate Editor, International Journal of Library and Information Science and editorial board member, Library Philosophy and Practice. Tella is a reviewer for many LIS journals including Journal of Academic Librarianship (JACL), The Electronic Library (TEL), Behavior and Information Technology (BIT), Educational Technology and Society among others. Tella is also an external examiner for LIS PhD candidates at the University of Fort-Hare and University of Zululand, South Africa, Babcock University, Nigeria, Annamalai University, Alagappa University and Bharathidasan University, Trichy, in India. His research areas of interest include e-learning, information literacy, information management, information communication technology and libraries, information system evaluation, psychology of information, etc.

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