Foreword

It is an honor to pen the foreword to this important new monograph, *E-Discovery Tools and Applications in Modern Libraries*, edited by Dr. Egbert De Smet and Prof. Sangeeta N. Dhamdhere. The numerous current and emerging issues surrounding “discovery” of information and knowledge are evolving quickly and relentlessly, irrespective of the location or type of library. As progressively more people are provided with Web access, the effectiveness and usability of e-discovery tools and applications become ever more critical.

Dr. Smet and Prof. Dhamdhere have designed and assembled an impressive and substantive array of important topical issues and a respectable team of authors from across the globe. Over forty authors from 13 countries, including Africa, Asia, Europe, the Pacific Area and Scandinavia, provide intelligent and helpful guidance for more than seventeen areas of critical importance in the broad areas of e-discovery in global libraries.

Some of the chapters are summative of digital library trends and issues, overviews of discovery tools and applications for e-teaching and m-learning, and the impact which these tools have in the development of more agile libraries. Chapters broach academic, corporate, public, federal and special libraries, emphasizing scalability and adaptability of the tools and applications, making the volume’s contents available and meaningful to a broader global audience.

Other important and related issues broached by the authors are responsive Web design; federated searching; open-access and the open archives initiative / OAI; the role of library portals; effective use of the suite of Google search and research tools; and library leadership in digital knowledge repositories.

The volume is an important addition to the canon of digital age guides and roadmaps for library and information professionals, transdisciplinary researchers, and for private, governmental and non-governmental leaders. One final, additional importance of the volume is its international scope in both topical issues and contributors and the collaborative approach to authorship (almost half of the chapters are co-authored). By explicitly crossing traditional boundaries of authorship, discipline, geographical location and library type, the make-up of the team of authors is truly impressive and heartening in providing intelligent guidance for the broader common good. I am proud to offer my support and recommendation for the work to the international community.

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