Foreword

It is my distinct honour to have been asked to write the foreword to the book *Challenges of Academic Library Management in Developing Countries*, edited by Dr. S. Thanuskodi. There have been a lack of published studies on the management of academic libraries, particularly in developing countries. This book is published at a time of immense changes in the information landscape. With the rapid development and use of the Internet and Web-based technologies, the management and operation of most academic libraries in the developed countries are now being highly automated. On the contrary, academic libraries in developing countries are not benefiting much from the rapid advancement of IT applications and services. This book encompasses many of the management issues and case studies of IT-based library services in the academic libraries in the developing countries. Hence, the topicality of the book is self-evident.

Academic libraries are indispensable for the functioning of academic institutions and for achieving their missions. They play a crucial role in the academic community by providing appropriate information to faculty and students to carry out their research and advancement of knowledge. The major challenges facing academic libraries in developing countries include increasing costs of reading resources and limited budgets that reduce the amount of learning materials to be acquired, increasing student numbers, and the limited infrastructure and skills required to access and utilize information in the digital environment. In order to effectively meet the growing needs of the academic community and to achieve success in the management process, the academic libraries need to actively address these challenges in the design and delivery of information resources. This book addresses many of the management challenges facing academic libraries today to provide appropriate information services. Appropriate recommendations are made and solutions to identified problems are suggested to ensure proper management of library resources and services.

The book contains 21 chapters featuring different aspects of the academic library management in developing countries. These topics included: students' attitudes towards library facilities and information resources; evaluation of e-resources; university roles in exploring new knowledge; self-sustainability of academic libraries in digital era; impact of e-resources and Web technology on reading habits; Internet and online medical journal access skills of the medical practitioners; modern trends in library and information science education; security challenges in university libraries; managerial perspective of e-resources in the academic libraries; Internet policy issues and digital library management of intellectual property; etc. Thus, it covers areas ranging from information seeking to use of e-resources, security challenges, library education, and much more. The contributors are from India, Maldives, Sri Lanka, Nigeria, Botswana, and Tanzania, and are from a variety of academic institutes across these countries.

Finally, this book is highly topical and should be of interest to all stakeholders in library and information practice throughout the developing world. I recommend this book as a "must read" to anyone interested in developing and improving library management. It will undoubtedly assist in creating and attaining academic library management goals and objectives.

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