

Guest Editorial Preface

Special Issue on Digital Archives and Innovative Services

Sangeeta Dhamdhare, Modern College of Arts, Science, and Commerce, Pune, India

The International Journal of Library and Information Services is a platform of library professionals as well as software professionals to share their research work and innovative ideas in this field. The objectives behind publishing this Special Issue was to focus on how academic as well as research libraries are offering digital library services to cope up with the changing needs of the user. This issue aimed to explore digitization, copyright issues, institutional repository and archives management as a challenge in front of all library professionals.

Many open source software being used in libraries and many new features are being introduced in library automation and digital library software. Open access publishing and open archive initiatives are adopted by many top university libraries to support research. Keeping these issues in mind editor has given very relevant topics like Digital Library software like DSpace, Greenstone, Open Source software like ABCD, Koha, etc., Content Management Systems like Drupal, Joomla, Wordpress, ABCD; Open Access initiatives like open archives, repositories, online publishing by many top universities, copyright issues while giving online document delivery services and publishing or giving open access to in-house published resources, e-discovery and single search engines for multiple databases and future trends, challenges and opportunities in the digital environment.

The Journal has received a good number of manuscripts and abstracts for this issue but the editorial and reviewers' board selected four relevant articles for this special issue. These articles are about the need of scholarly communication and open access initiatives, the role of Creative Common License in the open access movement, adoption and use of open source software in the developing countries, web-scale discovery services and digital libraries.

The very first article in this issue, Web-Scale Discovery Service in Academic Library Environment: A Birds Eye View, is dealing with a very new buzzword of the library service i.e 'web scale discovery service' to give access to all web resources and library collections like catalogue, institutional repository, digital collection, online databases (open source and subscribed) on a single search. In this article, the author

has tried to illustrate the evaluation process for implementing a web scale discovery service and steps involved in its execution. As per the author, web scale discovery service includes a huge investment and needs careful, cautious planning to implement this service. All library vendors and open source communities should work together to make the next generation web discovery service more efficient.

The second article in this issue is on Adoption of Open Source Software in Libraries in Developing Countries; it is dealing with the study of open source software used in developing countries. The main objectives of this study were to examine the use of open source software in the developing countries libraries, to explain the benefits of adoption of open source software in the developing countries and to understand the challenges faced by libraries while using open source software in the developing countries. The survey was conducted among different librarians who have undertaken training and covered library automation software, digital library software and content management software. The author emphasized on using open source software as it has advantages. Librarians can modify the suit as per their user and library needs and for that there is continuous training required and librarians should acquire technical skills. The author recommended that the use of open source software to improve library services is the way to go since there are more benefits to be gained by libraries in developing countries.

The third article on Connection, Collaboration & Community: Creative Commons discusses about the different open access initiatives for scholarly communication, legal aspects in collaboration, copyleft movement, creative common and types of creative commons' licenses, features of CC and how to apply and get the Creative Common license for our work. The article concludes with its advantages and disadvantages and how Creative Common will be definitely prove useful for the betterment of the entire world.

The fourth article in this issue is on Development and Management of Digital Libraries in the Regime of IPR Paradigm. This article discusses about the digital library concept, ethics, purpose, intellectual property rights, digital copyrights, interoperability and standardization, the role of librarians in digital content circulation, digital library movement and digital library policies in India. The article concludes that in India digital libraries will promote scientific research and development, facilitate distant and online learning environment and bring sufficient significant influence of national economy too.

In this web-technology era libraries are becoming modern and vibrant teaching and learning units. With the changing demands of patrons, libraries need to provide new ICT, web-technology enabled services. On the internet a sea of information is available free of cost, open access publishing platforms, open access repositories, digital libraries and open access software are boon to these modern libraries but modern librarians need to cope up with this and improve their technical skills and get acquainted with the new and future trends in the field. In addition to e-discovery, online document delivery services, federated search tools, access to specific information and search options, librarians will have to face issues related to copyrights in digital

environment, plagiarism modern. There is less scope to get jobs in library science field in future because of these automation, open access, digitization and web technology. Therefore, to survive in this field, the librarian needs to be smart enough to learn new trends and cope up with it.

This special issue is giving brief guidelines about digital library, web discovery tools, and creative common, copyright issues in digital era and advanced open source software available for libraries, etc. I am sure that the articles in this issue will be useful for all modern library professionals and will add value to their knowledge.

I thank all authors for their contribution to this issue. I thank all the reviewers who have spent their precious time to review all the articles in time and gave their sincere and serious remarks to the authors to improve their articles. I thank Dr. Khosrow, Editor of International Journal of Library and Information Services, Editorial Assistants and IGI, Global, USA, Publisher of this journal for giving me opportunity to bring out this special issue.

Happy Reading!



Sangeeta Dhamdhare
Guest Editor
IJLIS