

Editorial

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This issue has five articles dealing with different aspects of digital libraries in India, ranging from research data preservation to vernacular libraries to a bibliographic analysis of World Digital Libraries itself. The latter is of course of special interest to the editor.

In ‘A Ten-year (2008–2017) Journey of World Digital Libraries Journal: A Bibliometric Study’, Ch. Peidu and R A Maningdoula Thangal provide a number of statistics: “110 papers, contributed by 204 authors from 105 different institutions.” (p. 145) For a world journal, an especially important fact is that “49 papers are contributed by 23 foreign-based institutions”. This means that nearly half of the articles in World Digital Libraries have at least one non-Indian author. This is a higher rate of international contribution than some journals with respectable impact factors.

Research data is a particularly hot topic in the information science community right now. In ‘Research Data Preservation in India: An Analysis based on Research Data Registry’, Prashant Shrivastava and Dinesh K Gupta write about “re3data.org, a unique registry for research data preservation” (p. 107). One of the authors’ core objectives is to “observe research data awareness in the Indian context” (p. 108). The authors

also call for a “national policy for curation and management of research data” (p. 116).

Lavji N Zala writes in ‘Digital Library of Gujarat in Vernacular Language? A Model for Government of Gujarat’ about “the mechanism to create a digital library through Greenstone Digital Library Software (GSDL) in vernacular language.” (p. 81) Greenstone is an open source product of Ian Witten and staff at Waikato University and is very well suited to this kind of development because it is explicitly friendly to a wide range of languages. It is of course an advantage to have an international language like English for scholarly communication, but it is one of the basic principles of the European Union that governments have an obligation to provide information in the language of their community. Other digital library systems might reasonably follow Greenstone’s lead.

Dr Nazir Ahmad Bhat wrote in ‘Usage of E-books in Agricultural Libraries of Northern India’ that his goal was “to make an assessment of the usage of a selected set of e-book collections with an objective to work out the similarity or difference in their use across selected states of northern India.” (p. 136) Unfortunately, libraries seem to be subscribing to only one e-book collection, but as the author writes: “The fact that

the majority of users use e-books on daily basis over an average time period of 2 hours a day is also an evidence of the fact that the e-books have become a crucial source of information for students and teachers.” (pp. 142-43)

Dr Maneesh Kumar Bajpai and Shailesh Kumar Lohiya write in ‘Measuring Impact of Open Source Software Training Programme and Workshop on LIS Professionals: A Study of DSpace Software’ that “DSpace is one of the most prominent and globally used institutional

repository software. This article presents an effort to understand the impact of DSpace training programmes/workshops on LIS professionals.” (p. 123) One of the goals of the article was to study the need of LIS professionals for DSpace training and to know how much is required. In their conclusion, the authors especially emphasize the need for copyright training.

I hope you will enjoy reading this issue and will learn from the articles.