Editorial

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Over the last four years, the World Digital Libraries, an international journal has, relentlessly worked towards digital library development in this part of the world. Some noted experts in the field from overseas have also shared their views as how they have adopted and developed digital libraries in their countries. Varieties of novel and effective mechanisms to reduce barriers and promote the production, access, and use of digital information have been discussed in past WDL issues through descriptions of different models and tools such as open-source software, federated open data networks, open-access journals, and collaborative websites. Besides, special emphasis was given on case studies from India and abroad, where implementation of DL strategies and software are vividly described. Thus each issue was a mix of articles on planning, strategic implementation, and technical aspects of digital library development.

WDL also highlighted several issues pertaining to digital library developments including digitally networked open institutional repositories for scientific information, strategies to DL implementation, management of multilingual contents, electronic resources and knowledge management, online education system, e-learning, improved searching in DL repositories, etc, in most of the recent issues. There are several challenges faced in managing DL and providing effective access to and using scientific data and information. Through different articles, WDL has shown that such challenges can be overcome through a sustained focus and joint action.

Addressing some of these issues, a few digital library experts have contributed in this issue. A total of five papers are being published in this WDL issue. The first paper by Hemantha Kumar *et al.*, is to evaluate India's contribution to ranking web of world repositories, ranking web of India's universities, hospitals, business schools and research centres. The web indicators are used here to measure the global visibility and impact of the scientific repositories.

Veeramani *et al.* in their paper presented the need for library professionals to develop ICT skills as library services are more IT (Information Technology) centric now. In this regard, the authors highlighted the results of a study carried out in Kuwait academic libraries. In their paper, Md. Roknuzzaman *et al.* highlighted a modular approach to knowledge management education in DL learning environment. This paper is based on a review of the scientific literature of the field,

and a mini-case analysis of the 'International Master in Digital Library Learning' programme – which includes a module on 'Information and Knowledge Management'. Prof. Nieuwenhuysen shared DL developments in the context of academic and scientific information services based on his own experience, published literature and empirical research communications. Finally, Dr Chawdhury discussed importance of virtual space to cater to the information needs of digital natives. In a case study she has measured perceptions of undergraduate students at the University of Technology, Sydney, while using a virtual learning environment. Such platform makes learning process more interactive through sharing of digital contents among faculty and students.

I hope that readers will find this issue interesting and useful.