

# Editorial

**Prof. Michael Seadle**

Berlin School of Library and Information Science, the HEADT<sup>7</sup> Centre, and the iSchools

World Digital Libraries 15(2): v-vi (2022)

---

This issue explores some new territory in looking at “artificial intelligence” (AI) in relation to the future of libraries, a topic that excites both hope that AI will enable librarians to complete their tasks more quickly and efficiently, and fear by those who think that AI could replace them. Modeling is also a topic that many look to for systematic improvement and better coordination. Statistical tools are essential for the work of librarians, even though too few librarians have as much training in statistics as would be ideal. And the articles on content analysis and the review of the complex world of European National libraries should interest our readers.

Dr A. Singh writes about the “Use of Statistical Analysis Supporting Tools in Libraries: an overview of statistical package for social science”. His article “presents a short overview of functionality, usability and applicability of SPSS in research.”<sup>2</sup> He argues that libraries should facilitate “information about usage of statistical software packages”. He concludes

that Indian libraries should “develop a sound libguide containing information for beginners and advanced users for supporting enhanced quality in research activities of the academic institutions.”<sup>3</sup>

In “Topic Modelling and its Application in Libraries: a review of specialized Literature” by M. Lamba, and Prof. M. Madhusudhan, the authors provide “information on applying a text mining approach called topic modelling in the library and information science domain.”<sup>4</sup> They explain that “the gap between information users and librarians can be bridged by text mining training.”<sup>5</sup> They also encourage libraries to “develop text mining skills to meet their patrons’ needs.”<sup>6</sup> In their conclusion they note that “library professionals’ knowledge of text mining tools and practices, such as topic modelling, is mainly limited.”<sup>7</sup>

Dr B. Indira wrote an article about “Content Analysis of Library Websites of Colleges Affiliated to Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam,

---

<sup>1</sup> Humboldt-Elsevier Advanced Data and Text

<sup>2</sup> P. 91

<sup>3</sup> P. 103

<sup>4</sup> P. 105

<sup>5</sup> P. 105

<sup>6</sup> P. 105

<sup>7</sup> P. 115

Kerala (India)” that looked at “the websites of 68 degree colleges located in four districts of Kerala state (India) which are affiliated to Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam.”<sup>8</sup> She also investigated “what sort of importance has been assigned to the libraries in the websites of the parent institutions.”<sup>9</sup> At the same time the article evaluated other web and electronic resources. Unfortunately “only 50% of the colleges have active websites with web OPAC and provision of access to online resources.”<sup>10</sup>

The article on “Analysis of Uploaded E-content of the European National Libraries’ Website” by M. Gupta shows “that most of the selected European national libraries uploaded introductory information, information about collection, and services, on their websites.”<sup>11</sup> The author notes that national libraries need to update their websites on a regular basis and

recommends that they provide more services for reference librarians. M. Gupta concludes that “the European national libraries uploaded a high quantity of e-contents on their websites...”<sup>12</sup>

V. K. Verma and S. Gupta chose a much discussed topic in writing about “Artificial Intelligence and the Future Libraries”.<sup>13</sup> The authors based their article on a review of published literature, which showed “that emerging AI technology has considerable potential for integration with a library’s operations and can improve its services and functions.”<sup>14</sup> They conclude that AI technology “can emerge as a driving force to reshape the libraries’ services”, but note that AI could also be a disruptive force.<sup>15</sup>

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

---

<sup>8</sup> P. 121

<sup>9</sup> P.121

<sup>10</sup> P. 121

<sup>11</sup> P. 137

<sup>12</sup> P. 146

<sup>13</sup> P. 151

<sup>14</sup> P. 151

<sup>15</sup> P. 162