Editorial

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This issue looks at the application of a number of digital technologies and how libraries can use them to provide quality information for their readers. As a number of authors noted, the importance of digital content has grown over the years and the amount of available content has grown substantially.

B. Nagar and Dr P. K. Walia wrote an article on the "Evaluation of Websites of Select Library Networks in the USA: a study". They analysed the "the design and structure, website presentation" as well as the "accessibility of information content and availability of website aid tools…" and they used a checklist to guide the evaluation.[2] They found "... that library networks' websites in the USA are well structured and maintained with good website presentation."[3] They noted nonetheless that "some websites are not making use of website aid tools…" and that " there is a need for regular updates of the websites to provide users with current information." [4]

The short article about "An Overview of Karnataka State's Digital Public Library Initiative" by Dr A. G. Holeyannavar and A. Latte aims "to increase public knowledge of Karnataka Digital Public Library (KDPL)." [5] The library has a " total of 11,33,396 items [that] are now available in the digital library, including 10,63,044 e-books and films, 63,150 e-Journals, 344 simulation labs, and 6858 exams." [6] The contents " are available in eight languages, namely, 1. Kannada, 2. English, 3. Hindi, 4. Tamil, 5. Telugu, 6. Urdu, 7. Marathi, and 8. Sanskrit." [7]

N. K. Verma, Mohd Nazim, and M. K. Verma wrote a timely article entitled "Unveiled Public Sentiments on Balasore (India) Train Tragedy: an analysis based on YouTube videos' Comments". For those readers who were unaware, the "train tragedy occurred on 2 June 2023 in Balasore, Odisha, India." The goal of the article was to analyse "public sentiments expressed through YouTube videos, titles, descriptions, comments,

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and engagement metrics related to the tragedy."[8] The authors used "a quantitative research design with a cross-sectional approach,…" [9] They write that the "sentiment analysis of YouTube video titles revealed that the majority of titles aimed to provide objective information, with some expressing negative sentiments related to the tragedy and a smaller fraction focusing on positive aspects." [10] An " investigation exposed evidence tampering and safety issues, with inferences for railway safety. At the same time, misinformation and social media misuse highlight the need for countering false narratives." [11] The authors conclude that the "findings underscore the importance of YouTube as a platform for disseminating information and engaging in discussions surrounding tragic events." [12] (P.115)

The article on "Innovative Horizons: a systematic review of emerging technologies transforming library services" by M. Madhusudhan and P. Pandey "is a comprehensive investigation that delves into multiple facets of emerging technologies, including, but not limited to, artificial intelligence, the Internet of Things, augmented reality, virtual reality, blockchain, chatbots, and robotics." [13] The authors used "the PRISMA methodology, a rigorous approach for systematic literature reviews." [14] Their conclusion "underscores the importance of investing in proper training and infrastructure for library staff. These foundational elements not only motivate librarians to embrace these technologies but also translate into elevated service quality and enriched library functions." [15](p. 130)

The article contributed by S. Chaubey, Dr K. Mathur, and Dr D. Taneja discusses complexities researchers face while going through contents of the journals, mainly through online modes. It takes into account how technological framework can aid researchers by aggregating critical information about the journals at one place, thus, resulting in reducing search time and getting consolidated information. Data aggregation methodology could be applied to aggregate the data from citation index databases to create a master index, followed by development of a search engine to perform the effective search on the aggregated database. The authors have rightly observed that the overall efficiency of the search (journals) significantly increases more when technological framework is used as compared to the usual method of searching repositories on individual websites. The discussion establishes how getting key performance indicators (KPIs) of the journals at one place can reduce time and efforts of the researchers by developing a technological framework based on the aggregation of data to provide 360°information of the journals (p. 135). [16]

As always, I hope you enjoy reading this issue and will learn more about what is possible with digital resources from the articles.

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