

# Editorial

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This issue has five articles with varying themes. Three of these articles touch closely on my own areas of research. The first of these is by Debal Kar, who writes about “Digital Library of India: An Initiative for the Preservation and Dissemination of the National Heritage and Rare Books and Manuscripts Collection.” I have long worked in the areas of digital library development and preservation, and the Digital Library of India combines both. As he notes: “The major challenge in full text search is for Indian language books because there is no suitable Optical Character Recognition (OCR) software available that provides high accuracy” (p. 58). This is a technical problem that is solvable with the right financial and technical resources. That the technical resources are available in India is beyond doubt. It is important that funding becomes available to ensure full access to this part of India’s cultural heritage. As Debal Kar notes, the selection problem is also significant.

Heather Brown’s article on “Convergence and Preservation in the Digital Age” discusses closely related issues. She argues that there is a convergence between memory institutions such as libraries, museums, and archives, and that all have a strong interest in preservation. Now that

the “institutional boundaries are dissolving” she writes that it is time “to develop an integrated or ‘converged’ approach to preservation” (p. 61). She speaks both about the convergence of principles and strategies. The right principles are of course important, but a broad-based cooperation on the strategies is more difficult, especially in the area of disaster recovery. Disaster recovery plans are good, of course, but testing is critical, as any experienced computing professional can attest.

Another article that is close to my own interests is “Plagiarism in Academia is Ignorance or Mensrea: A Contemplation” by Dr Priya Rai, Dr Akash Singh, and Dr Samar Iqbal Bakshi. At my own university, I chair the Commission on Scholarly Misconduct and I have a significant grant to conduct research on research integrity issues. Plagiarism issues are complicated in part because of the reasons that the authors’ discuss. There is a lack of consensus about what plagiarism really is. Each of the seven forms of plagiarism listed by the authors consist of subcategories where the behaviour is sometimes more and sometimes less acceptable. Paraphrasing is a good example, because it is hard to paraphrase without some word overlap, especially in the natural sciences, where standard phrases are common. The statistics about the

plagiarism mindset of members of the (Indian) academic community are particularly valuable for anyone studying the subject.

Two other articles look at management and interface issues for libraries. The first of these articles is by Heike Görzig, Benjamin Gernhardt, Felix Engel, Tobias Vogel, Reagan Moore, and Matthias L Hemmje and discusses “Analysing and Representing Data Management Dimensions in Research and Innovation Actions”. The authors look at “the creation and evolution of data management plans and their automated execution” (p. 1). Among the important issues are anonymizing personal data, which is increasingly an important issue in both the European Union and the United States. Among other topics, they discuss using ontologies for business modelling. The second article, “Comparison of Design and Content Features

of North-Eastern Hill University (NEHU) and Mizoram University (MZU) Websites: A Study”, by Ksh. Krishna Devi and Dr Manoj Kumar Verma, offers a systematic website analysis. A key feature of the article is the structured checklist that the authors use for comparing the two websites. The checklist has a “quantitative three point rating scale” that helps to “determine a meaningful numerical rating for the individual features of the NEHU and MZU websites” (p. 19).

Before concluding this editorial, I want to remind readers about the International Conference on Digital Libraries, whose theme this year is “Smart Future: Knowledge Trends that will Change the World”. The conference will take place between 13–16 December in New Delhi.